

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
MAY 18, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Lina Ciurro, Pam Groh, Lindsay Just, Sarah Matson, Maura McMahon, Raquel Mehring, Marilu Rodriguez-Kroll, Diana Susitti, Lindsey Wilson, Mary Wittwer

**STAFF PRESENT:** Esther Jensen, Darlene Johnson, Taylor Plehn (Intern), Ron Pupp, Vickie Smith, Joan Sternweis, Linda Wetzel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2017 MEETING**

A motion was made by Lindsay Just, seconded by Raquel Mehring to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2017 CAFSAC meeting.

**BOARD LIAISON:** Darlene Johnson is the new County Board Liaison. She is also on the Public Works Committee and the Health and Human Services Committee.

**BIRTH TO THREE (Linda Wetzel):**

Linda Wetzel is from Lutheran Social Services and is the Program Manager for the Birth to Three Program in Waukesha. Birth to Three is an early intervention program and is a federal and state mandated program through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C (IDEA). The Office of Special Education Program (OSEP), mandates the program which has many rules associated with it. In Wisconsin every county is responsible for implementing the program. All counties follow the same guidelines and administrative code however they are set up differently from county to county. Waukesha chooses to contract with Lutheran Social Services to administer the entire program. Lisa Roberts, Division Manager for Child & Family Services is Birth to Three's county contact. Linda works with Lisa and is responsible to provide all of the services that are mandated in the contract and in the administrative code.

Birth to Three Early Intervention is known as an entitlement program. If a child qualifies for the program they are entitled to receive services. Children under the age of 3-years old need to demonstrate a 25% delay in one of 5 areas. Those areas include gross and fine motor skills, communication skills (receptive and expressive language), cognitive skills, adaptive skills (function throughout the day, feed themselves, bath, participate in diapering), and social and emotional skills. These are significant developmental delays and parents and physicians often have difficulty grappling with those delays. Last year there were 550 children enrolled in the program and over 700 calls were received from parents and/or providers concerned about a child's development. Fifty percent of those calls moved forward for eligibility evaluation, and 40% were enrolled into the program. Birth to Three is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest program in the State. The Birth to Three program here in Waukesha County have a staff of 23 people, with 2 separate teams.

Birth to Three is a voluntary program. Parents determine if they would like to participate when the child qualifies for the program. An individual family service plan will be developed with the

family. The service plan is a contract about the kind of services and support that will be provided in conjunction with the family to help facilitate the child's development.

The State of Wisconsin is guiding all of their programs to move towards the Evidence Based model of practice. Birth to Three began their program in 2009 and have been utilizing the evidence based practice and are one of the leaders in the State. Legislative guidelines state that a child under the age of three who has a substantiated finding of abuse and/or neglect be screened and evaluated by the Birth to Three program. The children are screened but typically do not show a 25% delay. The concern was that those children have significant challenges and come from environments that can be chaotic and is not the typical developmental environment. Because the children do not meet the eligibility criteria they began providing county services to support the children and the parents/foster parents who then began seeing success. A grant was applied for through the Children's Trust Fund and they were able to build a framework for the Trauma Informed Care for At-Risk Pre-Schoolers. They are now providing developmental support for children under the age of 5 that have a finding of substantiated abuse/neglect and are placed in out of home care. They provide assessment so that they can help all of the caregivers understand where the children are at in their development. They have completed assessments on 76 children. A typical developmental trajectory goes up in a straight line and as they get older the developmental skills increase. The group of children they have assessed show their trajectory looks like a jagged line, some skills go up and some go down. The speech and language skills do not keep up with their chronological age, and their cognitive skills as far as executive functioning do not keep up with their cognitive age. They are now seeing children that are 2 and 3-years old having difficulty with their peers and regulation, and difficulty functioning in a pre-school or early childhood program.

There is a cost to the program, it is an entitlement program so there is a parental cost share so if families meet the guidelines for the parental cost share which is based on their household income and size there is a cost for them to enroll. It is not a free program. There is a Parental Cost Share and is outlined specifically in the administrative code and is based on 200% of the federal poverty level. Maximum cost share for any family would be \$1,800.00 a year or \$150.00 per month. There is a sliding scale from that point.

#### **DAYCARE-YOUNGSTAR RATING (Vickie Smith & Mary Lou Rodriguez):**

Mary Lou Rodriguez is from 4C for Children, Inc. which is a nonprofit organization and are a resource and referral service in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha, Racine and Kenosha counties. They provide services to parents who are looking for childcare. The parent will let them know where and when they need child care and if they want family versus group child care and assist them to find that.

For providers they offer a food program in Milwaukee and the other counties they serve. They raise awareness and provide training and educational services to child care providers. YoungStar is the state quality improvement and rating program that was implemented in 2010. YoungStar is a technical consultant for child care centers. Child care centers are regulated by a licensure or certifier and inform them what things need to be completed according to regulation. YoungStar

comes in and has the provider complete a self-assessment of their program to help them identify their problem areas, and a technical consultant from YoungStar will then assist the provider to make those changes. YoungStar has been encouraging providers to go back to school. In the past there were a lot of people who did not have a formal education for early childhood development/education. YoungStar put in place monies to teach through a scholarship program to help teach early childhood educators. The push for the education is because you cannot be a 5-star, 4-star, or 3-star without education for your staff. There is a requirement for the director, and one for the staff to have education. With a 5-star level they are looking for a director with an associates or bachelor's degree related to the field and that each of the teachers have an associate's degree in the field, or a bachelors that's not related. It's a combination of the education and the points with the rating.

