

**FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, October 6, 2015

TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Sharon Oberkrieser, Kortney Dahm, Tracy Gehrke, Cindy Flauger, Sue Berndt, Joe Hameister, Marie Boleman, Marci Thiry, Judy Olson, Amy Stack, Celeste Brennan, and Linda Pierron

STAFF PRESENT: Beth Culp and Dorothy De Grace

Beth Culp called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes for the June 2, 2015 Meeting:** With no additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 2, 2015 meeting, they were approved.

2. **Member Sharing:**

Amy Stack is the parent of a child with a disability.

Tracy Gehrke is a public health nurse with the Winnebago County Public Health Department. They have been busy giving flu vaccinations to people that are uninsured and on Badger Care.

Kortney Dahm is public health nurse with the City of Menasha. They will be giving free flu vaccinations to children aged 18 and under at a clinic on October 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Butte de Morts Elementary School. The cost to adults is \$16.

Sue Berndt is a family resource specialist for the Head Start program in Oshkosh. They continue to do ongoing intake for new families as others transition out of the program.

Judy Olson is Executive Director of Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R). They will be starting a Conscious Discipline training series starting Saturday, October 10.

Beth Culp supervises the Family Support Team at Human Services. She said there is a grant available related to the Pyramid Model, which looks at the hierarchy of the needs of young children. The grant is an opportunity to partner with other agencies to help further this model.

Joe Hameister represents the Northeast Regional Center for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs. Their 2016 goals will focus on medical home, family training, and health transitions from child pediatric to adult medical care. They've been busy with outreach, and they are trying to find creative ways to finance their programs.

Marci Thiry represents Menasha Public Schools. She said their community is limited in that they don't have a lot of licensed day care facilities that are in a position to take on their 4K programs. Most of their programs are in-house, but some families are paying for private programs. Menasha received a grant for an early literacy reading program offered through the Boys & Girls Club, Menasha schools, and the Menasha Public Library.

Marie Boleman heads children's services at the Oshkosh Public Library. They've been working on developing an early literacy program called "High Flyers." It's similar to the one they've had for infants and toddlers under age 2 called "High Hopes." More information can be found on the library's website. Marie handed out a list of events that are scheduled at the library for September through December.

Linda Pierron represents the Oshkosh School District. She reported that the inclusive playground opened a few months ago in Oshkosh. Traeger Elementary School is looking for grant and fundraising opportunities to make their playground more accessible. Oshkosh Schools expanded its Encompass Program to another middle school this year, which makes it available at one high school, two elementary and two middle schools. They are expanding their partnership with Catalpa for dealing with mental health issues in the schools.

Celeste Brennan started a small business several months ago selling clothing and accessories for special needs children as inspired by her son. She will be opening a retail store in Neenah for the clothing. She also plans to open a development center teaming with various therapists and specialists that work with special needs children, and it will include an alternate service to parents.

Sharon Oberkrieser represents the Down to Earth group for kids with special needs. She said the recent Fox Valley Down Syndrome Association awareness walk generated over \$85,000.

Beth Culp reported on a recent transition night held at the Coughlin Center for all Winnebago County school districts. Many providers were present to explain how they can assist individuals after they turn 18 and graduate from high school. Presentations were given by agencies and parents regarding transitioning to employment, post-secondary school and the various adult services available.

3. **CATALPA** – This will tentatively be scheduled for the next meeting.
4. **Parent Cafes – Child Care Resource & Referral:** Beth Culp distributed copies of information on Parent Cafes to be held at the downtown Oshkosh YMCA on these Thursdays: October 8, October 22 and November 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It's a chance for parents to connect with others for one-on-one conversation and support in learning to build strong relationships with their children.

5. Family Support Program Updates:

- 2015 Statistics – Beth Culp said we had some carryover funds from last year, so our allocation was \$120,000; we have \$153,000 authorized so far. If a family has a very high need, we match it to a federal waiver so they can use more funding. There is no waiting list for services.
- State Plan for 2016 Family Support funds – Beth Culp said we won't need to submit a plan for 2016 for Family Support due to the change to Children's COP.
- Change to Advisory Committee/funding – Beth Culp said Family Support will be ending as a program at the end of this calendar year. The state is changing its funding channels to be called "Children's COP", and counties will get a higher allocation of funds based on what they had received for the Family Support and Community Options programs. Funding won't be capped out at \$3,000 per family as it is now, and there will be more flexibility in how we use it. This committee will have a name change to "Children's COP Advisory Committee."

6. Birth-to-Three Program Report:

- 2015 Stats – Cindy Flauger said referrals to Early Intervention Services are down from this same time last year. However, 147 families have been found eligible and an individualized family service plan developed for them so far this year, compared to 124 at the same time last year. Cindy is sending out a family outcome survey from the state to get feedback from families in the Birth-to-Three program.

7. Next Meeting: With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Family Support Advisory Committee has been scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15, 2015** from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in **Room 33** of the **Oshkosh Human Services Building**.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy De Grace, Secretary