



Clay County Collaborative

Successful Partnerships building Successful Families

School-Age Disabilities System Work Group Meeting Minutes Monday, March 1, 2021

Members Present: Duane Borgeson, Moorhead Public Schools; Lanette Gorder, Parent Representative; Merri Christlieb, Freedom Resource Center; Kristen DePree, Clay County Social Services; Donna Atherton, Arc MN West Central Region; Mary Ann Martin, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Public School; Deana Overmoe, Parent Representative; Carolyn Strnad, Coordinator;

Lanette welcomed everyone to the meeting. Today's agenda was approved by consensus with no additions or corrections. Minutes from the December 7, 2020 meeting were approved. (Duane/Donna)

Presentation: Clay County Social Services, Holly Wanner, Supervisor of the Home and Community Based Services and Rule 185 Developmental Delay Division. Holly shared that applying for services from her unit starts with the adult intake worker even if they call for children's services. Anyone working with the child can contact the county to determine the services available. The worker will complete an intake form, provide information on available resources to the child and answer questions regarding the application process. If there are concerns, the child is going through the MN Choice Assessment that identifies what services the child is eligible for. Once that is complete, the family is referred to a case manager who will help them access those services. The whole process takes approximately six weeks to complete. The agency has thirteen case managers serving 705 adults and 173 children.

Due to Covid, there is a shortage of staff available to work with the child. Parents who work with their children are given the option to apply for overtime if the waiver budget allows it. Corporate sites can allow a healthy staff person to quarantine in the group home with the quarantining client. Vocational Rehab services have been challenging to access. The new Career Academy opening at Moorhead Public Schools will help. Holly also shared that the guardianship process is moving towards a Supportive Decision-Making approach that allows the person with a disability to make safe decisions with a trusted individual's help. New assistive technology has made it safer and more accessible for individuals to stay in their own homes rather than needing corporate foster care.

Agency Updates

Moorhead Public Schools is almost done with the first round of vaccines for teachers and staff who wish to receive the vaccine. All students kindergarten through twelve grade will be back in in-person learning on Monday, March 8.

Freedom Resource Center is still doing most of their client meetings virtual. In two weeks, they will start back seeing clients in the office. The Center is offering a book club featuring Book of Two Ways.

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Public Schools is moving to five days a week, in-person learning for all grades on March 15. They are experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers and paras. There are currently three unfilled full-time para positions.

Hawley Public Schools will start eight and tenth graders back full days beginning March 8. They are currently four days a week. The rest of the grades will follow a staggered schedule of going back full-time with the end goal of having everyone back in school in early April.

CAPLP is still working to support child care providers with supplies. Child Care providers can not get their vaccine.

Arc MN West Central Region is hosting Games and More on March 15. This month's activity will be mindful movements. Donna is looking for an opportunity to receive a vaccine for caregivers of individuals with disabilities. The group recommended that she contact the county case manager for more information on how to get on a "short notice" list.

Clay County Social Services meetings with clients and families continue to be virtual, with some appointments occurring at the Family Service Center.

Carolyn shared that the application process for her coordinator position is now open until March 17. Anyone interested in applying should contact Carolyn for the application.

Next meeting: April 5, 2021, 1:00 pm

School-Age Disabilities Work Group

- The School-Age Disability Work Group will, when available, partner with Collaborative partners and outside agencies to bring training for families and community members.
- The School-Age Disability Work Group will identify what systems children with disabilities are served, invite such agencies/groups/etc. to workgroup meetings to learn more about those agencies and provide input to them on family-friendly programming.