

Attendants: Kaeleigh Porter (LPCC Coordinator), Kathy Weibel (FWCS LEA), Theresa Sell (AWSSC LEA), Martha Barry (SWAC LEA), Mary Young (EACS LEA), Paula Fox (Childcare – Turnstone), Stephanie Furnas (Hand in Hand), Donna Driscoll (Hand in Hand), Clare Mann (1st Kids), Lily Osborn (SPOE Director), Mary Ellen Schreck (SPOE Coordinator Supervisor), Nancy Moore (PNE), Candace Lisinicchia (HCCSC LEA), Nicole Wysong (Childcare – ECA)

Introductions were made. Meeting minutes from the September 2015 meeting were reviewed. Kaeleigh Porter made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Kathy Weibel was first and Mary Young was second to approve the minutes.

Updates:

First Steps:

Lily Osborn reported that the First Steps State Director resigned so there is no State Director at this time. Lily also reported that the Late Referral/DOE Agreement is being put on hold at this time. Lily reported that First Steps now has Burmese interpreters serving families in the Fort Wayne area.

School Systems:

FWCS: Kathy Weibel reported that things are going very well. The school district is in compliance with Indicator 12, which states that the school will have an IEP in place by the child's third birthday.

AWSSC: Theresa Sell reported that everything is going well. Her school districts were all 100% in compliance with Indicator 12. Theresa asked about a situation where a family was turned down First Steps services because it was too close to the child's third birthday. Lily explained how we explain the process to families who refer children around 34 months of age. Each school system present reported that it was okay with them for families to call before their child's third birthday. Kathy Weibel (FWCS) reported that it would be best for them if the families waited to call until their child turns 3.

SWAC: Martha Barry reports that everything is going well. SWAC was also in compliance with Indicator 12.

EACS: Mary Young reports that transitions are going great. EACS was also in compliance with Indicator 12.

Martha reported that language barriers are very difficult for transition meetings. Mary Young reported that many families believe that it's a medical model for eligibility when it's actually educational. Kathy Weibel reported that FWCS sends a letter to introduce the program to families with information about the program and topics. Donna Driscoll suggested encouraging families to have a conversation with their provider to ensure that they are making the correct choice. Donna reported that it's sometimes just a lack of understanding. Stephanie Furnas reported that there are some providers who are working (or have worked) in the school system and this could be of comfort to families to get a better understanding of how the process works and what to expect.

HCCSC: Candace Lisinicchia reported that the transition process is also going well. Huntington school district is also in compliance with Indicator 12. Candace recommended that it would be helpful to receive a little more information from her coordinators on the location of the meeting and the family circumstance before having a transition meeting.

Head Start: No representative present to report.

Early Head Start: No representative present to report.

Agencies:

Possibilities Northeast: Nancy Moore reported that everything is going well but it's consistently up and down. Clare Mann (1st Kids) discussed to the committee members how the State now requires services on an eligible child's plan regardless of provider availability. Martha Barry questioned what the requirements were for a developmental therapist. Nancy Moore reported that they have to have a Bachelor's in Early Childhood, Special Education, or a degree related to the field and also has 30 hours of early childhood coursework. Nancy reported that the feeding clinic and parent support groups were emerging at both clinics; Spiece Fieldhouse and Hillegas Road.

Hand in Hand: Stephanie Furnas reported that their agency has hired a lot of new therapists but still struggling to hire OT's. Stephanie reported that they are starting a feeding clinic in January with Parent Support groups as well.

Preschools:

Turnstone: Paula Fox reported that they currently have two year-old openings at their childcare.

Early Childhood Alliance: Nicole Wysong reported that she has been working with 'On My Way Pre-K' program and coaching and training new staff.

Transition Events: Kaeleigh Porter was unable to report on any upcoming transition events throughout the cluster. Mary Young reminded Kaeleigh of the Annual Autism Fair in Spring 2016 and contact person being Jen Hartman.

There were no further questions. Theresa Sell made a motion to end the meeting and Nancy Moore seconded it.

Meeting adjourned.