

## **Transition and Child Find Committees**

*Allen, Adams, Huntington, and Wells counties*

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

**Date:** May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Time:** 8:35am – 9:40am

**Meeting participants:** Kaeleigh Porter (LPCC Coordinator), Mary Ellen Schreck (PNE), Nancy Moore (PNE), Cathy Parks (SCAN Healthy Families – Allen), Candy Lisinicchia (HCCSC LEA), Tammy Pifer (EHS Program Manager – Allen), Lily Osborn (SPOE Director), Clare Mann (1<sup>st</sup> Kids), Donna Driscoll (Hand in Hand), Maureen Fulk (NWAC LEA), Briana Longstreth (FS Coordinator Supervisor), Abby Machmut (FS Coordinator Supervisor), Nicole Wysong (Childcare)

Kaeleigh Porter welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Meeting minutes were reviewed with a few changes to be made. Candy Lisinicchia stated that she actually receives late referral children from Marcela Zapari, not Angela Gard. Candy also reported that she will be retiring and that Megan Horsely will be taking over her position. Cathy Parks stated that a correction in amount of referrals a month needed to be made. Healthy Families in Allen County has received around 430 referrals from community agencies.

Tammy Pifer was first to motion approval; Nancy Moore was second.

### **Updates:**

#### **First Steps:**

Lily Osborn reported that there is a new First Steps State Director, Dawn Downer. Lily stated that the SPOE now has two Coordinator Supervisors, Abby Machmut and Briana Longstreth. The SPOE is currently in the process of hiring an Intake Coordinator and Service Coordinator. Tammy Pifer asked who she should send emails to in regards to communication between First Steps and Early Head Start. Lily stated that Tammy can send the consents to her.

#### **School System:**

**Northwest Allen County (NWAC):** Maureen Fulk was present for the meeting and reported that everything is going well and the school system is meeting deadlines. Maureen stated that they are adding a full-time prekindergarten teacher and they are working hard to have more typical peer models in their classrooms. Maureen reported that they are currently still located at Cedar Canyon Elementary with 3 teachers and 2 classrooms (AM and PM).

**Huntington County Community School Corporation (HCCSC):** Candy Lisinicchia reported that HCCSC currently has two 3-4 year old classrooms and one classroom for children the year before kindergarten. Candy stated that they are looking to add another teacher. Candy stated that she will be retiring and that Megan Horsely will be the new preschool coordinator. Candy reported that their dreams for the future of HCCSC Special Education Preschool would be to have a preschool in each elementary school.

## **Head Start:**

**Brightpoint – Allen County:** Tammy Pifer reported for Head Start by stating that there is not a lot of new information to be shared at this time. Tammy stated that Head Start has an opportunity to expand to full day during the school year. Tammy reported that the Disabilities Coordinator position is still open.

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

**Brightpoint EHS – Allen County:** Tammy Pifer reported that EHS is hopeful to have big upcoming changes. Tammy stated that Early Head Start has the opportunity to expand EHS to center based services. Tammy reported that she will be applying for the grant soon as it has not been released yet. Tammy stated that it would allow 72 slots for children throughout all three counties that they serve (Allen, Noble, and Whitley counties). Tammy stated that if the opportunity would go through that they would be able to provide full day, all year services and they would still have to maintain the 10% of children with IFSP's (Individualized Family Service Plan). Nicole Wysong inquired if this was already underway in Indianapolis. Tammy replied that it kind of is. Tammy stated that the program in Indianapolis and South Bend received grants to do center based services and that Brightpoint would be partnering with them to expand the program and apply for the grant. Tammy stated that these services would be of no cost to the families. Donna Driscoll asked if the center based was family choice. Tammy replied that for some families it would be a choice. Nancy Moore asked if families had to be working. Tammy replied that they don't necessarily need to be working and they will accept vouchers but they haven't put guidelines into place yet. Tammy stated that they would award grants in February 2017 to start March 2017.

## **Agencies:**

**Possibilities Northeast:** Nancy Moore reported that they now have a First Steps Supervisor, Mary Ellen Schreck, as responsibilities have been shifting within their agency. Nancy stated that they have moved outpatient services to Hillegas Road at old Youth for Christ building. Nancy stated that OT and ST outpatient services at this new location and PT is still at Spiece Fieldhouse for aquatic therapy and is great for amount of space needed. Nancy stated that they have started a Parent Feeding Support group once a month that is led by Andrea Scholz, ST. Nancy reported that they have a new part-time PT starting June 1<sup>st</sup> but they cannot see First Steps children until August. Nancy stated that their new nutritionist had his first evaluation yesterday.

**Hand in Hand:** Donna Driscoll reported that Stephanie is on vacation but the agency has been doing a lot of hiring. Donna stated that the agency is looking for a global DT and have a potential DTC. Donna stated that their Feeding Clinic has begun and their social language group will begin this summer. Nicole Wysong asked how they determined age groups. Donna stated that they are grouped by age.

## **Preschools:**

**Early Childhood Alliance:** Nicole Wysong stated that she had concerns with 3-4 year olds who are not getting early intervention due to child care barriers. Nicole and Kaeleigh both reported that they are participating in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) of Allen County to help break these barriers.

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

Daybreak – Cathy reported that she currently has twins that have no expressive speech. Cathy reported on the struggles that arise with physician referrals, late referrals, and non-compliance issues. Cathy asked if there is a way to track physician referrals to see if there are trends. Nancy Moore stated that the referrals we receive that revolve around parent report can lead to inconsistent trends. Kaeleigh reminded the group that she can present First Steps information and deadlines at physician offices as needed.

### **Healthy Families:**

**Allen County:** Cathy reported that she works with mothers prenatally and enroll children up until they are 3 months old and then they can stay in the program until the child is 3 years old. Cathy stated they refer to First Steps and physician offices and complete the Ages and Stages Assessment with these children at 2 months, 4 months, 8 months, 12 months, and then every 6 months. Cathy reported that the Indiana State Department of Health helps provide pack n plays and that the Healthy Families and Daybreak staff can distribute those to families. Cathy stated that there is also safe sleep education so when families complete it, they receive a book, swaddle, and room thermometer. Candy Lisinicchia asked if there were other agencies in other counties that provide this same service for families. Cathy stated that they are required to have a provider 24/7 to administer the education for families in need. Cathy reported that there is a map that she can send to council members that tells what agencies provide trainings. Cathy reported on the 'Gear Up' program which allows family homes to be safe environments for children and helps to provide those safe items for the home.

### **Transition Events:**

Kaeleigh Porter reported that at this time she does not have a lot of events planned for the summer. A council member reported about the Children's Fest in July at IPFW.

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

Meeting adjourned.