

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: OHS Room 33 and VIRTUAL - Zoom meeting

PRESENT: Jennifer Lemke-Pawlak, Emily Paschen, Kyra Churchill, Angela Wade, Tara Brzezinski, Connie Bernier, Brittney Wallin, Sarah Dunks, Dana Bain, Staci Thorkildsen, Abby Dover, Elisa Bergstreser

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Wagner, Bridget Hunter, Liz Riley, Anna Whitmarsh, Mitch Cornils, Cristie Siebenaller, Rhonda Reinke

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

1. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2023 Meeting: Meeting minutes were distributed to those in attendance. Cristie Siebenaller moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Staci Thorkildson, and motion carried.
2. Presentation – Jennifer Lemke-Pawlak of Autism Consulting Services of Milwaukee: Jennifer provided information regarding remote consulting services their agency provides to parents of CLTS children with autism.
 - Relationship Development Intervention (RDI) – coaching parents on strategies and skills to improve parent-child interactions along with step-by-step individualized supports for learning throughout daily activities. Child gradually gains resiliency, takes on new challenges, and feels more competent in dynamic situations.
 - Parent coaching – "as needed" coaching for parents on limit setting, challenging behaviors, stress management, self-care, and understanding the child's needs through positive, relationship-based parenting approaches.
 - Educational coaching and advocacy – coaching parents on understanding and navigating the IEP process, positive home-school communication, and resolving disagreements with their child's school.

Q: What is the typical length of time for services?

A: This can depend. RDI services typically start with a six-month contract through CLTS with meetings occurring every other week and decreasing in frequency as parent/child skills increase. For "as needed" parent coaching, typical services occur with one-hour meetings every other week. Education coaching is typically more focused occurring for a few weeks.

Q: What types of families could benefit from your services?

A: RDI services can be very helpful to: 1) families who want to be more involved in the child's skill development, 2) parents who prefer a more developmental versus behavioral-focused approach, 3) children who have already gone through ABA programming and the family feels

like there are still things they would like to work on, and 4) those on a ABA waitlist. Parent coaching can assist those looking for support with challenges or need assistance with building a skill. Educational coaching assists parents who feel unheard at school, feel that their child's needs are not being met at school, have difficulty understanding the IEP process, or parents who have difficulty understanding their role in education.

Q: How can referrals be made?

A: The best way to make a referral is by telephone or by email.

Q: Do you provide "in the moment" assistance to families (IE right when behaviors at occurring such as at bedtime, when getting dressed etc.)

A: Usually coaching is done outside of the moment or through videotaping as Jennifer reported good success in talking out issues and strategies with parents.

Q: Do you work with children who are in placements?

A: Jennifer stated she has not yet provided any services to children currently in placements; however, indicated willingness to provide support to foster parents.

Contact information: Email – jlemkepawlak.rdi@gmail.com / Telephone – 414-708-6976 / Website – www.autismmilwaukee.com

Presentation – Forward Together Consultation – **Brittney Wallin**: Forward Together Consultation opened in April. Forward Together Consultation provides caregiver support to families with children ages 4-17 graduating from intensive ABA services. Direct one-on-one support sessions are provided in-home, at school, or in the community. Service locations include in-office, in-home, or telehealth options via Zoom. Caregiver support services focus on equipping caregivers with the knowledge and tools to help the child succeed throughout life. Recommended duration of support is typically six months but goals may be achieved in as little as three months. In some cases, support is ongoing over many months or years. There are currently daytime openings for younger children either in-home or community based; however, for has a waitlist for of 2-3 months for one-on-one daily living skills services for older children. Insurances accepted include United Healthcare and (soon) Blue Cross Blue Shield/Anthem for services of daily living skills, unpaid caregiver support, and safety planning/prevention. CLTS services are provided in Winnebago, Outagamie (LSS), and Waupaca Counties.

Q: Talk more about the safety planning and preventions services you offer?

A: Safety planning and prevention typically involves working with the parent on developing a plan of strategies for combating behaviors that are disruptive to daily routines or activities.

Q: Is Medicaid accepted to cover copays and deductibles?

Q: Is wrap around care with another provider CLTS funded?

Q: Do you serve youth of both intellectual and mental health issues?

Q: Would you be willing to accept Child Welfare funding?

A: Yes, for all of the above questions.

Q: Is safety planning being funded solely under the CLTS program or MA?

A: Either depending on the funding source.

Q: Do you serve children in out-of-home placements such as Shelter care?

A: Brittney is open to this depending on the situation and need.

