

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL - Zoom meeting

PRESENT: Tracy Gehrke, Sharon Oberkrieser, Marie Boleman, Pam DeLap, Kristine Grzybowski, Staci Thorkildsen, Amy Wilson, and Ilda Ramirez

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Nancy Koene, Jennifer Long, Cristie Siebenaller, Mary Salzer, Hannah Ulwelling, Mallory Randall and Julienne Gohde

Sharon Oberkrieser called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30pm. Introductions were made.

1. Approval of Minutes for the September 8th, 2020 Meeting:

Cristie Siebenaller moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Pam De Lap and carried.

2. Presentation- Brightstar Care of Oshkosh and Fond du Lac- Ilda Ramirez:

Ilda Ramirez gave a presentation on behalf of Brightstar Care of Oshkosh and Fond du Lac, which is located on Main Street in Oshkosh. There is also a Brightstar in Appleton that is not operated by Ilda. Winnebago County CLTS contacts with both locations. Brightstar offers both skilled and nonskilled nursing services to children with disabilities. All of the caregivers are trained to work with children with behavioral issues. The process of having Brightstar provide services begins with a nurse visit with the potential participant. Following that visit, an assessment is completed to create a care plan prior to services starting. Brightstar strives to complete assessments within 2 days from the initial call in order for services to begin as soon as possible. Services are provided 24/7 and to all ages from infant to adult. There is no minimum requirement in hours of service provided. Overnight services may also be available. All services are provided in the participant's homes or in the community. Any child could be served by this company. Typically, if Brightstar does not have a provider for the services that are needed, they will look to the other franchise locations in the area to see if they can help. Brightstar accepts private payment and are currently contracted with Children's Long-Term Support and some adult programs, such as IRIS and Care Wisconsin. Brightstar does provide respite care, non-skilled nursing, skilled nursing, and child care services. With permission, caregivers can transport the participant to

community settings, such as the YMCA. Brightstar can offer after school services while a parent is working. Fees are based on the service provided and the number of hours needed.

3. Introduce new Family Support Team Members: Hannah Ulwelling and Mallory Randall

Mallory Randall was hired in September through Lutheran Social Services in Appleton and is contracted with Winnebago County Human Services as a Support and Service Coordinator for the Family Support Team. She graduated from St. Norbert College in spring of 2020. She earned a degree in Sociology-Human Services. Her previous employment prior to Winnebago County was working as a therapist through the Fox Valley Autism Treatment Program.

Hannah Ulwelling started October 1st with the Family Support Team at Winnebago County Human Services as a Support and Service Coordinator. She previously worked as a Support and Service Coordinator for CLTS with Lutheran Social Services and Calumet County. She is a new mom as of July.

4. Member Sharing:

- Pam DeLap is a parent of a son with Autism. She expressed concern for various issues families are facing at this time. She also noted the prevalence of grandparents supporting their grandchildren as primary caregivers so the child's parent can maintain employment. Pam's son is trying to transition to the work world. She shared how a recent meeting with a new potential DVR support was very encouraging and how her son and his team are developing a plan for success.
- Stacy Thorkildsen is a Family Resource Specialist for Head Start. Staci shared Head Start is still serving children in person, just for shorter amounts of time each day.
- Sharon Oberkrieser is parent of a child with Down Syndrome and facilitates the **Down to Earth Group**. Sharon shared that virtual learning is challenging. Her son's anxiety level is high as most of his normal activities are not occurring, such as cross country, basketball, bowling, and seeing friends in school. She has empathy for the teachers trying to support students during this time. She feels the school is offering all the support they can.

Sharon inquired about the Peer to Peer support group. This is a support group through NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that is for high school aged teens. Additional information will be sent out in a follow up email to the group.

- Marie Boleman is the head of youth services for the Oshkosh Public Library. Marie shared that carryout service began this past week. There is no appointment needed to pick up items. "Book Bundles" are a new popular option at the library. If anyone would like help selecting books or other materials based on a child's favorite topics, families are encouraged to call the library's children's department at 236-5208 or fill out the Book

Bundle Request Form online. Library staff will choose a bundle of books that can be checked out and picked up at the library based on the topics shared. The special this month: Receive a FREE Take & Make Ornament Kit with your Book Bundle.

