

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, September 10, 2024

TIME: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Winnebago County Human Services Building, 220 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, WI, Room 033

PRESENT: Abby Drover (Love the Mess), Tammy Ross (Sensory Club & Bridging the Gap), Emily Paschen (Nova ABA), Kate Siekman (Islands of Brilliance), Linda Pierron (Oshkosh Area School District)

STAFF PRESENT: Julienne Gohde, Hannah Ulwelling, Bridget Hunter, Rachael Van Dyke, Elizabeth Wagner, Hailey Drummond, Halle Bradley, Liz Schlosser, Elizabeth Riley, Chris Tylka-Olesen, Cassandra Miramontes, Troy Eckes, Jessica Oaks, Hailey Lutz, Madalyn Fero, Abigale Dexter, Anna Whitmarsh, Carlie Mathiebe, Caitlin Lefebvre, Rhonda Reinke, Mallory Randall, Mitch Cornils, Tracey Gehrke, Wendy Hein

A. Call to Order: **Elizabeth Wagner** called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 p.m.

B. Approval of May 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes: **Wendy Hein** moved for approval of the February 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by **Liz Schlosser**, and motion carried.

C. Business Items:

1. Presentation – Islands of Brilliance (IOB): **Kate Siekman**, Director of Learning and Outcomes at Islands of Brilliance, gave a PowerPoint presentation to share program and service information.

Who is Islands of Brilliance? IOB is a non-profit organization headquartered in Milwaukee, WI providing technology-based workshops for autistic youth and young adults since 2012. SpIn (Special interest), imagination, and creative technologies are utilized to spark self-confidence, encourage independence, and build pathways to employment for autistic individuals. Students are paired with a mentor or team of other students based on their SpIn.

Programs – Ages 8+:

- Academy – Ages 14+, most rigorous program for students with experience in creative digital software, advanced material in group-supported environment.
- Foundations – 1:1 mentorship, technical software instruction, guidance on social and emotional development.
- Community – Two programs for adults that provide support and guidance.
- Sandbox Programs – Provides environment for students to learn, create, and connect. Held virtually via Zoom 3:30 to 4:20 daily. The Sandbox@ Program is a free program for either creating stop motion movies or an iPad lab for creating digital art.

Transition-Aged Programs – Ages 16+:

- Brilliant Breakfast Club – held online Fridays 10-11 a.m., ages 16+.

- The Fellowship Program – for autistic youth and young adults in mid-size and rural Wisconsin communities. Local facilitators with libraries often partnering as hosts. Meets weekly, ages 16-30. Free during pilot year 2024. Looking to expand in 2025 to six additional sites.

Foundation Programming: Four-week 90-minute in-person (Milwaukee) or online 1:1 workshop sessions. Requires specific hardware and software for participation. Foundation 2D – Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, Foundation 3D – Blender, Foundation 4D – Animation.

Digital Academy: An unparalleled space for pre-college prep, vocational skills development, and lifelong learning.

- Sidequest: Three tracks including - digital painting, 3D modeling, media. Tracks meet one week each month on Tuesday and Wednesday for a total of 4 hours each track per month. Hybrid format.
- 9-week quest: Independent study with oversight guidance.
- Collabquest: Skills are applied to real world projects. Teamwork, mentorship, direction, and critique by working professionals.

Funding: Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS), Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) for ages 18+, Children's Community Options Program (CCOP), or private pay. IOB has a contract with Winnebago County as of August 21.

Q: At this time Winnebago County could only do virtual services with IOB. Would you consider hiring a local art therapist who could provide in-person services in this area?

A: Yes. There are also possibilities including the fellowship program and Sandbox@.

2. Member Sharing:

Abby Drover shared that Kate Swenson from *Finding Cooper's Voice* spoke at a recent Love the Mess event. Families can find Love the Mess on Facebook. Love the Mess has one family event and one support group meeting per month for children with any mental health or disability challenges.

Tammy Ross of the Sensory Club and Bridging the Gap reported the Sensory Club is closed today and tomorrow as the ball pit is being doubled in size. The swing system has also been recently expanded. Feedback from families has been positive regarding the benefits they are experiencing at the Club. Bridging the Gap has been slower due to how busy the Club has been. Tammy will be presenting her developmental approach to Winnebago County next Wednesday.

Linda Pierron of Oshkosh Area School District shared about Project Life. Linda reported two special ed teacher and three teaching position openings. Bachelor's degree is required. Pay has recently been increased.

Julienne Gohde, provider relations, reported onboarding 15-17 new CLTS providers with Winnebago County between the months of June and August. Provider service agreements have also been revamped.

Hannah Ulwelling and **Bridget Hunter** are new CLTS supervisors. Both are located at the Neenah Water Street location.

Rachael Van Dyke has been working with Winnebago County for the past ten years in adult behavioral health and has now shifted to CLTS Support and Service Coordinator (SSC) position.

