



Clay County Collaborative
Successful Partnerships building Successful Families
School-Age Disabilities System Work Group
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Mary Ann Martin, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Public Schools; Duane Borgeson, Moorhead Public School; Kristen DePree, Clay County Social Service; Lanette Gorder, Parent Representative; Donna Atherton, Arc MN, West Central; Carolyn Strnad, Coordinator;

Lanette welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no changes to today's agenda. Minutes from the May 3, 2021, minutes were approved. (Duane/Kristen)

Child Count Data:

Moorhead Public School: 1520 students, birth to age 21, are being served under special education services. 14.8% of school population. We are slightly higher than the state average which is 14.7%. Kindergarten through grade 12 number served are 1209 students. 311 are being served under early intervention. The highest number of students are being served under speech and language, and SLD. The next highest category is Developmental Delay that serves children six years of age and younger. OHD and Autism serve approximately 15% of the special education population. There has been a recent growth in early intervention services with the past two months, record setting for referrals and assessments. Other grade levels have remained stable. Alternative learning and high school numbers served have gone down. Many students did not engage in distance learning and have not returned to school once restrictions were lifted. A summer program will be offered this summer at elementary schools. Extended School Year will be made available for those who qualify. Duane is in hiring phase with recent resignations. They are looking at approximately twenty paraprofessionals and several special education staff. They are two paras short for the summer program

Dilworth-Glyndon- Felton Public School: Three hundred students are served under special education services from a total of 1600 student population. Eighty-nine students are open enrolled. The highest category served are under SLD, OHD, and speech and language. This is 18.5% of the school population which is higher than the state average of 14.7%. Birth to age 3 referrals are picking up. There was some loss due to distance learning. Many Hispanic families left town to travel south during the pandemic. That resulted in a loss of 20 students served under IEPs. The school will be offering a summer program three days a week. Students on IEPs that did not qualify for Extended School Year programming can attend the summer program. The school is looking for five paraprofessionals for the next school year. All other positions are filled at this time.

Both school districts are seeing an increase in mental health needs of students served under special education services and in the general school population. Lakeland Mental Health Center is looking at a proposal to provide a mental health practitioner to work at the high school, with billing directly to insurance. This will be for any student struggling with mental health. With the decrease in numbers due to families moving out of district or not sending children to school it will be a challenge to know how to staff for the fall because they are not certain if those students will return.

Lake Agassi Special Education Coop: Scott Masten was not able to attend the meeting.

Agency Updates:

Arc MN: The Help Desk is up and running. Individuals calling in will be assigned to someone who will work with the family throughout the time needed to find resolution. The older model had families referred to a content expert. Donna is hoping that the agency will have school access in the fall so that some activities such as dances that were put on hold during the pandemic can be started up again.

Clay County Social Service staff are back in the office.

Moorhead Public Schools had a ground breaking ceremony for the high school construction project. The work will be done in phases. The career academy is set to open this fall. Transportation will be provided for students traveling to and from the high school and academy.

Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton is also in a construction phase with the building of a new gym, office areas and remodeling several classrooms and the elementary site. The high school site will also experience construction of a new office area and remodeling of some classrooms.

The new Collaborative coordinator, Jill Ambuehl, will begin on July 1, 2021. She will be in contact about meeting times for this workgroup. The meeting schedule may need to change due to her work schedule.

Next meeting: To be determined

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.