

Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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), Tammy Ross (The Sensory Club), Sarah Dunks (Options for Independent Living), Josh Theis (Options for Independent Living), Connie Bernier (Omro School District)

STAFF PRESENT: Tracey Gehrke, Elizabeth Wagner, Hannah Ulwelling, Caitlin Lefebvre, Kirsten Tessen, Jessica Oaks, Rachael Van Dyke, Maureen Sullivan, Kathryn Runge, Bridget Hunter, Liz Schlosser, Mitch Cornils, Marleigh Schneeberger, Julianne Gohde, Hailey Drummond

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

B. Approval of December 2024 Meeting Minutes: **Mitch Cornils** moved for approval of the September 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Linda Pierron, motion carried.

C. Business Items:

1. Presentation – Options for Independent Living – Josh Theis: Josh serves as the executive director at Options for Independent Living and provided an overview of services to the committee:
 - Options has been providing services since 1980.
 - Options is one of eight independent living centers in Wisconsin with services available in 17 Wisconsin counties including Winnebago County.
 - Around 3000 consumers are served every year by Options and the agency is a non-profit.
 - There are no age or income restrictions to receive services.
 - Core Services: Federally mandated core services include individual and systems advocacy, information and referral, peer support, independent living skills training, and transition services.
 - Other Services: Accessibility assessment program, assistive technology assessments and planning, adaptive equipment, work incentives benefits assessment and counseling, and a personal care assistance services program. Personal care screenings provided by Options can be billed to Medicaid. Family must have a willing provider for the service. An occupational therapist is on staff as well as an assistive technology specialist who is RESNA-certified. Skills to Pay the Bills Program provides education on budgeting. Staff provide independent living skills in the community such as showing clients how to ride the bus or purchase groceries. The peer support program is a free program which allows individuals to connect with others experiencing similar disabilities. Within transitional services, support is available to assist clients with understanding their IEP along with IEP advocacy. Kitchen skills classes are being offered in cooperation with CESA 7 and self-advocacy classes. Options also works in collaboration with WisLoan for low interest loans

for individuals with disabilities, TEPP Program which is a telecommunications program, and Wisconsin's Assistive Technology Program (WisTech).

- Green Bay location: offers a variety of adaptive equipment that can be loaned through their Lend Equipment Network Distribution Program (LEND) including ramps, knee scooters, beds, electric scooters, etc. This location features a showcase model home with tours to show how modifications can make a home accessible. The Appleton location at the Thompson Center is no longer open.
- Tour: A tour is being arranged for CLTS team to view Options.
- Brochures and newsletter: Josh provided copies of the Options brochure and newsletter.

2. Member Sharing:

Linda Pierron from the Oshkosh School District reported the district is in the spring hiring season and has had to do some contracting out for services and evaluations as there are a number of special educational openings including a vision teacher position. The adapted sports league is looking at branching out by starting a dance program for high school youth.

Tammy Ross stated that The Sensory Club is coming up on their second year in operation. She recently had to take a hiatus with Bridging the Gap as her mother was sick and is getting back on focus with that program now.

Mitch Cornils stated that Child Welfare is experiencing some turnover and is looking for staff. Mitch encouraged members to make referrals to the Access phone line (236-4615) for families that could benefit from Child Welfare's services or outreach. Examples of referrals: children experiencing behavioral issues, assistance connecting with resources, parent connections, and for basic supplies formerly supplied by World Relief.

Tracey Gehrke of Public Health reported the following updates:

- Annual Back to School Fair: Will occur in mid-August and is likely to serve 1100 students.
- Diaper and Feminine Hygiene Banks: Available at both Neenah and Oshkosh locations. No income requirements. Limit one package of feminine supplies per month.
- Car seat Program: Convertible seats are provided rather than infant seats due to cost factors and capability to be used for a more extended time.
- Pack and Plays: Continue to be offered for families who do not have a safe place for their child to sleep.
- Vaccinations: There has been an increase in the number of uninsured adults requesting vaccinations. Much of the influx has consisted of the immigrant and refugee population. There is also a nurse who administers vaccinations to inmates at the jail. Vaccinations are also available for uninsured children or those with Medicaid.

3. Children's COP and CLTS Services – Elizabeth Wagner:

- Aging and Disability Resource Center: February newsletter containing information on free or reduced phone and internet services, activities calendar, information on tax information opportunities throughout Winnebago County, staff updates, assisted living options, upcoming event information including the upcoming Music in Motion event at the PAC – <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/February%202025.pdf>
- Family Voices of Wisconsin: Offers educational videos, fact sheets, and other resource information available on their website – <https://familyvoiceswi.org/learn/>

- Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin (DSAW): Offers an extensive listing of webinars and other resources that can be found on their website – <https://www.dsaw.org/webinars>
 - Center for Childhood Safety in Green Bay: Offers a classroom set up to learn safety for youth within their community and includes assistance in applying for funding to attend the program – <https://www.centerforchildhoodsafety.org/copy-of-safety-town>
 - Staffing updates: 1) Three new staff were hired early January, an additional three are starting at the end of the month. 2) ADRC Director/Long Term Support Division Manager, Beth Roberts, is departing from her position with her last day being March 10th.
 - CLTS Enrollment CAP Plan: The State placed counties who did not meet the timeline for youth enrollments into CLTS into a CAP Plan. Staff worked very hard to ensure this deadline was met and successfully avoided being placed on the CAP Plan this year.
 - MetaStar Audit: The new lead, Rhonda, will be assisting with the annual audit for CLTS that takes place in March.
 - Federal changes: Thus far no information has been received that any of the federal changes will impact programming.
 - Waitlist: The CLTS waitlist is low at this point. Julianne has been helping with overflow screenings when more referrals are coming in faster than staff can screen them.
 - Training: Leads and QAs have been busy training new staff which has led to a transitioning of some duties.
 - Referrals: December 2024 to February 2025 meeting = 59 new referrals, September 2024 to December 2024 meeting = 77 new referrals.
 - New providers: Guided Discovery – offering ABA and parent coaching services, Omro Taekwondo, Chileda – school setting offering daily living skills and summer camp options to youth with autism or behavioral needs, Reflections of Grace Dance – adaptive dance.
4. Birth to Three Services: **Elizabeth Wagner** shared the following updates from **Wendy Hein**:
- Referrals (includes Winnebago and Outagamie Counties): January = 99, total enrollments = 293, referrals in process = 158.
 - Staffing: One service coordinator position opening.
 - Physician Toolkits: are being provided to some families.
 - Meeting: A meeting is being planned between CLTS and Birth to Three teams and a location needs to be determined which could accommodate the growing number of staff.
5. CCS/CST Youth Services: **Elizabeth Wagner** shared the following updates from **Chris Tylka-Olesen**:
- Referrals list has been kept to a minimum and cases are assigned weekly.
 - Team is happy to be providing a wide range of services for youth and families.
 - Continue consideration on adding contracted providers.
6. 2025 Focus Areas and Committee Role - Elizabeth Wagner: Ideas previously mentioned include Birth to Three and CLTS teams meeting, offering staff training on de-escalation. New suggestion: Narcan training.

Connie Bernier inquired about assistance with locating resources for a student over the age 18 experiencing issues with control of finances. Suggestions from members in attendance were: 1) reach out to the ADRC or Adult Protective Services for assistance with locating resources or 2) the individual could potentially set up their own financial power of attorney.

D. Next meeting dates: 2025 meetings will be held May 13, September 9, and December 9.

E. Adjourn: With no other business, **Tracey Gehrke** asked for a motion for adjournment, motion made by Mitch Cornils, meeting adjourned at approximately 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Wagner