

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, May 9, 2023

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: VIRTUAL - Zoom meeting

PRESENT: Emily Paschen, Janel Retzlaff, Sarah Dunks, Lisa Meyer, Staci Thorkildsen, Candy Hall, Connie Bernier, Grove Behavioral Health, Kashoua Yang, Linda Pierron, Lindsay Reuer, Faith Ainsworth

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Tracy Gehrke, Wendy Hein, Audrey Borchers, Kirsten Tessen, Anna Wienkes, Abby Dexter, Taylor VandeBerg

Elizabeth Wagner called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes from February 2023 Meeting:** Staci Thorkildsen moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Candy Hall, and motion carried.

2. **Presentation: Meyer's Miracle Meadows, LLC – Lisa Meyer:**

- Lisa Meyer is the owner of Meyer's Miracle Meadows located in Stockbridge, Wisconsin. Lisa holds a certification as a lifetime special education teacher and has had training with an emphasis in autism, behavioral, and mental health needs. Her agency is a licensed foster home and she primarily offers respite services out of her home for youth on the CLTS program.
- Services offered throughout the year include respite, childcare, community integration services, consumer education and training, daily living skills training, day services, mentoring, supported employment, training for parents/guardians/families of children with disabilities, and transportation. Aftercare school services will be provided in Chilton starting in September which will include academic assistance, personal hygiene skills, daily living skills, and outings.
- Additional services offered include the Garden Camp that is offered June through August consisting of one-week camps from 9 AM - 3 PM on Mondays through Thursdays. Price of one-week camp is \$1,000 per camp participant. Sibling/family camps are also offered.
- Contact info: Call or text Lisa at (920) 379-7428. Email miraclameadows202@gmail.com.

Green Bay Integrated Sensory Club – Faith Ainsworth:

- In August, Marty Smith will be hosting a live videoconference. Tickets for the event are \$25.00. Website for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connecting-through-the-senses-tickets-598587109157?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- Facility: 6000 square foot facility with therapy equipment and lots of room.
- Upcoming Events: Moms Night Out and Toddler Times. In addition, OT or ABA services can be provided at the center.

- Locations: Green Bay, Neenah, Pewaukee, and hopefully soon an upcoming location in Outagamie County. Memberships are honored at all locations.
- <https://integrated-sensory.com/>

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

- **Emily Paschen** of NOVA ABA Learning Center reported there she has some availability for children needing daytime ABA services. There is a waitlist for afterschool services.
- **Staci Thorkildsen** reported that Headstart is taking applications for next school year. The Wilcox Center is currently under construction and upon completion will allow for an extra three-year-old classroom.
- **Sarah Dunks** from Options for Independent Living in Green Bay shared that Options is open for tours at any time. Their community fair is scheduled for Thursday, August 24th. The event will offer vendors as well as a wheelchair wash and tune-up. Additional information is available on their Facebook page. Newer programming includes an Adaptive Adventures Program which includes adaptive recreation equipment that families can try out for free.
- **Tracy Gehrke** of Winnebago Public Health shared the following updates:
 - Diaper Banks continue at both the Oshkosh and Neenah sites. Oshkosh also has a supply of feminine hygiene products.
 - Back to School Fair is starting to receive referrals. The hope is to serve 1100 children this year. The plan is to register 1000 and then take 100 off the waitlist to service at the event.
 - COVID Updates – The Sunnyview vaccination site closed on April 12th. Public Health is currently holding walk-in clinics at the Oshkosh CAB location on Tuesdays from 8-4 for anyone wishing to receive their COVID bivalent vaccine including a second dose for individuals ages 65+.
 - Maternal and child health services referrals are being accepted.
 - Parent/Resource hours continue in Oshkosh each month on second Tuesdays from 1-4 and in Neenah on fourth Thursdays from 11-2. Other services are available for walk-ins and vaccine clinics are held for any children behind on their shots who have Medicaid or no insurance.
- **Candy Hall** with Childcare Resource and Referral has hired a new staff member starting in July who will assist childcare centers with children that have challenging behaviors or special needs.
- **Linda Pierron** of Oshkosh Area School District reported the following updates:
 - Staff Openings: There are openings for teacher and paraprofessional for next school year and substitutes are needed for summer school. Applications can be completed on WECAN.
 - Brewing Futures Mobile Cafe is back out in the community.
 - Upcoming events: Care Days, graduation, ESY(Extended School Year)
- **Connie Bernier** of Omro School District reported a few staff positions are open.
- **Lindsay Reuer** reported the following updates:
 - The Oshkosh Public Library director has announced his retirement.
 - Lindsay shared a resource called the Autism-Ready Libraries Toolkit link which was just released today – <https://sites.uw.edu/neurodiversity/research-projects/autism-ready-libraries/toolkit/>. The toolkit was made possible from a federally funded grant and is designed to help school librarians, public educators, and public libraries make their libraries more inclusive to children with autism especially in regard to early literacy.

