



“Working together to create a better future for children and their families”.

Clay County Early Childhood Initiative
Friday, September 21, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Members attending: Kay Heinrich, Trinity Preschool; Annie Vigen, Public Health; Linda Nelson, Community member; Lauri Winterfeldt, Moorhead Public Schools; Julie Klier, Child Care Licensor; Shanna Grefsrud, Head Start; Marie Steen, Child Care Aware; Deana Overmoe, Child Care Aware; Carolyn Strnad, Coordinator.

Presentation: Somali Community Child Care Provider grant; Deana Overmoe, Project Coordinator, Child Care Aware.

A two-year Blue Cross Blue Shield grant was secured in July of 2017 through a partnership with West Central Initiative and Child Care Aware. The funds were awarded to create and implement a culturally specific pilot project working with the Somali community to develop and support women who wish to become child care providers. The types of child care settings addressed through the grant include legal non-licensed provider and licensed family child care provider. Deana worked with community members to earn their trust. She has attended community events and is helping with English classes and learning their language. The grant has provided funds to contract with Abdiwali Sharif from Somali Development. He speaks four languages, teaches First Aid and CPR. Abdiwali interprets for a provider, assisting with paperwork, and assessing child care needs of potential provider. To date 5 women have completed the Legally Non-licensed process. Two are in process. One family child care provider is in process of becoming licensed. Because of the language barrier a eight hour training becomes a sixteen hour training in order to cover the material. The work that Deana is doing with this project is paving the road for work with other diverse communities. The model that she has developed and her relationship with members of the Somali community are keys to the success of the pilot project.

2019 work plan was tabled until next month's meeting. Carolyn asked that members bring ideas for the focus of the 2019 work plan.

Agency Updates:

Clay County Collaborative: Development for the new website has begun. There will be a section under resources that will be specifically for early childhood resources for professionals and families. Meeting minutes will be included on the site and meeting dates and activities will be included on the website calendar page. Partners are encouraged to send information on their

events and/or training to Carolyn to be placed on the calendar page. The movie Resilience will be shown at the Barnesville Library on October 2nd and at the Moorhead Library on October 15th.

Public Health: Fluoride varnishing is now a required part of the child and teen checkup. Annie is collecting information on how the clinics are doing in implementing the varnishing program. Public Health is part of a Department of Health project that is checking on the level of chemicals in children. Chemicals checked include metal, pollution, and pesticides.

Moorhead Community Education will feature a Special Education 101 class for parents in all future Community Education catalogue.

Child Care Aware: There is \$912,000 in scholarship funds for the nine-county region (Region 4). 210 families are receiving a scholarship, with 84 of those Clay County children. Maria was able to issue 73 new awards this year. One-third of the available funds are for those already on the scholarship program. State priorities for providing a scholarship include teen parents, in foster care, homeless or unstable housing.

*** A planning committee is being formed to work on the Community Table event. If you are interested in helping with the planning or know of someone who would be a great addition to the committee, please contact Carolyn.

Upcoming Events:

Kidsfest: April 6, 2019 Moorhead Center Mall 10am. - 2pm

Week of the Young Child: April 8th-12th

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day; May 9th

Ruby's Pantry - 4th Tuesday of the month at MState

Next meeting: October 18, 2018 - Agenda will include a quarterly report on the Nurse Family Partnership and Healthy Families America Report

Clay County Early Childhood Initiative 2018 Work Plan

Goal #1: Increase awareness of the importance of quality early childhood experiences

Goal #2: Continue to build a strong early childhood coalition in Clay County.

Goal #3: Meaningful parent outreach that includes skill building in parenting, promoting reading, and support healthy social and emotional development

Goal #4: Support Child Care Providers to retain current providers and recruit new providers.