

Mid-North Indiana First Steps Oversight Council

April 21, 2022

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions:

- Susie Luyster- former LPCC Supervisor transitioned to Service Coordinator Supervisor
- Amy Hill- incoming LPCC Supervisor
- Janet Mota- Cluster D Director
- Clare Mann- Executive Director 1st Kids, Inc.- Cluster D's SPOE Fiscal Agent
- Amy Ellis- Homefront Family Services Director
- Brooklyn Dugdale- Bona Vista Director
- Grant Britzke- The Childcare Resource Network
- Liz Sorgius- Joint Services (attending from Transition Meeting)
- Ed Palmisano- Cooperative School Services (attending from Transition Meeting)
- Libbi Smith- Clinton County Early Start Coordinator
- Elise Basiletti- Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Specialist
- Robbin Lamblin- Healthy Families (Tippecanoe)

Cluster D Management Team: Janet Mota, Susie Luyster and Amy Hill; another SPOE director assisting Cluster D: Lily Osborn

2. Motion to Approve Last Meeting's Notes

3. SPOE Updates:

- Newest hires: Michael Barclay (Tippe) and Mary Blackburn (Tippe)
*Interviewing and hoping to bring in more new coordinators.
- Internship Program Update: Both Grace's and Mackenzie's last day is next Thursday.
*The plan is to have a summer intern starting in May.

4. 1st Kids Update:

- Reports-
Referral Count
 - New system doesn't allow to pull report- manually assembled, COVID affected this at some point
 - Thrilled to find more kids but this puts strain on coordinators and therapy agencies; seeing behaviors that mimic ASD characteristics- different exposure levels during COVID, not necessarily diagnosed but that means a spike in referrals
 - Fiscal report through the end of March
 - will end year within budget, a lot left in fiscal year
 - do have a lot of end-of-year expenses
 - no major change in spending costs
 - largest cost is payroll

HR Report for Dec.-Feb. 2022

- Turnover is a struggle. Cluster D has always been a higher turnover office.
- Four resigned (2 maternity leaves not returned, 1 became a DT, 1 turned FS contractor)—Shout out to management team for their diligence in covering open caseloads!

5. Agency Updates:

- Amy Ellis (Homefront Director): most challenging time in 25 years, 3 new providers (OT in Montgomery, OT in White, ST in Fountain); still drowning in referrals, stuck with assigning kids to provider who tries to squeeze a family in or can't at all because family doesn't get the time they want
- Brooklyn Dugdale (Bona Vista): similar experience as Amy- struggling to get new providers, lost some to school and nursing home, assigning replacement providers is a challenge, interviewed a PT and ST recently, one mainly Howard and the other Howard/Cass/Miami
- Christian Swisher (Therapy Solutions): not in attendance but probably shares similar thoughts and experiences

*Liz & Ed attending from Transition Committee earlier today- may ask one or both to speak during next meeting- Teamwork, new coordinators, LPCC Supervisor transition were topics of conversations at meeting earlier today

6. Community Partners Updates:

- Grant (Childcare Resource Network)
 - Responsible for finding childcare or help with vouchers
 - Helping childcares get licensed or get involved in the process- applying for regional ready dollars- regional economic dev. Through FARPA, launching project in several of our counties to incentivize them to get licensed
- Libbi Smith (Clinton County Early Start Coordinator)
 - Pretty quiet right now- need pregnant women, need navigator to help with insurance
 - Baby Shower on August 5, 2022

7. Child Find:

- Susie sitting in as many meetings as she can.
- Healthy Families (virtual)- discussing different relationships between First Steps and other agencies
- Continuing to build relationship with DCS (MagiK List)
- Including Elise in intake meetings- helpful for parents to know the different options for a deaf/hard of hearing child and understanding the importance of these services when the babies are still really young
- First Steps is always thinking of other agencies to share with families
 - Postcards- QR code to direct you to developmental milestone resource

8. New Business:

- Working with PCG- learning and sharing what SCs learn about this program, specifically billing; slowing moving forward to get SCs on EI Hub
9. Concerns/complaints
- 1 complaint- family's rights were not violated, not to state- direct concern with provider, new provider was solution

Next upcoming meeting: September 15, 2022 @ 12:00pm EST (likely via Zoom but look for updates otherwise).