- **Shelly** of Grove Behavioral Services is the new administrative manager and they have onboarded five new hires since May 1. Once new staff are trained, the summer schedule will be finalized, and services will begin for those on the waitlist. Shelly stated they can continue to receive referrals. Grove is an in-home or school-based ABA provider that contracts with CLTS to offer a variety of services including respite.
- **Kashoua Yang** from the Northeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs reported in June, their agency will be fully staffed with the onboarding of two new program coordinators whose focus will be providing information and referral services to families who reach out via telephone and email. They are looking for ways to integrate their free information services into the communities served; especially in ways that allow for meeting families where they are at. Kashoua stated they are open to having discussions with anyone with an interest in exploring ways that onsite services can be provided to consumers. NE Regional Center is also part of the State's "No Wrong Door" initiative of which Kashoua will be providing updates at future meetings.
- **Elizabeth Wagner** shared the following updates and upcoming events:
 - Winnebago County Wheelchair Wash – Free wash and inspection, food, entertainment by Jedidiah, door prizes, and more. Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10 AM – 12 PM at J&R Auto Service, 629 Main Street, Oshkosh.
 - ADRC May 2023 Newsletter – includes article on hiring homecare services, ADRC event calendar, contact information, upcoming health and wellness events including Welcome to Medicare presentations, YMCA Rock Steady Boxing program, Parkinson's support group, ADRC retirement, 5/3 State Street Center craft fair, 5/11/ Day by Day open house, 5/6 NAMI Mental Health and Suicide Awareness, article "May is Older Americans Month!". Website: <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/05-2023.pdf>
 - WI Facets May Family Newsletter – includes upcoming WI FACETS and State events, home learning tips, online resources, and research information. Website: <https://servingongroups.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/MAY%202023%20FE%20Newsletter.pdf>
 - School related webinar training for parents:
https://searchinstitute.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1ZJ_C5iPS46hSaM-eo7T8Q?utm_campaign=Survey%20Webinar&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=255920275&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-KJLOiKFOwnUGVvmjfbT_YcuiJQ1T683abgZ_H-vu8qFnmpqoAHMU_VoeIAqs9rmo0kZQ47BqoFaaB50vCwR4N9XRP3JeZnYg350ZR_H1QLwQREfy8&utm_content=255921001&utm_source=hs_email#/registration
 - CLTS Newsletter March 2023: Articles – Katie Beckett Medicaid is Health Insurance for Children with Special Needs, COVID-19 Temporary Policies will End for CLTS Program, Wisconsin Medicaid Renewals, Preparing Youth for Employment, Appealing CLTS decisions, 2023 Circles of Life Conference, and CLTS family stories. Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/kids-2023-01.pdf>
 - B-3 Newsletter: Articles – Katie Beckett Program, family engagement information, 2023 Circles of Life Conference, Birth to Three Family stories. Newsletter: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/b3aifk2023-01.pdf>
 - Family Voices 2023 newsletter website: <https://familyvoiceswi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Issue-1-2023-comp.pdf>
 - Family Voices camp list website: <https://familyvoiceswi.org/resource-library/1304/>

