

**FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, September 24, 2013

TIME: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Oshkosh Human Services Building
220 Washington Ave., Oshkosh
Conference Room #33

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Culp, Cindy Flauger, Tracy Gehrke, Elizabeth Jones, Cindy Knaggs, Sharon Oberkrieser, and Dorothy De Grace

Elizabeth Jones called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Cindy Knaggs moved for approval of the agenda as written; seconded by Tracy Gehrke and carried.
2. **Approval of Minutes for the June 11, 2013 Meeting:** With no additions or corrections to the minutes, they were approved as presented.
3. **Member Sharing:**

Sharon Oberkrieser is the contact person for the Down to Earth group which is a support group for parents with kids who have Downs Syndrome and other disabilities. Her son has Downs Syndrome. She said the group meets the first Thursday of every month in the Hooper Building at 6:00 p.m. Each year the group donates a book to the area schools regarding children with disabilities to raise awareness in the schools.

Tracy Wroblewski is the R.N. coordinator for Cerebral Palsy of Mideast Wisconsin and is in charge of the respite programs and independent living program. Her son is developmentally disabled. Tracy said that Cerebral Palsy is working with UWO for the “Camp on Campus” program which will be for 18-21 year olds to get a college experience. The youth will stay on campus for a weekend and will be under the direction of volunteers who will take them to athletic activities, etc. It will be offered four times a year for eight individuals overnight. Tracy said they are starting a day service program where they will teach cooking skills, etc.

Cindy Knaggs shared that she has a daughter with autism.

Liz Jones has a son with autism. She is a volunteer doing research and public relations for Friends of Autism. She said her family visited Shepherd’s College in Union Grove, which is the country’s leading accredited three-year post secondary educational program for people with intellectual disabilities. Liz said there will be a Walk for Autism in Madison on Sunday, October 13.

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Beth Culp is supervisor of the Family Support Team. She stated that the county generally gets more referrals for Family Support when school starts, especially since schools are good connections for us. She meets monthly with each school district to talk about how to best meet the needs of youth at risk.

Tracy Gehrke is with Winnebago County Public Health Department.

Erin Hollister is with NE Regional Center for Children & Youth With Special Health Care Need (CYSHCN). They offer information and referral services to families that have children from zero to 21 years of age with special health care needs. They work closely with Public Health and 17 other counties in the northeast region. They offer transitioning services, autism support in the community, family support, health benefits support, and other supports in the community. Erin explained their statewide navigation guide, “Finding Your Way” which shows what resources are available throughout the state. They are working with Fox Valley Tech in offering a “Transition to Employment” conference on November 5 starting at 8:00 a.m. There is no charge for this conference. Erin said UWO has paired with the YMCA of Oshkosh for an adaptive aquatics program on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for children with special health care needs. There is also an aquatics program at the Greenville YMCA for children with autism and for sensory integration. Erin said the Easter Seals of Wisconsin developed a document that lists all of the resources available in the Fox Cities. It is located on their website. Anyone can contact them to add a resource. She said they also offer a free developmental screening through their website.

Rob Paterson is a member representative of the Human Services Board.

Cindy Flauger works with Early Intervention Services and is involved in the Fox Valley Early Childhood Coalition. They collaborated on preparing a resource “The Parent Outlet.com” where families can go to ask any questions regarding child development. It is geared mostly for parents of children aged 0-5, but it is linked to many other resources.

4. **Parent Support Groups:**

Erin Hollister said Winnebago County’s WIC Program collaborates with the Parent Connection group to offer a speaker each month on various topics, such as breast feeding, infant massages, etc. Information can be found on their website.

Elizabeth Jones said the Fox Valley Autism Society offers support to parents or relatives that have a family member with autism. The Fox Valley Sibling Support Network also offers support to family members.

5. **Family Support Program Updates:**

- 2013 Statistics – Beth Culp said the Family Support budget report shows we authorized \$153,000 for services this year; although the budget is \$114,000 and projects that we will use \$110,000. She said we are close to allocating all of the funds.

6. Birth-to-Three Program Report:

- 2013 Stats – Cindy Flauger said they've had 296 referrals through today. Some of them might be duplicates where children are screened and found not eligible, but the parents came back because they still had some concern. We've had 32 more referrals than at this same time last year. There were 112 children found eligible where the family agreed to move forward with services. Cindy said packets of information from the Fox Valley Early Childhood Coalition regarding resources to families were recently distributed to physicians in the area. Individuals from Outagamie County and Winnebago County's Birth-to-Three programs were able to attend lunchtime meetings with local physicians groups to give them a refresher about the Birth-to-Three program and the approach to service delivery. Cindy said the state's proposed Birth-to-Three waiver would be another way to draw down additional funding from sources such as Medicaid. It would allow us to bill our teaching services and team meetings to discuss service planning. Cindy is hoping it will be approved and rolled out by January 1.

Cindy Flauger said we recently received our results of the state's monitoring of federal indicators of the Birth-to-Three program. The report for July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 shows that as a county we've met our requirements. The results funnel to the state, which could result in sanctions that might include direction in how we use funds. We are taking advantage of the support that is being provided from technical assistance at the federal level.

- New DHS Website –

Beth Culp said Birth-to-Three is now linked to the Human Services website. There are links to this committee's agenda and minutes of quarterly meetings; to the Birth-to-Six networking meetings; and links to other resources. Beth said the new referral and consent form provided by the state is targeted to physicians. Cindy said physicians or others who become aware that a child is potentially eligible for services have an obligation to make a referral. Consent is not needed for that basic information, but they need to inform the parent of the referral. We would then need consent to proceed with the process or to exchange information back and forth.

7. Additional Items:

There were none.

8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Time/Place:

There were no suggestions at this time.

- 9. Next Meeting:** With no other business, Tracy Gehrke moved for adjournment; seconded by Erin Hollister and carried at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Family Support Advisory Committee will be **Tuesday, December 10, 2013** from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in **Room 33** of the **Oshkosh Human Services Building**.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy De Grace, Secretary