



Carolyn welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were done. Welcome to all!

Presentation: Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Quarterly report – Clay County Public Health
Melissa shared the following information on Healthy Families America: One of the program nurses is on maternity leave; the remaining staff covers her clients. The national program held a three-day national conference in October, which the entire staffing team could attend because the agency offered it virtually. The conference included keynote speakers, breakout sessions, vendors, and a self-care room. Clay County Public Health Healthy Families America program is due for recertification in 2021. Typically the process includes a three-day onsite visit to review policies, review charting, and meeting with staff and program clients. Due to Covid – 19, the process has been changed to a fidelity assessment certification process done virtually. The certification process will extend the accreditation date. They anticipate an in-person accreditation process will take place in January of 2022.

Liz shared the Nurse-Family Partnership program's information, which is now in its 20th year of serving pregnant women and babies in Clay County. A virtual visit to review programming occurred in October. Nine hundred families have been served over that period. Program staff connect virtually weekly to support each other and as a means to stay connected while everyone works from home due to Covid. Liz also does a weekly reflective process with the nursing staff. Clients are served virtually using telehealth. Verizon provided phones with data and minutes for clients who do not have access to communication devices. The team completed training on a new observation tool, which will be done with families four times a year. Goal Momma app, a goal-setting application, will be implemented with clients. Staff completed training on the app in September. Caseloads are at 51% and holding steady in comparison to last quarter's data. Referrals are stable, with most coming in from clinics at this time.

Agency Updates:

Public Health: Nursing staff is doing their regular work assignments and a variety of COVID duties. Those duties include support child care providers with their questions and concerns, developing a vaccine distribution plan; and providing food baskets and picking up medications for community members who have no one else to help them. A saliva COVID testing site is located at the old Edison school in Moorhead. It operates seven days a week – weekdays from Noon to 7 pm, weekends 10 am – 4 pm. The testing site prefers you to schedule an appointment, but they do accept walk-in clients. They will ask for insurance if you have it, but there will be no cost to you for the test if it is not a covered service. Turnaround for results is typically 24 – 48 hours.

Trinity PreSchool is fully staff thanks to using sign-on bonuses. A funding gift was given to the Center to help with staff retention. The Center also received a generous donation for programming. Those funds were set up through the Dakota Medical Foundation, which will allow for Trinity Preschool to participate in Giving Hearts Day. With Moorhead schools going to distance learning on November 30 through December holiday break, the Center will have 15 students from three different grades supported with their classwork. Jenna suggested Kay check out a Hot Spot from the library to help boost a weak internet signal in the classroom. Kay thanked Public Health for their assistance and support during this challenging time of COVID.

Head Start is open with half classroom capacity. They will move to distance learning when the Moorhead Public School district makes their change on November 30. Other programs are offered to families in a virtual format. Staff is working on group socialization, virtual events, and client meetings. Staff held a Pancake Drive-thru. Participants received a box of pancake mix and a book. Families were encouraged to submit pictures of their pancakes. It was a fun, successful event that they hope to hold similar events in the future. Support is

being offered to staff through a book club and gratitude event. Learning Jeanie platform is being reviewed as a way to get information out to families.

Clay County Childcare licensor report: Julie reported that there are participating in a two-year review.

Fingerprinting requirements for providers as once again on hold due to the virus. Julie thanked Public Health for help with the questions that providers have about the virus.

Safe Kids: Theresa shared via email: The previously scheduled December 1 opening of the new safety center at Sanford SW Pediatric Clinic, lower level, has been postponed temporarily. Car seat installations continue to take place on Tuesday/Thursday. Call 701-234-7233 to set up an appointment. Safe Kids safety center/store remains open at 601 39th St. S in Fargo. Hours are MWF 9 – 5 and TR until 7 pm

MSUM Early Learning Center: It was a rough October with five quarantines in four classrooms. The Center is not quite fully enrolled. Lacey learned that many of the staff are roommates, so if one needs to be quarantined, the roommate also needs to quarantine.

The Village Family Service Center is celebrating its Wine and Dine fundraiser, which includes an online silent auction, which will be held tonight. The Wednesday Mental Health Walk-in Clinic, which runs through early December, is currently serving more adults than children.

Child Care Aware staff continue to deliver supplies to providers in Region 4. The agency took over the ordering process to have a quicker turnaround of products getting to providers. Products include bleach, hand sanitizer, gloves, visors, and had some thermometers. Alicia Bowman, living in Greenbush, Minnesota, has been hired as a recruiter. Eighty-six providers turned in their paperwork for rerating. Notice will go out in January. Staff is currently taking applications for the next cohort. There were some changes to the funding received as a rerater. If you are going for a one-star, the amount is \$1,500; a two-star is \$2,000; three-star is \$3,500, and for a four-star rating it is \$4,000.

West Central Initiative is working with Child Care Aware of the product distribution to providers. The agency now has products for at-risk families. Those supplies include gloves, visors, and cleaning supplies. The Early Childhood Dental Network has come out with some dental videos appropriate for social media.

Lake Agassiz Library will be starting a monthly virtual crafting event. Providers and families can call for supplies to be sent to them. The library is open for access by appointment and curbside pickup. One of the services they are currently offering is selecting books for you based on your interests for yourself or your child.

ECI Update: There will be a series of free webinars offered to early childhood professionals. Topics of the webinars include race, early childhood mental health, and working with stressed families and children. A Save the Date will be out the first of the year.

Coming Up:

Kidsfest April 10, 2021 Moorhead Center Mall

Next meeting: December 18, 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 robust 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.