5. Children's COP and CLTS Program Updates:

- Service and Program Updates –
 - Almost all of the services for the program can be done virtually except respite. Many providers are offering in person and virtual visits. Crisis services are limited. Small group services are somewhat limited. Family Support continues to have increased contact with families (at least monthly) and will not close a child due to loss of contact. Participants should continue to transition to adult services when eligible during the pandemic. Service Coordinators continue to offer in person or virtual home visits however most choose virtual visits.
 - Winnebago County Department of Human Services chose to waive all parental fees for all families through 2020. The fees will continue to be waived for at least first half of 2021.
 - The state is to take over the waitlist from counties in 2021. Winnebago County can enroll all possible children on the waitlist prior to 1/1/2021. After that date, counties must wait to be told when they can enroll a child into CLTS.
 - The referral process in 2021 will be changing. We will no longer send forms to family following a referral call to return prior to contact with a Service Coordinator. Family Support staff will contact family following their referral call within 10 days to have discussions as opposed to waiting for paperwork to come back.
 - The State will take over managing allocations for CLTS to allow for more efficiency but counties keep the CCOP funding allocation. Counties will continue to have an MOE (Maintenance of Effort) they must pay to the state each year. CCOP will be primarily used to meet our MOE along with some county funds filling in gaps. We still can use CCOP for non-Waiver services. No CCOP renewal was due in 2020 due to the budget changes at the state level.
 - Even with additional federal funding, providers are financially struggling. Most continue to offer services virtual and in person but some are on hold or are not serving due to financial hardship.
 - Referrals to the Family Support team for CLTS funding remains steady.
 - Winnebago DHS continues to seek out service providers to serve our high needs youth.
- Waitlist Updates –
 - Current waitlist number for CLTS funding is under 5. Staff are actively enrolling as many as possible by the end of the year.
 - Since 2020 began, 87 children have been enrolled and 22 have been closed.

6. Birth-to-Three:

- Operations during COVID-19– Amy Wilson, team leader for the Birth to Three program for Outagamie and Winnebago Counties, shared that enrollment numbers are low compared to what they typically have but their referrals are remaining consistent. They are exploring the reasons why families are declining services, such as families not accepting support right now as they are juggling work and school schedules and that may be taking priority during the pandemic. Birth to Three continues to offer in home and virtual visits at this time. There are many procedures in place to keep the staff and families as safe as possible in relation to the pandemic. The larger team will be off for the last two weeks in December but they will still be accepting referrals during that time.

7. Behavioral Health:

- Operations during COVID-19- Nancy Koene, Youth Mental Health Supervisor at Winnebago County Human Services, announced that she will be leaving her position on January 5th and introduced Jennifer Long as her replacement. Jennifer has been working with Winnebago County Human Services for the past 31 years. Jennifer looks forward to continuing to provide excellent behavioral health services for the families in Winnebago County. She will be working closely with Cristie Siebenaller, YCCS Lead in Behavioral Health. Jennifer is very client centered, recovery focused, and has worked with voluntary families in behavioral health.
- Nancy shared that they continue to take new referrals and there is one person currently waiting for services.
- Cristie Siebenaller explained that Tom Matczynski (Family Therapy Team Youth Mental Health Supervisor) maintains the waitlist. Nancy, Elizabeth and Cristie have been working on a central referral process for CLTS and Behavioral Health cases. This will be starting in January. All of the community calls for youth services will go to Dawn Gillett (CLTS Administrative Associate) who will gather information for the referral and forward to Elizabeth to connect the family to the appropriate support at Winnebago County.

8. **2019 Focus Areas and Committee Role**

- State of the Child Report
 - No information to share at this time.

9. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services has been scheduled for **Tuesday, February 9th, 2021** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in **Room 33** of the **Oshkosh Human Services Building**. The committee approved the following meeting dates for 2021: **February 9th, May 11th, September 14th and December 14th.**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00pm.
Respectfully submitted by Julienne Gohde, Recorder