Contact information: Email – inquiries.forwardtogether@outlook.com / Telephone – 920-315-8557 / Website – www.ForwardTogetherConsulation.com / Office location – 203 Otter Avenue, Suite 400, Oshkosh, WI 54901

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

- Elizabeth reported that committee member **Pam DeLap** passed away over Labor Day weekend due to a motorcycle accident. Pam did a lot of advocacy work in the community and was an inspiration to many who knew her.
- **Abby Dover** from Love the Mess reported the group will be meeting at the sensory gym in Neenah on September 23. This summer the group officially became a nonprofit and will be doing a glow party fundraiser in fall. The group can be followed through Facebook under Love the Mess or by emailing lovethemess@gmail.com.
- **Mitchell Cornils** of Winnebago County Child Welfare reported they continue to try to serve as many families as possible through voluntary/informal services and that it is often more difficult to find placements for children with developmental or behavioral needs.
- **Staci Thorkildsen** is a family resource specialist with UW-Oshkosh Headstart. She stated the school year just started, and they are located in the newly renovated Wilcox Center building.
- **Tammy Ross** of the Sensory Club reported being busy and growing quickly since their recent presentation. Tammy is beginning to work with a CLTS family to provide in-home supportive services based on her training in occupational therapy. Additionally, Tammy expressed her goal is to provide sensory services to families experiencing gaps in ABA services under the company name Bridge the Gap.
- **Elisa Bergstreser** reported she is now at the Oshkosh Area School District and is attending in place of Linda Pierron, OASD Special Education Director.
- **Kyra Churchill** is the Community Services Director at Lakeside Packaging. This past summer's community program served 11-12 students on average. Youth services are expanding to providing services for eight students ages 14-19 on OASD professional developmental days. The fall schedule is planned with a variety of activities. Funding has been received to revamp a room at Lakeside called Oshkosh Fox Club where youth services will mainly be held when not in the community.
- **Emily Paschen** of NOVA ABA Learning Center located in Appleton reported having daytime openings for students. There is a waitlist for afterschool services. Emily reported she plans to connect with Tammy from the Sensory Club to train on the utilization of toys.
- **Angela Wade** of Trio Academy reported having a new website containing all services in one spot: clinic-based therapy, school, and licensed daycare. A shared space between the youngest therapy clients and the licensed daycare opened last Tuesday which allows for integration with peers. The building for the school should be open next week. Six new staff have been hired in the last 3-4 weeks. School is going well with two licensed teachers along with 2-3 floater staff serving six children from last year along with three new children.
- **Tara Brzezinski** is a parent of a child with special needs. Tara is involved in different areas with the State including the Wisconsin Board of People with Developmental Disabilities and serves on several committees. They are currently working through the Spark Grant applications received from community non-profits groups. The grant focuses on inclusion. Tara also reported working with CLTS provider Beaming of Neenah in getting grants together to do programming in the schools including a reading program. Tara also shared that Appleton

Alliance Church offers a special needs ministry called Rest and Connect for families with special needs children. There is a biannual guest speaker during which time respite is offered including for siblings. October 1st is the first of four outings to the Sensory Club planned throughout the upcoming year. Church volunteers provide one-on-one care for approximately 67 special needs children during Sunday morning church services so that parents can attend services. Support for youth is provided for midweek programming along with outreach on Tuesday nights. Night to Shine Prom is also an event hosted at the Appleton Alliance Church for special needs children and family. That event will take place in February 2024. <https://www.alliancechurch.org/ministries/special-needs> Other churches: Community Church of Oshkosh has started offering supports to those with disabilities. Christ the Rock offers a special needs children's ministry of which they are trying to grow.

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

- Staffing: Seven new staff have been hired since the beginning of the year to meet the continual demand for incoming referrals and to refill staff openings. There are currently 642 children in the program compared to 548 in July of 2022. This is equivalent to three full time staff worth of cases.
- Post-COVID operations: Rules have changed since the pandemic ended so cases where the family cannot be reached after several attempts would be closed out starting in June. Medicaid renewals and functional screens at the annual recertification also resumed.
- Waitlist: Due to staff incapacity and ongoing increased referrals, there is a backlog on referrals. Families are typically waiting about three months after the assessment to access the program.

5. Birth-to-Three Services – Wendy Hein:

- Staffing – Wendy reported she is looking to hire a service coordinator.
- Referrals – Referrals have been high with having had 30-40 referrals in the first few days of September (which is equivalent to typically an entire month's worth).
- Parent Cafes – Parent cafes are wrapping up by the end of September in accordance with the ARPA funding spending deadline. The hope is to find another community group to continue parent cafes.
- Post-COVID operations: Health screenings continue to occur prior to sessions and has been beneficial in cutting down no-shows and going in homes with sick children. In addition, staff mask up following exposures or upon request.

6. CCS/CST Youth Services – Cristie Siebenaller:

- Staffing – Cristie reported she is looking to hire a service facilitator and a therapist.
- Waitlist – the waitlist is shorter due to higher staff caseloads, adjusting how often clients are seen, and making individualized decisions on how families are being served.
- Referrals – More referrals are expected as the school year starts.
- State surveys – Annual surveys are starting to be conducted with children/families regarding services. Data will be shared with the committee at the spring meeting.

7. 2023 Focus Areas and Committee Role:

- Gaps in Behavioral Services Committee in the Fox Valley: The group meets monthly to share information on behavioral and mental health needs in the community including barriers with insurance, ABA funding, mental health services, and other gaps. The group is working on a resource for providers to offer to families for behavioral services which is expected to be shared

at the December meeting. Elizabeth stated she is considering a 2024 Focus group to support youth transitioning to adult services.

8. 2023 Meeting Dates: December 12.

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