

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL - Zoom meeting

PRESENT: Tammy Ross, Emily Paschen, Lindsay Reuer, Tara Brzezinski, Marci Thiry, Sarah Dunks, Candy Hall, Linda Pierron, Staci Thorkildsen, Tracy Gehrke

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Mitch Cornils, Jessica Oaks, Julienne Gohde, Cassi Miramontes, Kathy Runge

Elizabeth Wagner called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2023, Meeting: Staci Thorkildsen moved for approval of the 12/12/2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Mitch Cornils, and motion carried.

2. Presentation – Summit Homecare – Sara Davis:

- Background – Summit Homecare has headquarters in Milwaukee and Sara is the manager of the branch serving Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Waupun, and the Fox Valley. Summit started by doing COVID testing at schools and transitioned to supportive homecare when schools discontinued COVID testing.
- Services – Services include bathing, dressing, assistance with eating, guidance with behavioral issues, respite care, and some transportation services. Services are non-medical and are typically on a prescheduled basis, available at any time of the day.
- Staff – Summit is willing to hire additional staff for the Winnebago County area and offers good pay and benefits.
- Referral process – care manager contacts Summit, emails to manager, patient assessment, introduction with the caregiver first to ensure good fit. Services typically begin within two weeks after referral.
- Funding – Summit already has a service contract in place with Winnebago County. The contract may need to be modified to include services for Child Welfare.
- Website – <https://www.summithomecare.com/>

3. Member Sharing – Updates or news to share about your agency or child:

Tammy Ross of the Neenah Sensory Club announced that a celebration is planned for their one-year anniversary called Rounding of Our First Year Rodeo. The celebration is free for members and \$10 for non-members. Before pursuing a membership, referring staff can make a referral for a client to attend a free session at the club to see if the club appropriately fits client's needs. Tammy had no updates to report on Bridging the Gap which offers supports to parents/youth from an OT lens.

Lindsay Reuer reported that the new director of the Oshkosh Public Library took over about a month ago. A large office on the first floor will soon be opening and likely will be available for groups to utilize with a reservation. It has not been determined yet if there will be a fee for use of the room.

Candy Hall reported that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) has rolled out a substitute teacher program in Outagamie County. There are four substitute teachers who have provided approximately 550 hours of coverage within the first two months. Candy reported that CCR&R has received preliminary approval to roll out the program to Winnebago County. CCR&R will be hosting their first annual Play is the Way Conference at Par 4 Resort in Waupaca starting with a free family night event on Friday, May 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. followed by Speaker Lisa Murphy on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tara Brzezinski shared information with the committee:

- Self-care in crisis plan handout that aids families with children who are visual learners in understanding how their emotions affect others.
- Family Voices of Wisconsin has several upcoming listening sessions including "What's After High School?" which will be held online February 28th. Other sessions include an introduction into CLTS and another session on advocacy.
- Circles of Life Conference is being held on May 16 and 17th. Annual conference includes information on IEPs and ways families can advocate.
- Tara reported their family home is undergoing modifications to convert their son's bedroom into a sensory area for him.

Sarah Dunks of Options for Independent Living reported their staff will be going to Madison to advocate on the importance of programs. Sarah shared the reminder that staff and parents can contact legislators to advocate for programs.

Emily Paschen of NOVA ABA shared in the chat that their afterschool waitlist remains extremely long, and the daytime services waitlist is short.

Introductions of new staff members: **Jessica Oaks** is new to the program and has schooling in psychology and nursing. **Cassi Miramontes** came from LSS with CLTS in Outagamie County and prior to that worked with adults at the CP Center in Green Bay. **Kathy Runge** has previous experience in the foster care field, worked as a Head Start teacher for 11 years, and also provided school-based therapy for children through Family Services.

Linda Pierron stated that Oshkosh Schools are experiencing staff shortages and one of the barriers is insufficient daycare options and long waiting lists.

Tracy Gerke reviewed services that Winnebago County Public Health offers including:

- Immunization Clinics – clinics are held on the second Tuesdays of the month from 1-4 for families with Medicaid or no insurance.
- Diaper Banks – Families can receive one pack of diaper per child.
- Feminine Products – Occasionally the Oshkosh office has feminine hygiene products available.
- Car Seats Program – car seat program continues to be offered. Families can contact Public Health for individualized fittings.
- Lead Testing – serves children over the age of 1.
- Back-to-School Fair – Planning has begun with the intention to serve 1200 children this year.
- Cribs – In the last 60 days, four cribs were provided to families, including education on safe sleep.
- In her role, Tracy supports education to pregnant women as well as new moms and their babies.
- In May, Tracy became the president of Child Care Resource and Referral. Since the pandemic, there has been an increasing problem in finding daycare for infants. The governor's initiatives have

provided some relief in addressing staffing shortages issues. The county board will be voting on Spirit fund money for a substitute program at Winnebago County.

Mitch Cornils reported Child Welfare continues to see increasing complex needs for youth and pre-adolescents. There is an ongoing need for more foster parents. Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent or for a yard sign advertising for foster parents should contact Mitch.

