



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

## Clay County Early Childhood Initiative

Friday, October 18, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

Carolyn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Clay County Public Health quarterly report provided by Liz Bjur

Healthy Families America:

- One staff person is transitioning to .5 Healthy Families America supervisor role
- Capacity increased to serve families up to the age of 4
- Two full time HFA nurse positions were filled in June and August. Staff are currently attending online and in-person training.
- Current case load is at 100% until training is completed
- All nurses will attend Partners in Parenting Education training in November. This evidence-based curriculum is to be used with 3 and 4-year-old children.

Nurse Family Partnership

- 10 referrals to the program. 5 new clients enrolled
- Currently serving 51 clients with a goal of 110 in the next year.
- Referrals come from WIC, Sanford/Essentia clinics, and transfers from Fargo Public Health and other parts of the state.
- Grant funding through EBHV is being used for training a a partial nurse caseload.
- FLO Migration data collection system is scheduled to switch over in November. Clay County is in group 2 so hopefully they have worked out the “bugs” within the system as identified by the first group.
- GOAL MAMMA app has been scheduled to be released for use and training opportunities on the app for 2020.
- The program is fully staffed!!
- Outreach efforts include a joint meeting with Fargo Cass Public Health on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Liz spoke on Homevisiting at the Northwest MN Synod.
- Liz shared a success story about a mom who successfully removed herself and children from an abusive partner and is fulfilling her goals. She attributed that success to the support of her home visiting nurse.
- Nurse Family Partnership program turns 20 in 2020

Lake Agassiz Regional Library Readmobile Project – Jenna Kahly

- This project is in the planning stage. In the past the library had a book mobile but it was expensive to upkeep and the library could no longer afford it. As a result, the library established link sites in communities in the county. They are still seeing pockets of underserved community members that are not being served. The library’s goal is to reach out to all individuals that can not get to the library for whatever reason.
- Jenna provided an illustration of a van they would like to purchase and retrofit to accommodate the storage and book shelves need. They would like to have WIFI available on the van to sign up individuals for a library card. They would also have a read and return collection that is the book is not returned it is okay.
- There are four different levels of sponsorship. Funds will be used to purchase and retrofit the van; branding and wrapping the van; purchasing library books; offering WIFI; arranging for staffing and publicity. Consensus of the group was to utilize some of the carryover funds to provide a donation for the van. That request will be discussed and part of our next committee meeting.

Binder: Carolyn will send out the most recent resource guide list to the group. Please take a moment to review and provide feedback.

Working for Kids is an educational program developed for parents and adults who interact with children. It looks at the brain development from prenatal to age 25; realizes the importance of a supportive environment for growth and development; and provides strategies for promoting good brain development for all skills including cognitive skills, social-emotional development, stress management and creative play. Components of the training include interactive activities and the First Pathways Game. A two-day master train the trainer will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Fergus Falls. West Central Initiative is covering \$10,000 of the cost to bring Judy Cameron to our region. Each ECI is able to send one individual to the master training. In exchange for the ECI covering the registration fee, the trainer will be asked to hold two trainings within the next year after becoming a trainer. Training options include training others to provide this training or training on the material.

#### Agency Updates:

MSUM Early Learning Center has student teachers and practicum students working at the center. West Central Center Directors met with state licensors to go over the new licensing regulations that are going into effect. They also discussed the ongoing issues with finger printing.

Head Start is settling into the routine of school. They are fully enrolled. There is a teacher assistance opening in the program. Licensing visits are now part of the program (new this year). Barriers to licensing include timely back ground checks and finger printing.

CAPLP Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership is hiring a coordinator for a new 2 generational approach that the agency is undertaking.

Child and Teen Checkup programs new focus is on adolescents and getting them in for regular checkups. They are working on developing eye-catching information targeted at adolescents about social determinates of health and screen time reduction.

2020 Census will happen beginning early next year. It is important to work with families of young children so that they complete their census forms and are counted. Young children are extremely undercounted which effect federal funding levels for early childhood programming. We are also at risk of losing a legislative district if census completion rates are low. Carolyn will arrange for a speaker for an upcoming ECI meeting.

#### Upcoming Events:

Circle of Parents: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Bright Sky Apartments,  
Light meal, child care available

Lunch and Learn: Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> Topic: Vaping among youth Noon – 1 pm.

Kidsfest Saturday, April 18, 2020

Next meeting: Friday, November 15, 2019

This will be a work plan meeting so bring your ideas for next year's focus!!

#### **Clay County Early Childhood Initiative 2019 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.