

Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative

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Early Childhood Work Group/IEIC Meeting

9 - 10:30PM December 3, 2009

Dead Lake Room- Government Service Center, Fergus Falls

Attendance: Marion Kershner (OTC Public Health); LuAnn Harris (Child Care Resource & Referral- 4); Stacy Haugen-McAllister (Fergus Falls Area Special Education Cooperative- 5); Patti Deery (Head Start); Mary Phillipe (United Way of OTC – 4); Angie Rush (Parent Support Specialist-40); Karen Hanan (FF ECFE – 2); Sue Ewy (MCSHN-5); and Jane Patrick (Collaborative Coordinator).

1. Stacy McAllister welcomed the group and introductions were made.
2. Stacy called for a review of the minutes of the November 5 meeting. **MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the November 5 meeting and the Agenda for today's meeting. (L. Harris/S. Ewy/Carried)
The group held a follow-up discussion about the Kitchen Table Initiative which would be shared at the December 14th CEO Group meeting. Jane explained that all four of the local early childhood initiative coordinators would be attending as well as Senator Dan Skogen. Jane requested that the CEO and Executive Committee members from this group that will be attending the meeting familiarize themselves with the materials to help support the CEO Group discussion.
3. Jane Patrick presented the bills which were paid on behalf of the program on December 1 in the amount of \$1,640.85. **MOTION:** To approve the bills paid December 1, 2009, in the amount of \$1,640.85. (S. McAllister/M. Phillipe/carried)
4. Data collection for the program for both the ECFE/HS/ECSE visits and the Public Health Postpartum and NFP visits was discussed. Marion reviewed the question about data collection with Diane Thorson and it is their recommendation that Public Health keep the NFP visits and reporting separate from what is reported by Caring Connections. They would continue to report data as necessary regarding the postpartum visits for families not involved in NFP. The group discussed the fact that including NFP data in the reporting for Caring Connections would be skewing the data since NFP is a much more intense visiting program. This would be true for any intensive home visiting program such as Early Head Start and/or Early Childhood Special Education; however, the group decided that for ECSE this would not necessarily be true since those visits are specific to a child's individual disability. The group reviewed the summary report prepared by Jane from the Caring Connections visits 2005-2008. The group noted that good percentages of kids are being referred for developmental screenings, but that the numbers of families reporting involvement in ECFE are sliding considerably since 2005 when the program changed. Prior to the next meeting, the work group will closely review the data that we have collected and identify strengths, weaknesses and potential errors in the report. There are significant problems from 2005 data which Jane needs to correct/clarify. However it was also noted that 2005 was a transition year and data would be both from families enrolled in the new and old program models. Jane will run a 2004 report to compare data prior to the major program changes.
5. Jane shared an update on the program and PSOP Budgets. Jane reported that all was on target at this point for budget expenses. A final 2009 invoice will be sent for PSOP expenses by the end of December. Jane attended a telephone conference this week about PSOP and learned that if we have an under utilization grant dollars next year, we will likely lose them.

6. System integration update – Stacy is meeting on Monday with Karen, Jerry, Patti, Jan and others involved with early childhood programming in Fergus Falls to continue exploring ideas for moving integrated early childhood programming along. A survey was completed and sent out which provided some good feedback. The group needs to explore options for funding to support increased programming. It was noted that the school will not and cannot use ECFE funding for preschool programming. Battle Lake is currently in the assessment stages looking at what other schools are doing and various funding models. Each program is bound to be very different based on the individual needs of their children, families, schools and communities.
7. The group discussed the need to host a January team meeting. The date was set from Noon – 3PM on January 22. Lunch will be provided. The agenda will include:
 - PSOP program information sharing and updates
 - Parent support consultant information and program sharing
 - A possible presentation from 2-1-1
 - A presentation by Someplace Safe
8. IEIC business
 - Budget – Public Health needs to submit bills to FFASEC for services.
 - IRT – met last week and reviewed 49 kids. Good discussion and the right people at the table. Very positive. A general release of information and data privacy practices continues to be a challenge.
 - Parent Support Consultant updates: Group is trying to get Angie connected to more families. There is a lot of information flying around and a lot of different groups so she is trying to fully understand and organize all the information. In Douglas County Angie is working with the movie theater to do a family friendly program for children with disabilities this spring and she would like to duplicate the program in Fergus Falls. She is also working on setting up a “Get Set” (an introduction to the IEP process) program in Fergus Falls. Angie is working hard not to duplicate efforts that have already been tried or completed. Angie would like to offer parent perspective training on autism disorder and would like to connect with CCR & R to help promote the availability of this. Could ask her to do a session in Pelican or one of the other school districts. Sensory nights are something that Angie is particularly interested in and is trying to provide more opportunities for families to have sensory experiences. If groups know of facilities that could be accessed by families please let her know. Jane to add Angie to email list serves.
 - Angie is interested in learning about programs and resources available to families.
9. Updates on Child Care Provider visits – LuAnn recently completed 13 oral health visits to providers served in FY09. With the basic Caring Connection Child Care Provider Program, LuAnn reported that only four providers have been enrolled since July due to low numbers of people being licensed. LuAnn indicated that a few more are in the licensing process, but that she has concerns about enrolling 17 new providers by June. The group discussed how to best utilize the dollars available for CCP visits. The group discussed three options: a) reduce the contract to visit only the new licensed; b) develop new/additional visits for the newly licensed providers; c) enroll other providers who are not newly licensed, and that have not previously been offered the program.
MOTION: To adjust the providers served due to low numbers of newly licensed providers in the county and offer visits to other licensed child care providers in Otter Tail County that have not previously been offered the program so up to 17 providers are served this fiscal year. (S. McAllister/M. Phillipe/Carried)
10. The meeting was adjourned by consensus. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 7th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM in the Dead Lake Room** at the Government Service Center in Fergus Falls. January agenda items will include: a) review of data and how to use; b) FY11 budget planning; c) options/ideas for continued parent satisfaction surveys; d) spring training plan.