Hailey Drummond started working as an SSC in the program in May after working three years in CPS ongoing.

Halle Bradley started in August as a SSC after having been with Winnebago County for 2½ years on the CPS initial assessment team.

Liz Schlosser is an SSC located in the Oshkosh office. She has been working with Winnebago County for 25 years.

Tracey Gehrke of Public Health reported:

- Oshkosh School Fair was held August 14-15 with 1091 children participating on the day of the fair, and another 300 after. Rogan's has been bought out by Shoe Carnival. So, the buy one, get one deal will discontinue at the end of 2024 and will lead to additional costs for next year. The Resource Fair was added back into the event.
- Parent Resource Hours continue which include a vaccine clinic and car seats installation checks (by appointment). Oshkosh is held the second Tuesday each month from 12-4 and Neenah is now located at the Fox Crossing Fire Station each month on the fourth Thursday from 11-2.
- Flu season is approaching. Typically, there are two Vaccine for Children (VFC) clinics held per month in September and October.
- Refugees – there is still a huge influx of refugee immigrant families coming to our area.
- Upcoming Hyde Center events include September 15 for VFC who have MA or no insurance and due to a grant are able to give out \$25 gift cards.
- Billboards promoting vaccines are located on Highway 21 between Oshkosh and Omro with one in English and one in Spanish and another one located in Neenah.

Emily Paschen – NOVA ABA is starting a social skills service for children, which runs for a semester, to provide support to children in Winnebago County who are on the waiting list for other services. This will be held two days a week from 4-5:30. Emily also reported to being a bit short-staffed. Respite services are also separately provided.

Mitch Cornils is a CPS Ongoing Supervisor and is located in the Neenah office. Mitch reported recruitment for foster parents is ongoing and there are currently several social worker openings.

Elizabeth Wagner shared the following resources/updates:

- All in for Kids CLTS Summer 2024 Newsletter highlights the process of working with families to determine funding based on the child's needs.
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/kids-2024-02.pdf>
- All in for Kids Birth to Three Summer 2024 Newsletter includes an article explaining that physical therapy is available through the B-3 program. Information on lead poisoning. **Tracey Gehrke** shared that lead testing is now required for every child.
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/b3aifk2024-02.pdf>
- ADRC September 2024 Newsletter: Article introducing new APS Supervisor Jill Butler, events including the wheelchair wash and welcome to Medicare, recycling, voting information, health insurance information, health and wellness aging activities.
<https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Sept%202024.pdf>

- 2024 Self-Determination Conference: October 21-23 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. <https://sdc.wi-bpdd.org/>
 - New - Driver's Education Grant – DMV driver's educational funding for Wisconsin teens who meet income eligibility. <https://wi.accessgov.com/wisdot/Forms/Page/dmv/degrant/0>
3. Children's COP and CLTS Services – Elizabeth Wagner:
 - Service and Program Updates: Elizabeth shared staffing updates including new staff and plans to hire additional staff in 2025 pending board approval.
 - Waitlist Updates: 7 youth are on the waitlist. There are 811 actively open youth. There were 67 referrals from July until yesterday, September 9th.
 - Provider Updates: There are several new providers as well as several existing providers expanding services including NOVA, Lakeside Packaging, and Salisott Coaching which offers on-demand supportive classes, Logan's Hearts & Smiles assists with home modifications, and At Peace Parents.
 4. Birth to Three Services – Wendy Hein:
 - Services and Program Updates: Wendy reported there is currently one open position.
 - Enrollments: Between the two counties, enrollment is at highest point yet. An outreach workgroup has been started for working on creating social media, reels geared towards parents, events, and targeted outreach to physicians/other groups. Wendy is seeking input on events and targeted outreach that Birth to Three could be involved in.
 - Compliance Audit: Currently working with State on compliance audit. Determinations were received for the previous fiscal year and both counties received determinations of "meets requirements."
 - Team Promotions: Four team members were promoted which has freed up some of Wendy's time.
 - Ongoing child assessment: As the State is focusing on ongoing child assessment for the next year, teachers and team leaders will be attending three events being held in October on this topic.
 - MetaStar Audit: Upcoming.
 - VPI: Purchased a new building and will be vacating the building on Washburn Street.
 - Three team members recently graduated from the Wisconsin Mental Health Program.
 5. CCS/CST Youth Services – Chris Tylka-Olesen: **Troy Eckes** is the new lead worker. All service facilitator positions are filled. The team is looking at what array of services can be provided to adjust as client needs fluctuate. There are 25 more individuals currently being served than at this time last year.
 6. 2024 Focus Areas and Committee Role - Elizabeth Wagner: shared that the State has recently rolled out Think Ability Wisconsin which provides resources for improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities. <https://www.thinkabilitywi.org/s/>

D. Next meeting dates: December 10, 2024. 2025 meetings are anticipated to be the second Tuesdays of February, May, September, and December.

E. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wagner