

Transition & Child Find Committee - Grant, Miami, and Wabash counties

05/18/2016

10:10am – 10:45am

Meeting participants: Kaeleigh Porter (LPCC Coordinator), Robyn Culley (Early Head Start – Carey Services), Amy Ellis (Homefront), Goldie Reynolds (First Steps Service Coordinator), Megan Weldy (Area Five Transition Manager), Cheri Culver (School Psychiatrist – Wabash), Aimee Daniel (Assistant Director – Wabash), Lily Osborn (SPOE Director), Donna Fawcett (North Miami LEA)

Kaeleigh Porter welcomed the committees and introductions were made.

Committee members reviewed the meeting minutes from February 2016. There were no changes that needed to be made in the minutes. Amy Ellis motioned to accept the minutes; Robyn Culley seconded the motion.

Updates:

First Steps: Lily Osborn reported that First Steps now has a new State Director, Dawn Downer. The satellite office in Marion is fully staffed. Lily reported that our Assessment Team needs an Occupational Therapist. Lily stated that we now have two coordinator supervisors in our office, Briana Longstreth and Abby Machmut, after Mary Ellen Schreck resigned as coordinator supervisor.

Schools:

Wabash-Miami Area Program: Aimee Daniel was present and reported on updates for the program. Aimee reported on the different classrooms they have for their preschools and that everything has been going smoothly. Aimee stated that there have been frequent cancellations but Cheri Culver reported that it is typical to have frequent cancellations in the school setting.

North Miami: Donna Fawcett was present and reported on updates for the program. Donna stated that she needs some follow-ups with certain families but other than that everything is going well. Donna stated that they are re-opening their developmental preschool at North Miami. It was approved for half days with a teacher and assistant. Aimee asked if there were any requirements for community preschool. Donna reported that they used to have to use a State form but there is no new form that they have been instructed to use. Donna stated that she will be going into the school to observe the environment and if there are any needs. Donna reported that the preschool works closely with Head Start, in Area Five. Aimee stated that Elmwood Elementary allows special education preschool students to come to school in order for them to have some experience with typically developing peers.

Head Start:

Area 5: Megan Weldy stated that they have open enrollment and there are openings in Wabash for next year. Megan reported that they have two classrooms in Wabash that have 17 children in each class. She stated that the child has to be 3 by August 1st of that year. Goldie Reynolds asked if Laketon was separate from Wabash. Megan stated that it was but the families can apply at either the main site or the classroom.

Early Head Start:

Grant County (Carey Services): Robyn Culley was present and reported on updates for their Early Head Start location. Robyn stated that Carey Services is applying for an expansion of classrooms due to there being 50 children on their waitlist. Robyn reported that their location achieved the qualifications to be a 'Paths to Quality: Level 4' provider. Robyn also reported that they are waiting to see if they are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Once they receive a sign for Paths to Quality and find out if they are accredited, Robyn reported they will have an open house at their site in celebration of these events. In First Steps updates, Robyn reports that she hasn't had any issues in getting appropriate paperwork and providers for her EHS children receiving First Steps services.

Agencies:

Homefront: Amy Ellis reports that she has good coverage everywhere at this time. Her speech therapist is full but she is working on recruiting more providers.

Preschools:

No one present to report.

Robyn Culley reported that all preschools in Marion are referred to as 'Little Giants' due to their high school mascot being the 'Giants'. Robyn stated that all Head Start locations and Special Education Preschools are held in the local elementary schools. Robyn stated that parents can choose the elementary school that their child attends but they are responsible for the transportation. Aimee asked if the transportation rule counted for the children enrolled in the Special Education Preschool. Robyn stated that she was unsure but that at the end of the current school year Tucker School will be closing.

Transition Events: Kaeleigh Porter reported on the LPCC Events that she has been actively participating in. She reported that she attended the kindergarten round-ups in Wabash and North Miami areas. Kaeleigh stated that referrals seemed to skyrocket shortly after attending the kindergarten round-up in Wabash so hopefully it was helpful. Kaeleigh asked members to please let her know of any upcoming events that would be good to have her present for.

Aimee asked if numbers were low in the Wabash area because numbers are up but they still seem to be missing children. Cheri reported that she updated pamphlets in order to help spread the word about the program. Robyn stated that the numbers are the highest they have been at her facility with 30% of children with a current Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Aimee asked if Donna was having some of the same problems with referrals. Donna stated that Logansport is good on referrals and North Miami area is steady at this time.

Kaeleigh asked if anyone had any remaining questions or topics to discuss. There was not. Kaeleigh asked for a motion to end the meeting. Amy made the first motion; Megan seconded it.

Meeting adjourned.