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

- Service and Program Updates – New staff were introduced to the Committee – Audrey Borchers, Abby Dexter, and Jennelle Bernier. Three new additional staff will be hired due to a continued increase in referrals. Metastar review/audit is pending final results. The State of Wisconsin mailed out surveys to CLTS families to gather feedback on the program.
- CLTS Parental Fees – CLTS parental fee forms will be mailed to families and are to be returned to the department by the end of May 2023. A new process is beginning in 2023 of estimating parental fees amount and not charging the fee until the following year once the final cost for each family has been calculated. If families do not return the forms when due, a higher fee may be charged until the form is returned.
- New Providers:
 - Forward Together – Brittney Wallin of Forward Together located in Oshkosh. Brittney has been a BCBA for many years and her focus is on support and training for parents of children with behavioral needs – <https://forwardtogetherconsultation.com/>
 - The Foster Lane – is focused on parenting supports through individualized (virtual) services <https://www.thefosterlane.com/> and workshops <https://www.thefosterlane.com/workshops>
 - Fox Valley Autism – Has added some new services in the Fox Valley including Little Spot of Emotions group, Flip your Lid group, cooking class, Gymclusion Community Fitness, and an option for respite. <http://foxvalleyautism.com/services/>
- Online Referral Form for CLTS – Referral forms will be available online on the Winnebago County website sometime in 2023.
- Waitlist Updates: There are currently over 600 Winnebago County children enrolled in CLTS program and approximately 25 children are currently on the waitlist. On average, 100 children are added to the program annually.
- Operations during COVID-19: Starting in June, the federal emergency will end and CLTS services may be ended under the following circumstances:
 - Families not responding in a timely manner after several attempts were made to reach them.
 - Family does not return required paperwork after several attempts are made.
 - Child loses Medicaid and staff cannot connect with the family to assist in determining another Medicaid source.
 - Upon recertification with functional screen, the family is determined to no longer qualify for the CLTS program.
 - Youth who are eligible for Family Care or IRIS but have delayed enrollment must proceed with adult programming enrollment by November 2023.

Families moving into Winnebago County where a youth is open on CLTS must be enrolled by the county they now reside in within 30 days, per DHS. Staff will be assisting with monitoring changes in Medicaid renewal dates to assist families in maintaining their health insurance coverage during Medicaid Unwinding.

5. Birth-to-Three – Wendy Hein:

- Staffing update: Wendy reported that the intake service coordinator position is currently open, and she has enjoyed filling in for that position while it's been vacant. There has been a high number of referrals during this timeframe.
- Welcome baby events: Birth to Three has been busy participating in Welcome Baby events.

- Parent Cafes: Nine Parent Cafes have taken place thus far. The next set of three cafes will be held starting next week at the Play & Grow Learning Center in Sherwood followed by a set in Neenah. Feedback from participating parents has been very positive. All Birth to Three families in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet counties receive an email with information regarding Parent Cafés. Calumet County has information posted on their Facebook page. Additionally, Wendy has fliers which can be shared with interested families to include those who are not in the Birth to Three Program.

6. CCS/CST Youth Services:

- Operations during COVID-19: CCS is working on contracting with Vista Care to provide CCS services and crisis services in the future. Two pilot cases will be starting with Vista Care in the upcoming months. Two in-home therapy positions are open, and a waitlist continues for the program.

7. 2022 Focus Areas and Committee Role:

- Gaps in Behavioral Services Committee in the Fox Valley: The Gap Committee is open for anyone to join and focuses on ways to decrease gaps for accessing behavioral and mental health services in the local area. While unable to impact the limiting of services by insurance, the group continues to identify gaps and educate each other on why barriers exist. Statewide the CLTS program continues expanding the services counties can offer families to allow for continued access to providers offering parent supports during the waiting period for ABA providers. Elizabeth reported also being able to fund some social skills classes offered by ABA providers when insurance cannot fund. By the end of 2023, the hope is to have formalized resource documents which providers and agencies can share with families who are awaiting services.

8. 2023 Meeting Dates: September 12 and December 12. Meetings will be held in-person in Room 033 in Oshkosh DHS. A hybrid option will also be available for those unable to attend in-person.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wagner