

## Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

### Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022

**TIME:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** VIRTUAL - Zoom meeting

**PRESENT:** Staci Thorkildsen, Candy Hall, LaTrice Barbee, Janel Retzlaff, Angela Wade, Katrina Verhagen, Courtney Schroeder

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Wagner, Mitch Cornils, Cristie Siebenaller, Tracy Gehrke, Wendy Hein

**Elizabeth Wagner** called the meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2022 Meeting:** Cristie Siebenaller moved for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Mitch Cornils, and motion carried.

2. **Presentation: Focus on Freedom – Marla Kopecky:**

- Focus on Freedom is a current CLTS provider agency. Marla Kopecky operates the business and also teaches at the Oshkosh Area School District. Focus on Freedom currently offers daily living skills and is also looking to expand services by offering parent seminars in an attempt to support more families.
- The seminars are a 6-month virtual course for parents and other non-paid caregivers covering the following topics: Self-care, routines and boundaries, organization and visual supports, communication, emotion and emotional regulation, and relationships. Meetings are held on the first through third Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 PM and will be recorded for those unable to attend on a given week. Learn more at [www.focusonfreedom.org](http://www.focusonfreedom.org)
- **Contact Information:** Phone – 920-428-7757 / Email – [marla.kopecky@focusonfreedom.org](mailto:marla.kopecky@focusonfreedom.org)  
Website – [www.focusonfreedom.org](http://www.focusonfreedom.org) / Instagram – @focusonfreedomllc / Facebook – Focus on Freedom LLC

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

- **Katrina Verhagen** and **Courtney Schroeder** shared information on Grove Behavioral Services, a new Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) provider serving Winnebago and Outagamie Counties with a focus on rural areas that currently do not have access to resources and services. Grove will provide ABA therapy, respite care, parent support/education, and daily living skills. Future services may include safety planning and a healthy relationships class. Grove specializes in ABA treatment and therapy for children with disabilities and autism including working on challenging behaviors and communication. Funding for services is through CLTS Waiver, Medicaid/Forward Health, and private health insurances. Services are currently provided in the home but Grove plans to create a center location in the Fox Valley

area. Winnebago County is currently in the process of working on a contract with the owner, Janelle Upthegrove, for the CLTS-funded services Grove offers starting in 2023.

- **Janel Retzlaff** works for the Oshkosh Area School District as a Preschool Speech & Language Pathologist and is in attendance on behalf of Linda Pierron. Janel reported a 20-30 percent increase this year in Birth to Three and Child Find evaluations and reports that COVID has likely negatively impacted youth development. Janel shared parents are reporting waiting lists for ABA services in the community.
- **Angela Wade** of Trio Academy reported another licensed teacher will be added in the next couple of months to oversee a social skills course which will be offered to those with and without autism. Angela also reported their private school is going strong and they have also just achieved non-profit status. <https://www.trioacademywi.com/young-scholars>
- **Candy Hall** of Child Care Resource & Referral in the Fox Valley stated their agency's child care specialists take child care referrals through telephone calls, in-person, and online chat. Counties served are Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca, Calumet, and Green Lake. CCRR provides technical assistance to childcare providers which may include available scholarships and grants, start-up training, a Job Line for assistance with hiring staff, and also Young Star Quality Consultants. Work is occurring under the Project Growth Initiative as part of the Winnebago County Dream Up Team to determine increased childcare capacity needs. CCRR additionally serves as an advocate for businesses participating in the Partner Up Grant from DCF. <https://ccrrfoxvalley.org/>
- **Tracy Gehrke** of the Winnebago County Health Department shared the following updates:
  - Dream Up Grant – Tracy is a core partner in the Dream Up Grant which is looking at the strategic planning for childcare in the area.
  - Walk-in Wednesday Clinics are being held at Sunnyview Expo Center from 3-6 PM on Wednesdays with availability for all COVID shots and boosters as well as flu shots through the end of the month (flu shots require an insurance card). Tracy continues to provide support to childcare programs regarding questions about COVID in their programs. Tracy reported that there is a "tripledeemic" with influenza being the biggest problem along with COVID and RSV.
  - Parent Resource Hours are beginning in which a nurse and health educator are available offering services such as car seats, breastfeeding support, and assistance with parenting questions. The hours are 1-4 on the second Tuesday of the month in the Oshkosh office and 11-2 on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Neenah office.
- **Mitch Cornils** of Winnebago County Child Welfare continues to serve a lot of families through voluntary and diversion means whenever possible rather than processing through court in Child Protection or Youth Justice. The Family Mobile Team will be fully staffed again with the hiring of a second juvenile intake worker.
- **LaTrice Barbee** works through Lutheran Social Services in Winnebago County and is a recent graduate with a master's in social work.
- **Elizabeth Wagner** shared links with committee members on the following newsletters and conferences:
  - CLTS Newsletter – <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/kids-2022-04.pdf>
  - ADRC Newsletter – <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/12-2022.pdf>
  - SOAR – <https://soarfoxcities.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Mid-Winter-Newsletter-January-2023.pdf>
  - Youth Transition Conference – May 5 / 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM / UW-Oshkosh Campus.

