

## **Transition and Child Find Committees**

*Allen, Adams, Huntington, and Wells counties*

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

**Date:** February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Time:** 8:35am – 9:40am

**Meeting participants:** Kaeleigh Porter (LPCC Coordinator), Sarah Wolfe (Healthy Families – Adams), Cathy Parks (SCAN Healthy Families – Allen), Candy Lisinicchia (HCCSC LEA), Michele Dixon (Head Start – Adams), Tammy Pifer (EHS Program Manager – Allen), Breanne Yoder (WIC – NHCI), Theresa Sell (AWSSC LEA), Jake Stein (Parent), Paula Fox (Turnstone), Lily Osborn (SPOE Director), Nancy Moore (Possibilities Northeast – Director), Clare Mann (1<sup>st</sup> Kids), Donna Driscoll (Hand in Hand), Stephanie Furnas (Hand in Hand), Mary Ellen Schreck (SPOE Coordinator Supervisor), Maureen Fulk (NWAC LEA)

Kaeleigh Porter welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Meeting minutes were reviewed with no changes to be made. Theresa Sell was first to motion approval; Nancy Moore was second.

### **Updates:**

#### **First Steps:**

Clare Mann updated the committee members on the First Steps State Director. Anne Davis is currently taking over the position until it is filled. Clare reported that Marion office is fully staffed. New employees consist of Katey Boller, covering Grant County, and Goldie Reynolds, covering Miami and Wabash counties.

#### **School System:**

**Northwest Allen County (NWAC):** Maureen Fulk reported that everything is going smoothly in her first year with NWAC. Maureen stated that she has a great system down with the coordinators. She also reported that NWAC is meeting requirements for Indicator 12. Theresa Sell reported on what Indicator 12 was.

**Adams Wells Special Services (AWSS):** Theresa Sell reported that she has no complaints. There is a new classroom in Adams Central so AWSS will have a total of 5 special education preschool classrooms (3 in Adams County and 2 in Wells County).

**Huntington County Community School Corporation (HCCSC):** Candy Lisinicchia reported that they are in compliance with Indicator 12. She reported that the transition process is going well and communication is good. Candy stated that she primarily works with Jessica Greene but sometimes works with Marcela Zapari for late referrals.

#### **Head Start:**

**Brightpoint – Allen County:** Tammy Pifer reported for Head Start. Tammy stated that Nichole Hall took a new position so the Head Start Disabilities Specialist position is currently open. Theresa Dorais is currently taking over the position until it is filled. Tammy reported that Brightpoint is an ‘On My Way Pre-K’ provider. She stated that many Head Start families are eligible for ‘On My Way Pre-K’ but

Brightpoint is trying to allow new families to take advantage of the program as well. Jake Stein asked how many children are served at each site. Tammy reported that between each site there are 20 slots of 'On My Way Pre-K' children in Allen County and are integrated in with other Head Start children. Tammy reported that there are different locations that offer 'On My Way Pre-K'.

**Adams County:** Michele Dixon reported that they are winding down the current school year and that they are currently accepting applications for August 2016. Michele stated that there is a big webinar coming up and that their program received a larger grant for additional services. The program is looking into allowing Head Start 5 days a week; all year around. Michele reported that changes may include moving classroom's to full day (6 hours). The children receive breakfast, lunch, snack, and a nap. Candy Lisinicchia asked if their program provides transportation; Michele replied that they did not. Michele stated that federal grants have been discussed and are considered in new federal budget. Theresa Sell questioned if the 6 hours a day would be approved over the current 4 hours. Michele stated that the webinar will provide more information.