Staci Thorkildsen reported that staff at Head Start are hanging posters and brochures in the community regarding Head Start. Applications are now being accepted for next school year.

Elizabeth Wagner shared updates and upcoming events:

- Love the Mess Group recently held their first annual puzzle competition which was a great success. Dates will be announced shortly for upcoming events including an Easter celebration, family activity day, and Mother's Day brunch.
- Wisconsin Sibs is holding a virtual guardianship training on February 26 from 7-8 p.m. https://wisconsibs.org/event/3589/?instance_id=1205
- CLTS Newsletter – information on the services CLTS support coordinators offer to families, Wisconsin Wayfinder, and appealing CLTS decisions: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/kids-2023-04.pdf>
- Birth to Three Newsletter – B-3 information on special education services, mediation services, Wisconsin Wayfinder, and helpful resources: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/b3aifk2023-04.pdf>
- Key Qualities of Positive Behavior Support is a free webinar being held February 21 at 1:00 p.m. https://webinars.relias.com/relias/idd-key-qualities-of-positive-behavior-support?utm_source=vendor-disability-scoop&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=701RM000006NNtJYAW
- MTM – The State's contract for medical transports funded by Medicaid changed from Veyo to MTM <https://www.mtm-inc.net/wisconsin/members/>
- Outagamie County Adulting 101 training - <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/adulting-101/>

4. Children's COP and CLTS Services – Elizabeth Wagner:

- Service and Program Updates:
 - Staffing – Five new staff have been hired who have started with their first set of pilot cases. Eight staff transferred over from a contracted entity and continue their caseloads. **Julienne Gohde** has started in a new providers relations program assisting with CLTS contracts and possibly functional screenings. An intern named **Kendra Roe** has started who will be working on pilot cases, scheduling tours with providers, and providing support to staff/families served on the program. **Gina Schiavone** started in the Finance Department and is assisting with CLTS authorizations and ADRC/CLTS reception backup.
 - New Location – A majority of CLTS staff have moved to the new location at North Water Street in Neenah.
 - Contract Listing– There are constantly many new contracts coming in so a listing is being compiled of all the available contracted services.
 - Continuous coverage under Medicaid – Elizabeth shared a handout from the State entitled *Keeping Kids Covered*. The handout provides information on how Medicaid coverage works, income limits, qualifying programs, exceptions, and getting help. In Wisconsin, once a BadgerCare renewal is completed, even if the parent's income exceeds the BC limit, the child will remain open on BC until the next renewal period, which is typically for a year from the last renewal.

- Waitlist Updates – The Metastar CLTS audit will occur in March. Referrals: 21=December, 18=January. Currently, there are referrals needing to be assigned from November, so the wait is around three months. Some referrals are connected with Behavioral Health Services as they may be a more appropriate fit than CLTS.
5. Birth-to-Three Services (B-3) – Wendy Hein:
- Staffing Updates – There are no current openings on Birth to Three team due to several recent hires. This has allowed for staff to attend trainings and share their knowledge with their team.
 - Otoacoustic Emissions Screener (OAEs) – Enough funds were raised to purchase an OAEs which is utilized by staff to screen for language deficits secondary to hearing loss.
 - New Ongoing Assessment Tool – The team created a new ongoing assessment tool which will improve accuracy in outcome progress ratings.
 - Annual Survey Results – 400 surveys were sent out with 80 responses returned. 88 percent of respondents gave a 5-star rating and 10 percent a 4-star rating. 94 to 96 percent "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that the team provided assistance with understand child's strengths/needs, learned practical strategies, and that the team made a positive impact on interaction with their child.
 - VPI Updates – A new location is being sought as VPI recently sold one of their production locations and there is also a new supervisor.
 - Grant Writer: A new grant writer has come onboard and options for grants are being explored including monies for additional parent cafes.
6. CCS/CST Youth Services – Cristie Siebenaller: Cristie was unable to attend the meeting, so the following updates were shared by Elizabeth:
- Staffing – four new behavioral health service facilitators were hired at the beginning of the year. Cases are being split into three categories depending on family needs: crisis case management, CCS light, or CCS full.
 - Volunteer referrals – Cristie continues to work on voluntary referrals with families.
 - State Survey – The survey results reflected improved scores. Cristie will share more details at the next committee meeting.
7. 2024 Focus Areas and Committee Role: In 2023, the focus group created a resource document which Elizabeth shared with Committee members. The document is intended to be a resource for families who are waiting for services. Topics suggested for 2024 Focus Area Committee: gaps in services; transportation; shortage of speech, physical, and occupational therapists. Committee members also discussed transition planning for youth with disabilities. Elizabeth also shared information from the Wisconsin County Committee on Transition (CCoT) website: <https://witig.org/transition-partners/ccots-and-wicot/> for members to engage further in youth transition discussions.
8. 2024 Meeting Dates: May 14, September 10, December 10, 2024. Committee meetings will be held at 12:30 p.m. and virtual attendance remains an available option. Elizabeth shared this committee needs a new chairperson. Wendy Hein of Birth to 3 nominated Tracy Gehrke of Public Health for the chair position and other present members agreed with this nomination.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:14 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wagner