



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

## Clay County Early Childhood Initiative

Friday, January 24, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

Presentation: 2020 Census - Joe Pederson, MN Council of Nonprofits; Marsha Erickson, West Central Initiative;

This year coming up is the census; Census day is in April but the packet of information is going out in February. Currently there are eight congressional districts in the state and we are at risk of losing one of the districts because of population. There is a significant impact on funding if the census is not accurate. The last census round, our county was the only one that showed a decrease in early childhood numbers. Because of that, Head Start received an approximate cut of \$80,000 a year for ten years. Lakes and Prairies knew that the number of children they served was going up now down but there is no appeal process with the census. Getting an accurate census count of our young families, elderly and immigrant populations is essential. The paperwork will go out first as a postcard with a code to complete the form online. If there is no response, a paper copy will be mailed out and the third attempt will be someone coming to your door. Not everyone is connected to the internet and some are not trusting the internet to keep their data safe. It will be important for seniors going south for the winter to list their address as MN so that the funding comes to our state and not where they stay for the winter. Two areas where there occurs an undercounting are the mobile park in north Moorhead and the mobile park by Romkey Park. There will be a special count completed for those living in group homes or nursing homes. The count has nothing to do with citizenship. It is a count of people residing in the state. For more information on the census check out <https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/> Three points to remember: At risk for losing representation at the federal level, loss of funds which are based on people count and ten years ago, Wisconsin did a better job of collecting information. Data collected during the census process is kept confidential for 72 years including keeping it from the federal government. Everyone counts – it doesn't matter if you are a citizen or undocumented. The census is about counting people. They aggregate the information for numbers, etc. but not for any personal names or information. There is a \$500 grant available through West Central Initiative for helping to spread the word about the census. It can be used for stickers, postcards, flyers, etc. It was decided to use the ECI table at Kidsfest as a focus on the census.

Healthy Families America and Nurse Family Partnership quarterly report:

Healthy Families America:

- Michelle has been hired .5 as a new supervisor, she is finishing up training
- In January the new nurse hired in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will finish up training and start to enroll clients.
- All nurse in the Partnership 4 Health CHB have been trained in partners in Parenting Education.
- They are transitioning to Information for Home Visiting Evaluation

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)

- They have surpassed their goal for enrollees, currently at 13
- Transitioning to Information for Home Visiting Evaluation
- Outreach efforts including all the clinics and doctors
- Will be celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration for Clay and Wilkin counties as the first NFP site in MN
- There have been 12 referrals to NFP with 9 new clients enrolled
- Caseloads are currently serving 50 clients
- Referrals coming from WIC, Sanford/Essentia Clinics and transfers from other NFP programs

Breast Feeding CQI Project with MDH-HFA and PNM NFP – will be wrapping up in February

Agency Updates:

Sanford Safe Kids will have a quarterly Safe Kids community meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. All are welcome to attend.

The Natural Playground will be located at Riverside Park by the old Ushers restaurant. There is a fundraiser going on. The 5 Rotary clubs of Fargo and Moorhead and spearheading the park. It will belong to Moorhead but the committee is

Our 2020 application to West Central Initiative was approved.

Kidsfest planning team will meet after today's meeting. Those wishing to volunteer with the program as welcome to stay for the meeting. Kidsfest is Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Moorhead Center Mall.

Area preschool centers will be offering assistance to Elim Childcare Center due to their loss of building and equipment in the fire.

The Longest Table event planning has begun. Check with Carolyn if you are interested in helping with this event. The event will take place on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting: Friday, February 21, 2020

**Clay County Early Childhood Initiative 2020 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.