



Clay County Collaborative
Successful Partnerships building Successful Families
School-Age Disabilities System Work Group
Monday April 6, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Carolyn welcomed everyone to the meeting that was held via video conferencing. Approval of the March 2, 2020 meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting

Presentation: Lake Agassiz Special Education Coop: Scott Masten, director, shared information on the programming that the agency offers to five different public-school systems – Barnesville, Hawley, and Ulen Hitterdal districts in our county. The coop provides special education programming for children birth through 21. Lake Agassiz hires and supervises the staff needed for special services. That staff includes an Autism specialist, speech, OT, PT, special education teachers and social workers. This helps out the smaller school district that would not need to hire a full-time staff person in any of the special services categories. They provide services in a variety of environments including school and home. The Coop also has two Interagency programs for those students with unique behavioral needs. The elementary program is a half day program located at the Hawley Public School elementary building. The high school program, also located in Hawley, is a full day program. They partner with Lakeland Mental Health who provides the mental health component of the program. The goal of the Interagency program is to transition the student back to regular classroom attendance. The third program they offer is Glacier Ridge which is a transition program for those students grade seven and up that have significant transition needs. Areas cover include home and community skill development and job development. The IEP process is driven by the Coop staff with the exception of Hawley who employees their own special education teachers. Hiring staff for special education is challenging with much fewer applicants then in the past. The Coop helps paraprofessionals with a four-year degree to earn a special education license. They see the highest needs of students in speech, Other Health Impairments and Learning Disability. The Coop serves about 600 students within the five districts. Lake Agassiz also provides financial and compliance assistance to school districts. They help with data collection and entry, billing Medical Assistance for services and completing monitoring process to name a few. The Coop had eight days to prepare for distant learning. It has been a learning process for everyone. Schools that already had technology in place had an easier time developing a plan than those who did not. They are doing a lot of email and phone call contacts along with utilizing paraprofessionals for assisting with lessons via video chat. Deana shared the challenges of working and helping her son with his classes. The Coop's parent advisory council is focused on early childhood education. An event planned for them this spring will be cancelled.

Moorhead Public Schools: Like other schools they are going through a period of adjustment in setting up the online learning. Things are going smoothly with school staff reaching out to families and students while be conscious of not too many communications that overwhelm families. The Parent Advisory Council scheduled for later this month has been cancelled.

Arc Minnesota West Central Region: Donna is now working from home. All events and the Rose Sale have been cancelled. The agency is concentrating its efforts on the Ask an Advocate program.

Freedom Resource: Staff is split between working in the office and working from home. They are taking advocacy calls.

Collaborative: no updates at this time.