- YIPPE Transition Conference – <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gnHrXq-dYHi5-qEdQPTtI54aJix5JoEv/view>

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

- Service and Program Updates: Elizabeth reported on staff openings and staff shifting to other positions including a second supervisor to meet the continued increase in referrals for services and a new financial position is also being created to assist with completing authorizations for services. Elizabeth reported recently receiving 30 referrals in a 2-week period which is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a case load. Until the additional supervisor is added and new staff is hired and trained, the ninety-day delay before services may begin may need to be increased. Providers are also forming waitlists due to staffing shortages so even when a family enrolls in CLTS, they may struggle to find a provider that is available.
- CLTS Providers: There are many new CLTS providers registering on the new CLTS Provider Registry. Counties now approve providers directly within the registry after the state initially approves the provider. Agencies finding available and skilled staff continues to be an issue.
- Katie Beckett Medicaid Program: The six-month turnaround time that it typically has taken for a youth to gain approval for Katie Beckett Medicaid is expected to decrease down to two months as a new entity is now completing the disability determinations.
- CLTS Parental Fees – The process for CLTS parental fees has been updated for 2023 from services authorized to actual services utilized. Families will see an estimated fee amount listed on the current Individualized Service Plan (ISP) based on the authorized services listed but the fee charged will be based on actual expenses and is charged in the year following the use of services. Letters will be sent to families to share the updated process.
- Homelessness Prevention Program – The ADRC is starting up a new homeless prevention program for those who are homeless or facing homelessness.
- Operations during COVID-19 – The federal health emergency is likely to remain in effect until April of 2023 which continues the COVID allowances in CLTS.

#### **5. Birth-to-Three – Wendy Hein:**

- Operations during COVID-19: Wendy reported staffing shortages continue including two openings for occupational therapists. The number of enrollments is at a record high with a combined total of 326 children for Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.
- Breakfast with Santa event was just hosted on Saturday through United Way and had a fantastic attendance of almost 200 families.
- Parent Cafes will be offered for Birth to Three families which includes a meal and childcare. This is funded through ARPA grant monies. The first Parent Café is being held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Building for Kids in Appleton. An Oshkosh location is being sought for the second Parent Café and information on future Parent Cafes will be posted in advance so parents can plan ahead.
- AARPA funds are being utilized for a childcare pilot for children enrolled in Birth to Three to attend structured environments. Unfortunately, there are not enough slots available for everyone in need.
- COVID Update: In-person and virtual supports continue to be offered and health screenings continue to be conducted in the mornings prior to visits.

- All in For Kids Birth to 3 Newsletter: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/akidsb-3-2022.htm>

**6. CCS/CST Youth Services:**

- Operations during COVID-19: The CCS/CST Team is fully staffed and there is a very small waitlist at this time. 2022 client survey results yielded improvements in satisfaction for both youth and adults.

**7. 2022 Focus Areas and Committee Role:**

- Gaps in Behavioral Services Committee in the Fox Valley: The last meeting was November 30<sup>th</sup> and the meeting minutes will be shared with the committee which continues to discuss how to fill gaps for behavioral health and mental health services in our area along including working with schools and community providers or agencies on ways to support families waiting for services. The next meeting will occur on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2023. Contact Elizabeth Wagner if interested in joining this committee: [ewagner@winnebagocountywi.gov](mailto:ewagner@winnebagocountywi.gov).

**8. 2023 Meeting Dates: 12:30 on February 14, May 9, September 12, December 12.**

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