

Transition and Child Find Committees

Allen, Adams, Huntington, and Wells counties

Location: Hand in Hand Therapy, 9426 Lima Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Date: August 16th, 2016

Time: 8:35am – 9:25am

Meeting participants: Kaeleigh Porter (LPCC Coordinator), Nancy Moore (PNE), Cathy Parks (SCAN Healthy Families – Allen/Daybreak), Tammy Pifer (EHS Program Manager – Allen), Clare Mann (1st Kids), Donna Driscoll (Hand in Hand), Briana Longstreth (FS Coordinator Supervisor), Abby Machmut (FS Coordinator Supervisor), Nicole Wysong (Childcare), Stephanie Furnas (Hand in Hand), Angela Williams (Turnstone), Theresa Sell (AWSS LEA), Elizabeth Hire (Pathfinder's Early Head Start/Assistant Director)

Kaeleigh Porter welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Cathy Parks reported of one change in the Healthy Families section that they work with mothers prenatally and enroll families up until 3 months but can hold on to them until the child is 3 years old. Donna Driscoll first to motion approval; Nancy Moore was second.

Updates:

First Steps:

Clare Mann reported that the State ICC subcommittees have started to meet. Clare stated that we have a new Intake Coordinator and are close to offering a new Ongoing Service Coordinator position.

School System:

Adams/Wells Special Services (AWSS): Theresa Sell reported that the school system is up and rolling with a start date of August 8th. Theresa stated that there have been a lot of transition meetings and the school has new staff that has been adjusting well to them.

Head Start:

Brightpoint Head Start – Allen County: Tammy Pifer with Brightpoint Early Head Start reported some information for their Head Start. She reported that Theresa Dorais is still acting as the Program Coordinator at this time as they are still looking to fill the position. Tammy stated that Head Start year begins August 22nd. Tammy shared that they have a new teacher training and that Head Start has applied for a duration grant which would take 40% of their part day classrooms and turn them into full day classrooms. Brightpoint will not know until December 2016 if they have earned this grant so these changes would take place next year.

Adams/Wells: Theresa informed the committee that in Adams and Wells counties they have a Head Start classroom in Berne at South Adams Elementary, in Bluffton at Bluffton Elementary, and in Decatur at Southeast Elementary.

Early Head Start (EHS):

Brightpoint EHS – Allen County: Tammy Pifer reported that the program year ended on August 1st and that there are a lot of new babies coming for the fall. Tammy stated that they still have a Burmese and

Spanish home visitor in Allen County which has been very helpful in serving these families. Tammy talked a little bit about the Early Head Start expansion grant that Brightpoint is applying for. They are hoping to have 88 full day Early Head Start slots for children in the program. Most of the slots will be in Allen County with 16 slots in Kendallville. Tammy stated that most of the locations will be 6 hour timeframes but there will be some 10 hour timeframes as well. Tammy stated that she is seeking letters of support for their grant and that she is hoping to submit the grant by August 22nd, as the proposal is due by August 24th. Tammy reported that they should hear back in February 2017 and then they will begin working on renovations. Tammy stated that it has been hard to find the right space and location for the expansion as guidelines are tough and very specific.

Pathfinder's Early Head Start – Huntington County: Elizabeth Hire was present with Pathfinder's Early Head Start for Huntington County and reported that there will be a new director in October. Leann, the past Assistant Director, has moved. Elizabeth stated that there are 76 slots for their Early Head Start and it is housed in a private pay childcare. Elizabeth stated that they also applied for the expansion grant for 1 center based classroom with 4 children. Currently, over 20% of their children have current IFSP's and they are always referring to First Steps and other community programs. Elizabeth reported that they have a therapy room in their center so therapy services are welcome to take place there.

Agencies:

Possibilities Northeast: Nancy Moore reported that they are opening an Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) clinic and it will start running after Labor Day. It will have ST, OT, and PT inclusion and work with schools through transition out of First Steps. The clinic will be at the current clinic location on Hillegas Road and targeting 10 children in the 2 to 5 year old range. Nancy explained what ABA therapy is and how referrals are obtained. Nancy stated that they have 1 Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) and that all therapy will be happening at the Youth for Christ Center on Hillegas Road. Nancy was asked about her Registered Behavioral Therapists and what they had to do to be registered. She reported that they have a 40 hour online certification process and then an exam to pass in order to be registered. The children receiving ABA therapy have to have an autism diagnosis. Nancy discussed her support groups taking place in September. The agency has a Sensory Support Group which is spearheaded by a parent and a Feeding Support Group which is administered by Andrea Scholz and the feeding team.

Hand in Hand: Donna Driscoll was present to report on updates for the agency. Donna stated that Hand in Hand is continuing to hire new therapists as they always lose some to the school systems. She reported that no children are going without services. Donna stated that they will be completing their third round of their feeding group and it has doubled in size. Donna reported that the agency has therapy and their support group at the same time so any issues can be addressed immediately. The agency will be starting a new round of their support group in 2-3 weeks.

Preschools:

Early Childhood Alliance: Nicole Wysong was present to report for Early Childhood Alliance. She stated that they have had mandatory trainings by the State for their childcare providers. These trainings mainly consist of health and safety topics.

Turnstone: Angela Williams was present to discuss Turnstone's childcare and events going on at their facility. She stated that their childcare consists of children ages 2 to 13 years old. Turnstone has 3 classrooms; 2 full day rooms and 1 before/after school care. They currently have a waiting list and do accept childcare vouchers. Angela reported that they have a Parent Support Group that meets monthly in

the evenings. Angela stated that Turnstone continues to expand the sports and recreational space and services.

Cathy Parks was present to report for Daybreak Crisis Homes and Healthy Families.

Daybreak: Cathy Parks stated that they are in need of respite care families. She reported that the training licenses them to be foster homes and Daybreak provides the training.

Healthy Families:

Allen County: Cathy Parks reported that Healthy Families is fully staffed and they earned the grant again so they will be continuing for the next two years. Cathy stated that they complete the 9 Month ASQ instead of the 8 Month ASQ as they are required to complete 2 developmental screens a year for children enrolled in their program.

Transition Events:

Kaeleigh Porter reported that there are many events that are coming up this fall. The DSANI Buddy Walk is Saturday, September 10th at Parkview Field in Fort Wayne. On Sunday, September 11th the Autism Acceptance Walk is taking place at the Allen County Fairgrounds. Kaeleigh reported that there is a Transition Fair at Adams Central High School for Adams and Wells counties on September 24th. Kaeleigh also stated that on September 29th there is the Early Head Start/Head Start Fall Health and Safety Festival at River Community Church in Marion.

There were no other questions or comments. Theresa motioned to end the meeting and Donna seconded.

Meeting adjourned.