



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

**Clay County Early Childhood Initiative**

**Friday, February 21, 2020**

**Meeting Minutes**

Presentation: Early Childhood Mental Health: Eben Danielson, The Village Family Service Center  
Early childhood mental health starts with a healthy attachment between child and caregiver. Attachment helps shape the success or failure of future people interaction. It effects ones ability to have a meaningful interaction. There are many different types of parent child interaction/attachment from avoidance where the parent rejects the child to other situations where the parent interaction is a negative experience for the child. Trauma experiences at an early age can change the structure of the brain and impact how it reacts to situations and people. A child’s mental health can also be impacted by stress which increases the activities in the body making it harder for them to calm down. One of the issues they frequent address in therapy is the parent sharing that the child is out of control. Therapy helps the parent to learn skills to deal with outbursts and receive education on the reason behind the child’s behaviors. Therapies that work along side the caregiver result in the best outcome for the child and family. The Village Family Service Center offers a variety of early childhood mental health therapies such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy a treatment that puts the emphasis on improving the parent-child relationship and changing interaction patterns as well as addressing effective discipline techniques; Attachment Bio-Behavioral Catchup a home-based, family focused treatment for ages six months to two years of age and their primary caregiver; and, Child-Parent Psychotherapy for children birth to age six who have early trauma histories. They offer play therapy, parent coaching; and a dog assisted therapy that works well for children on the Autism Spectrum who are experiencing anxiety, separation anxiety and depression. The Village also offers therapy for older children and adults as well as group therapy. A Love and Logic course will be starting up March 24<sup>th</sup>. A sliding fee schedule is available for those families or individuals experiencing financial challenges.

P3 Update: A cohort between Child Care Aware, Head Start, Moorhead Public School, community child care centers and the ECI was developed a number of years ago to address the prenatal to grade 3 literacy programming. From there the Moorhead Public School district received a state grant to work on prenatal to age 3 coordination. The group concentrated its efforts on identifying differences and similarities in providing services for that particular age group. Their focus was on developing consistency in all learning environments. To provide information on children entering into kindergarten questions were developed that both parent/caregiver and child care providers could complete and which would then become part of the child’s school records. Currently kindergarten registration includes online forms that the parent completes. Four questions on where a parent sees their child on such items such as independence and engagement in learning new things. A questionnaire specific for community child care providers and Head Start teachers was developed and will be sent out to providers this spring. Parent consent will need to be given before the provider completes the questionnaire. Information on the new process has been presented to ECFE and early learning staff. There was strong feedback to take this information to the elementary building staff so that they utilize the information being gathered. The elementary principals will be using this information as part of their classroom placement decisions. The next steps will be to move along the continuum up to grade three. Marie

Steen offered to assist with gathering the center-based email list. Julie Klier, child care licensor, offered to include information in the provider quarterly newsletter. Lori Hopewell shared that the home-providers that she has spoken with are excited about participating in this information gathering process.

#### Program Updates:

Dental Grant application has been submitted. We should hear back from them by the end of the month. Funds will be used towards the dental screening and varnishing that will occur at the annual Kidsfest event.

Longest Table event has been scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>. New this year is a sponsorship packet. To date we have raised \$1,750 towards the \$5000 budget established. This year the event is being hosted by Moorhead and will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church. Also new this year, we will be offering childcare.

Jail visiting space project has been completed. The ECI purchased a small table, bookshelf and a crocodile wall toy. These items were placed near the two larger video chat areas. The jail also commissioned a wall art piece that will go in the contact room where visitation occurs before an individual is moved to the state prison system. The mural brightens the space and makes it less scary. It can be removed from the wall and replaced when it is a child visit.

WCI Book Project: Moving forward – we will have a two-page spread. We will be seeking sponsorship for our page which will be listed in the book. More to come on that issue.

No Small Matters viewing: We will be viewing the film at our ECI meeting and then determine how we want to use this to bring it further out into the community.

2020 census grant application was sent in. Funds if awarded will be used to distribute information on the census to child care providers – home and centers. There will also be information provided at Kidsfest.

Just prior to next month's ECI meeting those who are able are asked to come early to help with sprucing up the Little Free Library and putting the Parent Binders together.

#### Agency Update:

Head Start will be hosting a visit by MN state staff to discuss home visiting. All are welcome to attend.

Child Care Aware shared information on an early learning bill tracker. Each Tuesday through the legislative session an update will be posted on <https://www.childcareawaremn.org/community/policy-legislation/bill-tracker/>

Somali Child Care project: The project is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The first-year focus was on building relationship with the Somali community. Deana is currently working with one individual who is going through the process of becoming a home-based child care provider. Deana is helping the provider through many of the steps to becoming licensed including paperwork, site visits and setting up the environment.

Safe Kids will be relocated from their current south University Ave site to the Sanford Southwest Children's Clinic. The 7<sup>th</sup> Ave location for car seat checks will not change.

MN Reading Corps is now taking applications for the 2020-2021 school year. This year they are expanding their work to early math.

Moorhead Public School: The school is currently taking registration for Jump Start and Kindergarten. The next early childhood screening is March 6<sup>th</sup>

Lake Agassiz Library has received a donation of a Para Transit bus which will be used for the Bus Bookmobile. Because of this the bus will be handicap accessible. The library hopes to have it outfitted by Kidsfest. To request the bus to your location email [booktruck@larl.org](mailto:booktruck@larl.org)