Any regulated daycare whether it be in someone's home or a center is eligible to participate in YoungStar. If the daycare takes subsidy payments they have to be a part of YoungStar. There are approximately 5,000 child care centers in Wisconsin, 3,900 of them receive subsidy payments, and 1,000 participate in YoungStar even though they do not have to. We work with certified families, licensed families, group centers and day camps.

The rating part of YoungStar is a 5-star system (1-star license issue and does not meet health and/or safety standards, 2 & 3-star dependent on the outcome of the technical rating-divided between education, learning environment, business and professional practices and health and well-being. 4 & 5-star rating also is dependent on the technical rating also divided between education, learning, environment, business and professional practices and health and well-being, along with a formal observation and using the itters and echers which is an environmental ratings for infants & toddlers, pre-schoolers, school agers and families).

The YoungStar website is very user friendly. Vickie noted that they recommend the sight to Foster Parents who are looking for daycare. You can enter the dates and times of care needed and mile radius search to see if there is a center close to your home or business/work.

### **SAFE BABIE/HEALTHY FAMILIES (Lindsey Wilson):**

Lindsey Wilson gave an overview of the Easter Seals Safe Babies Healthy Families. They see people beginning pre-natal and up to the time the child is 5 years old. There are no income guidelines or requirements for families to receive assistance. This is a voluntary program and they receive referrals from many places (high schools, doctor offices, social workers from hospitals, and the county if a parent is being investigated).

Prenatally they provide education on the pregnancy and one on one child birth education. They will see their prenatal families monthly and bi-weekly and weekly when they are closer to the child's birth. Once the baby is born they will continue assisting the family weekly/bi-weekly until the child is 5-years old. They will screen the children using ages and stages activities, and screens that are social/emotional they will refer the child to the Birth to Three program. They will bring out activities based on the child's age such as tracking activities, along with things they can utilize from their home to make activities. They will evaluate for home safety and assist the family with baby proofing cabinets, and installing baby gates as the child begins to crawl.

They will also assist with individualized education such as insurance or food resources. They will also assist with goals and reviewing them every 6 months. They also provide Mom's groups which are support groups which allow mom to get together and offer child care so mothers can eat dinner by themselves, they will also have speakers during this time. They also have baby buddies groups which are a play group for mom to bring the child to socialize with other children.

Earn as you learn program where mother can earn baby bucks and earn points to purchase items at the Safe Babies Healthy Families store and purchase diapers, wipes and clothes. It gives the mother an opportunity to earn things by taking the baby to the doctor, or doing tummy time.

### **(CST) COORDINATED SERVICES TEAM (Joan Sternweis):**

The Clinic is looking at how they will be aligning services, and how they will continue to offer all of the options that they have available. The clinic is a very large division with four outpatient supervisors and a variety of positions. The clinic also involves the inpatient unit, and criminal justice collaborating counsel services. There are many individuals available to assist with coordinated services that involve children, along with the CCISY (Collaborative Crisis Intervention Service to Youth) initiative.

There is a Crisis Intervention Partners training on June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. The training is focusing on crisis intervention partner training with staff at Health and Human Services and staff from our contracted agencies, the focus is on serving children and families. There are segments of understanding mental illness in children and how that presents, family impact and working with families during the two day training. It is scheduled from 8:00-4:30 p.m. and a certificate of attendance for the training will be given.

The Clinic is also hosting an episode of a (CIT) Crisis Intervention Team training for officers. There are 3 segments offered this year and there will be 90 officers being trained in the intervention model. This training is focusing on adult services, and will feature new exposure to what's going on with prevention of death by opiates discussing Narcan, etc. The officers will be hearing more about another grant initiative that the Clinic has available with the CIT for youth training. They did complete one segment of CIT for youth training in February and there is another training scheduled in September.

Through the children's area the Clinic will have a presentation for NAMI Ending the Silence. There are three more school districts that have been added to the other districts that are offering the presentation (Oconomowoc, Elmbrook, Menomonee Falls, and Arrowhead). This is a presentation by young people talking about their experience with mental illness, suicidal thoughts, getting help, what recovery means and basically that every day may be a struggle but this is how you get through. It has been positively embraced by the districts, and many young people who self-identify during the meetings have followed up through the crisis number, calling 211 or discussing their situation with a teacher.

WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan). There will be additional Peer Specialist time here at the Department of Human Services. Lexi Sandoval who is an employee of NAMI Waukesha and is a Certified Peer Specialist has joined the team and has office space here in the building. She will be teaming with staff across the Department.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT:**

Pam Groh brought up the concern regarding a Netflix program called 13 Reasons Why. It is a program about a young person who dies by suicide and explains 13 reasons why. There is concerning content and graphic programming around difficult topics of rape, drug/alcohol abuse and use, depression, suicidal thoughts and bullying issues. Young people are potentially accessing and watching the program without any conversation around those challenging topics. This is something that families would want to talk to their children about because the information is concerning. Many schools have sent notice home to parents regarding this program.

Pam Groh moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Darlene Johnson at 9:59 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 271 at the Human Services Center, 514 Riverview Avenue.

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**June 15, 2017**  
**APPROVED**

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Tammy Kokan*  
*Administrative Specialist*