



Clay County Collaborative
Successful Partnerships building Successful Families
School-Age Disabilities System Work Group
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 2, 2020

Lanette welcomed everyone to the meeting. Today's agenda was approved with no changes or additions. Minutes from the October 5, 2020 meeting were approved. (Donna/Merri)

Presentation: Student Services during COVID-19

Duane Borgeson shared the following information about the Moorhead Public School System:

- Elementary through eighth grades are using the hybrid model. While students are in school, special services are provided face to face. While students are learning from home, services are provided indirectly.
- Those served under Spud Academy are receiving services in-direct. High school students are entirely distance learning. Special education staff provides resource classes online to students and making any curriculum modifications list in IEP documents.
- Three weeks ago, the school started bringing students on level 2 programming that needed additional in-person support into the school five days a week.
- The district is looking into the possibility of para in-home support for some of its students. School staff is not allowed to go to the student's home, so the district would need to contract with an outside agency to provide the service. One barrier is that home serving agencies are having difficulty finding enough staff to fill the current need. This service would be specifically for students who qualify for PCA services. The district is looking to serve a small population of students under this service.
- Distance learning isn't an excellent option for students served under special services. The district is doing the best it can and will continue to look at other options that may improve service delivery.
- Staffing of paras and teachers is a significant concern and barrier to service delivery. With contact tracing and quarantine needs, staff could be out for fourteen days.
- Transition students are not able to access work experience due to requirements under the state guidelines
- Example: Occupational therapist provides a packet of activities for a student to complete with family and offers in-direct support to the parent/caregiver.
- The school day has been shortened by one hour to allow teachers for more preparation time. This is often a time that special education assessments can be completed. IEP meetings are held virtually.

Mary Ann Martin shared the following information on the Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton school district:

- Middle school and high school are distance learning. Elementary students are on a four-day in-school week, with Wednesday being the off day for deep cleaning.
- The pool of paras and teachers that the district has is small, and finding substitute staff is challenging.
- Three teachers have been hired to address the distance learning program. A special education teacher has been hired to address needs of distance learners.
- Paras supports students during Google Meet time after the special education teacher has completed the resource class education/learning portion.
- Students served with special services often have health issues that make it very risky to serve in the school building.

- Midco and Sprint are offering low-cost internet access for families who previously did not have access.
- All students on an IEP also have a contingency learning plan that outlines how special education services will be provided in a hybrid model, full-time distance learning, and full-time school.

Scott Masten from Lake Agassiz Special Education Coop was not able to join us today.

Agency Updates:

Moorhead Public School: Referrals for assessments are down, which they contribute to the smaller class sizes, which are typically one teacher to eight students. Duane would like to see the co-teaching model with a general education teacher and special education teacher continue to be used after COVID is done. . The school board voted to include goals around mental health wellness. Those strategies will involve increasing the ability to provide resources, supports, and education.

Freedom Resource Center staff continue to see clients in the office by appointment only, through phone support and online. The number of clients served year to date is slightly down.

Clay County Public Health is serving clients over the phone. They have not started any face-to-face services. They continue to be busy with serving the community during this pandemic.

Arc Minnesota, West Central continues to offer Arc Games and More online. Participation has been low. There will be another self-advocacy meeting tomorrow night.

Child Care Aware is also focusing on the mental health of providers and the children they serve. They are working to address the needs of the providers for supplies, classes, and supports.

Clay County Social Services continues to offer all their services over the phone and online.

Next meeting: December 7, 2020, 1:00 pm