

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, December 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: Tammi Kohlman (Lakeside Packaging), Linda Pierron (Oshkosh Area School District), Phan Hong (Psychological and Behavioral Health), Kaci Casey (UW-Oshkosh Headstart), Abby Drover (Love the Mess), Kim Nichols-Green (Guided Discovery)

STAFF PRESENT: Tracey Gehrke, Elizabeth Wagner, Cassondra Miramontes, Kathryn Runge, Hannah Ulwelling, Chris Tylka-Olesen, Hailey Drummond, Jessica Oaks, Bridget Hunter, Elizabeth Riley, Wendy Hein, Sam Stephenson

- A. Call to Order: **Tracey Gehrke** called the meeting to order at approximately 12:30 p.m.
- B. Approval of September 2024 Meeting Minutes: Liz Schlosser moved for approval of the September 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Abby Drover, and motion carried.

C. Business Items:

1. Presentation – Psychological & Behavioral Health of Fox Cities / Guided Discovery – Phan Hong Lishner and Kim Nichols-Green: Phan is a licensed clinical psychologist who works with Kim to conduct assessments and perform diagnostic work for children. The clinic is currently located in Neenah and a branch will soon be opening in Oshkosh.
 - Background – Guided Discovery was founded in an effort to create a focused service that is a culmination of the rich experiences the professional team has had that goes beyond the scope of what some other practices embrace and emphasizes involving the whole child and the family.
 - The Team – consists of behavioral health therapists, registered behavior treatment technicians, licensed professional counselor, clinical psychologist, general and special education teacher, ESDM certified clinician, OT/OTA, and a music therapist.
 - Clinical Advisory Board – Dr. Phan Hong-Lishner, Ph.D.; Vivian Hazell, MS LFMT; Kathy Schumaker, MT-BC, NMT, WMTR Tuneful Teaching; Sheila Frick, OTRL, Vital Links.
 - Approach – Principles of ABA and the Early Start Denver Model.
 - Service Overview Listing: Comprehensive treatment ABA, focus treatment ABA, hybrid in-home therapy, consultation, counseling and therapeutic services, social skills/mentoring, daily living skills, empowerment and self-determination supports, family/unpaid caregiver supports.
 - Funding: Guided Discovery is in-network with 15 different private insurance plans, Medicaid, HSA/FSA, CLTS Waiver, private pay, school district funding. Psychological & Behavioral Health is through ThedaCare so funding is only through commercial insurances.
 - Intended population: Individuals ages 18 months to 21 years; autism and other developmental disabilities.

- Family focus: Build strong, positive relationships with caregivers; collaborative approach in respecting family and client dignity; recognize the unique needs of families and provide support; parents play large role in establishing goals.
- Involvement in care: Individualized plans, supported learning, strategic partnership in expanding capabilities while meeting everyday demands. Family treatment guidance, quarterly progress meetings, optional engagement opportunities, supportive listening/training sessions, observation.
- Contact information:
Psychological & Behavioral Health of Fox Cities – admin@foxcitiesbehavioralhealth.org,
phone: 920.212.6050, fax: 920.785.6336. (through ThedaCare)
Guided Discovery – info@guidediscoveryllc.com, phone: 920.642.9716, fax: 920.785.6336.

Q: Can you give further information on the counseling aspects of treatment you provide?

A: Treatments provided to parents are behavioral theory training i.e.: how parents may be inadvertently reinforcing problematic behaviors or giving children inconsistent communication, decreasing parental anxiety, increasing coping strategies.

Q: Can you share information on the process for receiving consultation services?

A: There is a minimum of a few observations, family interviews and questionnaires, then clinical recommendations are made.

Q: Is it correct that Guided Discovery will have a location in Oshkosh?

A: Yes, children practice skills at that location. Services are also being offered in-home along with helping families work on issues in real time such as at the gym or grocery store.

Q: Tell us about your ABA services for older children.

A: At this point we do not have any children over the age of six; however, ideas for older children include services targeted at behaviors, group for social skills, and prevocational.

2. Member Sharing:

Tracey Gehrke of Public Health reported:

- Remodel – Public Health is going through a remodel so there is currently limited space in the office, operations continue as normal.
- Immunizations – 1) Funding is in place until June to provide offsite clinics for refugees and immigrants. Public Health has partnered with World Relief to offer monthly immunization clinics at the Hyde Center starting in January. 2) Continue to provide youth vaccination clinics as normal.
- Diaper and feminine hygiene banks continue at both locations. No qualifications are necessary for families to pick up diapers that they need. At times feminine hygiene products are also available.
- Carseat events continued up to this point; however, 2024 funding has now been spent. The hope is to secure funding so service can again be provided in 2025. Convertible car seats are given out to families instead of infants as no-handled seats are more cost effective and are considered acceptable to use up until the age 4.

Kaci Casey stated there are Headstart centers in Winnebago County with two being in Oshkosh and one in Menasha. Kaci's team works with parents by conducting home visits. Enrollment is at full capacity of 384. 40 are currently on the waitlist and applications continue to be accepted.