### **Early Head Start (EHS):**

**Brightpoint EHS – Allen County:** Tammy Pifer reported that EHS is home based and provides services for pregnant women and infants and toddlers up until the age of 3. EHS helps to transition the child into preschool. Tammy reported that EHS and Healthy Families are a team and share a very similar concept of services. Tammy reported that the last two years with First Steps has gone very well and she feels there is a good relationship between agencies. Tammy reported that when children are transitioning from EHS to Head Start, they do not have to wait until the new school year. Tammy reported that they have gotten more referrals from First Steps. When referrals are submitted, sending the current Individualized Family Service Plan is most helpful. Mary Ellen Schreck asked if they had a referral form. Tammy stated that there is an application in the EHS brochure. Tammy reported that a Spanish speaking home visitor starts today and that they still have their Burmese home visitor.

### **Agencies:**

**Possibilities Northeast:** Nancy Moore reported that they now have a dietician as of last week and this person is also at the Parkview NICU. They came interested in the Feeding Clinic and were okay doing a little First Steps as well. Nancy reported that he will be providing services on site. Lily Osborn asked if the dietician will be taking PNE and HIH referrals. Nancy replied that he will be taking both sets of referrals. Donna Driscoll stated that she hoped that the dietician will stay with First Steps. Nancy reported that there is a lot that goes along with the credentialing process so it sometimes makes it harder to hire nutritionists. Nancy reported that she spoke with a psychiatrist, social worker, and nutritionist that work in the Indianapolis area and they do not have issues with the training. Donna stated that the training is why many nutritionists have left First Steps in the past. Clare Mann asked what challenges the nutritionists have had in the past. Nancy stated producing the progress reports and that there has not been a dependable caseload due to lack of referrals. Breanne Yoder asked how many dieticians the agency has and Nancy responding that they only have one right now. Breanne stated that she has 5 dieticians that may be able to help, if needed.

**Hand in Hand:** Stephanie Furnas reported that the agency is still hiring and working to fill in gaps as needed.

### **Preschools:**

**Turnstone:** Paula Fox reported that Turnstone currently has openings for new children in their 2 year old classroom and now they are gearing up for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Camp this summer. Paula stated that children's goals can be worked on during the speech camp as well if they have an active IFSP.

Kaeleigh Porter asked for other community agencies to provide information on their program and report what updates they have to share or what is currently taking place.

**WIC:** Breanne Yoder is the Coordinator for WIC. She reported that Tiann Angenbaugh is the new director. Breanne stated that WIC is getting ready to release their EBT cards, which will be happening in July 2016. Breanne stated that their caseloads are down currently throughout the state (5% overall, 3% in Allen County). There has been an increase in 'No Show' rate. Breanne reported that they have approximately 215-240 appointments daily. Breanne stated that they are sending reminders (calls and text messages) to families in hopes that it will prevent 'No Shows' from happening. Breanne stated that WIC is working to be present in different hospitals: Dupont and Lutheran. WIC's outreach coordinator is Courtney. Breanne reported that they have two staff members who speak Burmese and Karen. WIC also has a nurse who speaks Burmese – her name is Cheryl. Lily Osborn asked if they have a Spanish interpreter and Breanne replied that they do have one.

### **Healthy Families:**

**Adams County:** Sarah Wolfe reported that referrals are low at this time. Clare Mann asked what the requirements were for the program. Sarah responded that the child had to be under 3 months.

**Allen County:** Cathy Parks stated that Healthy Families has about 30 home visitors working with families. Cathy reported that Ages & Stages is completed in the home when concerns are present before referring to First Steps. Overall, Cathy stated that Healthy Families receives around 430 referrals for families. Cathy reported that referrals to First Steps are not always easy due to parent denial of possible delay their child may have.

### **Transition Events:**

Kaeleigh Porter reported of a resource fair that she attended last weekend at Northrop High School in Fort Wayne. The committees reported of 2 upcoming transition events: Healthy Kids Day on April 30<sup>th</sup> in Huntington from 9:00am to 1:00pm. This event is associated with the YMCA National Initiative. The other event mentioned was 'Doctor's Day' at Science Central.

There were no other questions or comments. Paula Fox motioned to end the meeting and Candy Lisinicchia seconded.

Meeting adjourned.