

**FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, March 9, 2010

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building
211 N. Commercial St., Neenah
Conference Room #002

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Culp, Tracy Gehrke, Ashley Hesse, Elizabeth Jones, Lisa Murphy, Luann Rodriguez, Katie Schierl and Jill Valdez

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Cindy Flauger, Cindy Knaggs, Danica Lewis, Kelly Luaders, Kara Van Vooren, and Kathy Wagner

OTHERS PRESENT: Dorothy De Grace, Human Services Department

Beth Culp called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m.

1. **Approval of agenda:** With no additions to the agenda, it was approved as written.
2. **Approval of minutes for the September 1, 2009 meeting:** With no additions or corrections to the minutes, they were unanimously approved.
3. **Member sharing:**

Committee members introduced themselves.

Elizabeth Jones said the Friends of Autism recently had two conferences—one on adolescents and the autism spectrum, and the other was held at Fox Valley Technical College for first responders, police officers, fire departments, etc. to help them understand autism. She said a walk for autism will be held on the last Saturday in April.

Ashley Hesse said they have been working with the schools in the Oshkosh and Winneconne area on the Peer Power Program. They discuss with the students the community resources that are available to them based on their goals as they transition into adult life. The resources will pick up where the schools and other supports are no longer available. Ashley said he had some posters from the Brain Injury Awareness Association that were prepared in conjunction with Affinity Health Systems regarding sports related concussions or other brain injuries. He urged anyone to take a poster with them for display.

Beth Culp invited committee members to attend a Transition Advisory Committee meeting. The group is comprised mostly of providers of service, and they focus on addressing the issue of transition. Beth noted that this is especially an important topic as we move into Family Care.

4. Family Support Coordinator's Report:

- 2009 Carryover – Beth Culp said we were able to carry over \$6,304 in Family Support funds from 2009 to 2010. Last year we were able to meet all of the immediate needs of families, including those that had children with severe emotional disturbances.
- 2010 Statistics – Beth said we have authorized funding for 48 families so far in 2010. Most of them are receiving ongoing services, and there were a couple of new referrals. So far, we've authorized about \$60,000 which is about half of what is available.
- 2010 Plan – Beth said there were no changes to the 2010 Family Support plan from the one submitted last year. She mailed it in January.

5. Birth-to-Three Program Director's Report:

- Stats – Budget Update – Beth Culp referred to statistics for the Birth-to-Three Program. She said the referrals to the program last year were similar to the previous year.

Beth Culp said the Birth-to-Three program has received a couple of grants. One is for an opportunity to learn more about routine-based interviewing of families. We build a family's supports based on that information. Beth said we are also doing a consortium with Dane County in working with some national specialists on a primary caregiver model for assisting families. Beth said we will use some American Recovery & Reinvestment Act dollars to purchase adaptive equipment items, and some of the money will be used for training costs.

6. Process for Applying for Family Support:

Beth Culp explained the process for applying for Family Support services. She said our Access Unit gets a referral from a family or school, for example, and the information is forwarded to her. She then sends a background sheet to the family explaining the Family Support program. The family must sign and return two consents for release of information which are necessary for verifying eligibility. They must then complete an application for services. This gives a snapshot of what services the family is seeking. Beth then assigns a service coordinator who meets with the family to further discuss needed services. If they aren't eligible for Family Support, we give them other resources for support. We make sure that all requests are within our funding guidelines from the state. Beth reminded committee members that this is a voluntary program. Parents have expectations in submitting an application to determine eligibility, and staff is available to assist them with the process.

7. Future Agenda Items:

Beth Culp said that at the next meeting we would discuss how we can improve our outreach to the community for the Family Support Program.

With no other business Beth Culp adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Family Support Advisory Committee will be held on **Tuesday, June 8, 2010** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in **Room 008** of the Neenah Human Services Building.

Respectfully submitted by:
Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Winnebago County Department of Human Services