Enrollment continues to be based on need with prioritization towards those at risk of homelessness or in foster care.

Abby Drover of Love the Mess reported the following updates:

- Facebook - Love the Mess now has a public Facebook page so that invitations can be shared. The private page continues as well to allow families to post questions.
- Events – 1) A holiday event is planned for this Saturday for older children. 2) A magician coming to the Grand will be holding a private sensory friendly show for Love the Mess families on January 13th which CLTS families are also welcome to attend.
- Empowered Minds Life Coaching – Abby stated her son has been receiving coaching and has been making great strides.

Sam Stephenson is a CPS worker with the Ongoing Child Welfare Unit. Team updates:

- Staffing – The team is in the process of hiring five new initial assessment workers.
- Outreach services – When CPS reports are received that do not reach the threshold of being a safety concern, outreach services are offered as a preventative measure, when possible.
- Kinship – upcoming legislation will expand the eligibility for being a kinship provider.

Linda Pierron of Oshkosh Area School District reported that the district continues to seek employees and openings include needing special education teachers.

Tammi Kohlman reported Lakeside Packaging Plus has started an afterschool program as well as offering programming to families over winter and summer breaks. Also, the company is undergoing a name change which should be complete by May.

3. Children's COP and CLTS Services – **Elizabeth Wagner** – Elizabeth shared the following links:

- All in for Kids – Fall 2024 CLTS Newsletter – <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/kids-2024-03.pdf>
- All in for Kids – Fall 2024 Birth to Three Newsletter - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/newsletters/b3aifk2024-03.pdf>
- December ADRC Newsletter – <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Dec%202024.pdf>
- Supporting Kids with Disabilities - Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health July Newsletter - https://children.wi.gov/Documents/ResearchData/OCMH%20Fact%20Sheet_July%202024_Supporting%20Kids%20with%20Disabilities.pdf
- Feelings thermometer from the State of Wisconsin – <https://children.wi.gov/Documents/FeelingsThermometer/Early%20Childhood%20Feelings%20Thermometer.pdf>
- 2025 Circles of Life Conference – May 8 and 9 at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, <https://familyvoiceswi.org/circles-of-life-conference/>
- 2025 Autism Conference – April 3 to 5 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells, <https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/conferences/>
- Service and Program Updates: Rhonda Reinke is currently a lead on the team and has moved into the new quality assurance position. Rhonda's position is currently in the process of being filled. Abby Dexter will be the new lead in Neenah. Interviews have already taken place for six new service coordinators with three starting in January and the other three starting in February. Hiring of more service coordinators has been budgeted for and will be based on referral numbers.

- Referrals have recently increased from 20/month to now 25/month. The State is looking at a timeliness compliance project to ensure enrollment within 100 days of receipt of referrals. Currently referrals have improved to being assigned within two weeks.
- Enrollment: 827 youth are currently enrolled in the CLTS program in Winnebago County.
- MetaStar Audit – annual audit is upcoming in March 2025. A large operating change is that provider contracts are no longer a requirement.
- Waitlist is about six children currently.
- New Providers – Magic Medical offers incontinence supplies, Encompass Care provides respite care, EASE provides online education regarding sexuality, a potty-training provider, and a virtual reality education support provider.

4. Birth to Three Services / VPI – Wendy Hein:

- Staffing – there is currently an opening for an early childhood education teacher.
- MetaStar Audit – annual review was recently completed and was overall positive given how many staff are new. Both counties were found to be in the category of "meets requirements" for 2024.
- Move to new building at 250 North Casaloma Drive in Appleton. Renovations are underway to bring all VPI programming into that building space.
- Breakfast with Santa event is this Saturday at the Timber Rattler's stadium. Tickets are capped at 300 due to space limitations.
- Enrollment – Currently there are 301 total enrollments with 118 in Winnebago County. Targeted outreach is being done as Winnebago County enrollment is currently a little low which could be attributed to high volume of appointment cancellations recently. Physician packets will be distributed in January to all pediatric and family practice clinics. Suggestions were made to contact/collaborate with World Relief and ABA providers.
- BCS Conference – a big group from the team attended the statewide BCS conference.

5. CCS/CST Youth Services – Chris Tylka-Olesen:

- Staffing – All service facilitators positions are now filled and there are two psychotherapy positions openings working in-home with families.
- Satisfaction survey results yielded an above average scoring on everything.
- Referrals continue to come in consistently.

6. 2025 Focus Areas and Committee Role - Elizabeth Wagner: In 2024, youth transition letters began which are annually sent out to families once children reach age 14. Elizabeth asked the group to bring ideas for focus areas to the next meeting.

Tracey Gehrke asked if staff take Narcan along with them on visits. Elizabeth stated that there have been agency trainings but none that have been specific for her team. De-escalation training was also discussed by the group.

Wendy Hein shared that her team is interested in getting together with the CLTS team either in-person or by virtual means.

D. Next meeting dates: Meetings will be held February 11, May 13, September 9, and December 9.

E. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wagner