

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

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

10:05am – 11:00am

Meeting participants: Kaeleigh Aguirre (LPCC Coordinator), Amy Ellis (Homefront), Goldie Reynolds (First Steps Service Coordinator), Amanda Perkins (SPOE Intake Coordinator), Jodi Curtis (SPOE Coordinator Supervisor), Cheri Culver (School Psychologist/Wabash-Miami), Megan Weldy (Area Five Head Start), Kimberly Whybrew (Madison-Grant LEA)

Kaeleigh Aguirre welcomed the committees and introductions were made.

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

Updates:

First Steps: Lily Osborn reported that First Steps has a new State Director, Christina Commons. Lily stated that Christina has been visiting each cluster. Lily reported that our Quality Review went well and referrals have been very low recently in Grant, Miami, and Wabash counties. Lily stated that our intake coordinator has been staying busy though. Lily reported that our offices are fully staffed except for an Administrative Assistant, which hopefully we will be filling soon.

Schools:

Wabash Area: Cheri Culver was present to report. Cheri stated that they have had plenty of work in their school corporation at this time. Cheri confirmed their classrooms: 4 half day programs in Wabash, 2 half day classrooms in North Manchester, and 2 half day classrooms in Peru. Cheri stated that they currently have a great speech therapist on staff and their school is evaluating three days a week. Cheri reported that they have a motor enhancement group which is collaboration between their physical therapist and occupational therapist.

Madison-Grant: Kimberly Whybrew was present to report. Kimberly reported that their school corporation has two preschool programs and numbers have doubled since last year. Kimberly stated that they had 5-6 children last year and they now have 10-11 children. Kimberly stated that they have a great speech therapist that stays very busy and does very well. Kimberly reported that they now have a new occupational therapist for Grant County Co-Op.

Head Start:

Area Five: Megan Weldy was present to report. Megan stated that their Head Start has two classrooms in Wabash that are both full but with no waiting list. Megan reported that they have some children who are dually enrolled in Head Start and the Special Education Preschool through the local school corporation. Megan stated that they continue to encourage parents to have their child evaluated.

Early Head Start:

No one was present to report however, Robyn Cully with Carey Services emailed Kaeleigh prior to meeting to share information on her behalf. At the meeting, Kaeleigh read the following information to the committee:

“Grant County currently serves 98 children in EHS, 32 in a Classroom setting and 66 in Home Visiting. A total of 31 children in EHS in Grant County have an IFSP (31.6%), 17 are in a Classroom setting (53% of total Classroom enrollment) and 14 are in Home Visiting (21% of Home Visiting enrollment).

EHS of Carey Services has applied to receive funding to open an additional classroom. The application has been received and approved (meaning it is correct and complete), we are now waiting to hear if funding will be received.

The new Performance Standards no longer recognize “Combination Classroom” as a program option. This is the program option where children are in a classroom for shorter amounts of time and receive more frequent home visits. In Grant County, we operate two Combo programs out of the same classroom. One group of 8 that meets for 3 ½ hours per day on Tuesday and Wednesday and one group of 8 that meets for 3 ½ hours per day on Thursday and Friday. The new Standards now only recognize Center Based with a required “dosage” of 1380 classroom hours per year or Home Based with a required “dosage” of 90 minutes of Home Visits per week. EHS of Carey Services operates 48 weeks out of the year, so to comply with this dosage standard, the Combo classroom would have to operate 28.75 hours per week. The current Combo dosage (7 hours per week) falls significantly short. The dosage requirement must be in place by August 1, 2018, so we have over a year to determine how we are going to change the makeup of this classroom. We can always apply for a waiver for a “Locally designed option,” and we are considering all our options and our Community Assessment to determine how we will move forward. NOTE: 12 of the 17 children with IFSPs in a Classroom setting are in this Combo classroom, so figuring out a way to keep all 16 children in a classroom setting is a priority.”

Cheri asked if all counties had an Early Head Start program. Megan answered that if the need is not there some counties will not participate in the program and a community assessment stated that it was not needed in Wabash and Miami counties.

Agencies:

Homefront: Amy Ellis was present to report. Amy reported that her numbers are very high and her therapists are full but she continues to work on hiring more. Amy stated that she is continuing to interview a variety of disciplines to work on filling the gaps.

Preschools:

No one present to report.

Transition Events: Kaeleigh reported on the past transition events she, or other First Steps representatives, have participated in over the past few months and that there are no upcoming events on her calendar. Kaeleigh encouraged the committee to inform her of events that she could be present for that would benefit the First Steps program and/or families.

Kaeleigh requested that the meeting day be changed due to conflicting schedules. The committee all agreed to change the meeting to Mondays instead of Wednesdays.

Megan Weldy motioned to end the meeting; Amy Ellis seconded.

Meeting adjourned.