

North East & North Central
Oversight Council Meeting Minutes
August 18th, 2020 9:30am – 10:50am
Via Zoom (due to COVID-19)

Chair: Nancy Moore

Vice Chair: Donna Driscoll

Participants Present: Charity Smith, Clare Mann , Abby Rager, Nancy Moore, Laura cooper, Petrowsky, Sihnen, Interpreter Laura, Laysia Marsh, Abigail West, Megan Drze, Cathy German, Andrea Polman, Noel Weibel, Jaimie Burks, Stephanie Furnis, Donna, Jennifer Shank, Grant Britzke, Carrie Wright, Jodie Curtis, Paula Fox, Lily Osborn, M Murphy, Laura Fulton, Laura Cooper, Interpreter Beth, Angela Touseull, Shari, JBlea, Madelyn, Lydia Otiato.

North Central Oversight Meetings in May 2020 were provided and reviewed.

SPOE Reports: Overall Child Count doing well. Deficit in referrals due to Covid 19. Handouts with numbers given to each participant.

Cluster C Report: Average age of 16 months at referral. Overall ahead over a year ago. Down 15.5 %
26 employees full time. 2 part time. 1 new employee and 1 resignation.

B down 17.9%. 24 full time employees. 1 new employee. 2 resignations.

Coordinator Report: Abby reported on child find activities since the last LPCC meeting, which includes regularly updating Facebook pages and sharing First Steps information in mom's groups. Abby has spoken with several community agencies and sent out brochures. Abby has continued to reach out to doctors and provide First Steps information. Abby worked with Bright By Text to have First Steps information texted to participating families. Abby also worked with several community partners to have First Steps flyers be involved in virtual fairs or in backpack giveaways. Abby has continued to follow up with NICU families. Abby has followed up with DCS caseworkers regarding kiddos on the MaGik list. Abby offered two days/time for a presentation to DCS Region 4 (Allen, Whitley, DeKalb, Noble, Steuben, and LaGrange Counties) and a total of 30 caseworkers attended. Abby has also scheduled two days/times for DCS Region 3 (St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, and Kosciusko Counties) to attend the presentation during the first week of September.

1st Kids Agency Updates: Dr. offices may not be referring due to believing virtual therapy may not be useful. Continue to reach out to offices to discuss the benefits of continued services along with virtual. Abby will send out handouts for Dr. Offices for them to place in their office.

Outreach MOPS groups

Assessment Team:

Continuing virtual assessments. In person evaluations can be completed if needed.

New Business:

1. Provider Agency Updates:
 - a. Hand In Hand (Stephanie Furnas & Donna Driscoll): Encouraging families and therapists to do a hybrid version of therapy. Discussed providers talking to families about what virtual therapy looks like.
 - b. Possibilities Northeast (Nancy More & Mary Ellen Schreck): Families and SC's need to understand that therapy could start out in person but turn virtual. SC's need to talk with families about possibility of therapy being virtual. Need to understand that due to Covid therapy can change and we need to be open to change.
2. Early Head Start and Head Start Updates:
 - a. Early Head Start – Huntington (Alysia Marshall-Seaslar): Numbers are rising. First Steps therapists are beginning to come back in the classroom.
3. LEA's:
 - a. Cathy German (EAC): working on transitions and evaluations and doing catch up. Some challenges due to Covid and mask. Evaluations have been completed outside. Out of compliance with timelines. Documenting and moving forward. Children that turned 3 during summer have been moved forward and documenting reason as Covid 19.
 - b. Abby West (Wells): Completing transitions and evaluations at this time. Preschoolers can do in person or virtual.
 - c. Jamie Burks: Starts school tomorrow. Working on catching up transitions.
 - d. Carrie Wright (Grant county) - Doing in person evaluations along with virtual evaluations for high risk children.

Old Business:

Dr signatures with Annuals: Do not need a Dr. signature for services to continue and auth will be continued. It will be left up to the Provider whether they would like to continue without Dr. Signature. Initial IFSP's still need the Dr. signature before starting. Auth can be entered in certain situations if there is a delay in getting the Dr. signature.

How are agencies getting face to face pages to families: Providers at Homefront emailing to family. PNE emailing.