



Local Interagency Council 16
Date: January 14th, 2015 @ Noon
Location: Easter Seals

Minutes

I. Participants:

Marsha Streicher, CFC/LIC	Kelly Lenz/CFC
JoEllen Skolek/El Paso Unit #11	Erica Strunk/CFC
Kathy Humphreys/SAL/CCC	Tina Aronson/UI-C
MaryBeth Arduini/UI-C	Gary Reed/CFC
Scott Hogan/Tri-County Special Ed.	Tracey Arahood/Easter Seals
Jamie Capitelli/Crittenton Centers	Melissa Stalter/Pekin 108
Joni Lyons/HOI-SFS	

II. Minutes from December 10th

1st motion: Kathy H.

2nd motion: Kelly L.

Minutes approved.

III. Presentation from Tina Aronson & MaryBeth Arduini:

Tina and MaryBeth are from the Univ. of Illinois College of Medicine and are contracted through Easter Seals to assist in evaluations for children/families in Early Intervention. They split their duties between general developmental/autism clinics and the Cerebral Palsy Clinic. Tina works with Dr. Morgan (neuro-developmental pediatrician) & Dr. Winek (C.P. specialist) in the Cerebral Palsy clinic with children with muscle/motor concerns. Dr. Winek is here 4x/month, Dr. Morgan is in the clinic 2x/week. Dr. Akeson (orthopedic surgeon) also sees kids 1x/month in the clinic. Neurodevelopmental evaluations and play-based evaluations are completed. An evaluation takes about 1 ½ hours to complete, and both clinics are now scheduling evaluations out in the spring to April-June. MaryBeth assists in the general developmental/autism clinics with Dr. Patterson (behavioral developmental pediatrician) and Amy Zimmerman (advanced nurse practitioner) Tina and MaryBeth are diagnostic coordinators. They stated they don't make the decisions but help gather information and consult with the doctors. The information can be gathered through school reports, EI reports, primary care physician and the family. The clinics prefer that referrals come through the families primary care physician, but they will take referrals from others working with the child, such as a school district, if a child is school age. Dr. Patterson is also part of the Easter Seals Diagnostic team for autism, and coordination for that clinic is completed with Lynda Sharp-Lowes through Easter Seals. Dr. Patterson is also the medical director for Easter Seals, and she consults with therapists and holds case reviews for Easter Seals clients. Through Easter Seals, Dr. Patterson, Tina and MaryBeth also consult with Child and Family Connections on case reviews, evaluations and situations where a medical consult is required.

IV. Vote of LIC 16 By-laws:

Motion to approve: Kathy Humphreys

2nd motion: Tracey Arahood

New bylaws were approved and will be available through Marsha if anyone needs/wants a copy.

V. LIC 16/Manager's Report/Gary Reed

- a. Caitlyn Horner resigned from the CFC the first of January. Gary is now accepting applications for a new Service Coordinator. Nancy E. will be out on maternity leave as of Jan 16th but her caseload will be covered through Gary and other SC's
- b. Tazewell County is now Natural Environment for all new families coming into EI. Henry/Stark Counties will most likely go all Nat. Environment as of Feb. 1st. CFC #14 has moved up in the state rankings to #23/25, with 85% of our families receiving services in a Natural Environment. Gary expects this percentage to increase in the next few months. Increasing Natural Environment has led to an increase in the "wait list", which is the



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children who are waiting to receive therapy for their delays. This is especially true for children who need Physical Therapy. Gary is encouraging the use of Developmental Therapists, under the guidance of a certified PT, to get children started on therapy. EI principles involve teaching the family how to work with their child's needs, so a PT should be able to guide a DT in the methods necessary for the child, which could decrease the amount of children on the wait list. There are currently 22 children who are on a PT wait list, and 30 children overall, who have not yet received the therapy they need to progress.

- c. Referral numbers for December were: 2013-64
2014-101
711 total cases @ end of Dec. 2014
- d. CFC#14 historically has the oldest average age of children at intake. This is a concern because the CFC receives financial penalties for children who are not referred to EI until they are almost 3. The goal is to talk to the medical community and area day cares of Prevention Initiative programs to make referrals at an early age, rather than waiting to see if the child reaches developmental milestones on their own. Evaluations through the CFC are free so there is no disadvantage to determine if a child is eligible for services.

VI. Committee Work and Discussions:

- a. Provider Recruitment committee- "Welcome to EI" letter has been developed and Gary is starting to work on another letter outlining the process to become a credential provider, how many children are waiting for therapy and the benefits of working within the EI framework, such as working your own hours, and the supports that are available to providers.
- b. Public Awareness/Child Find committee- discussed reminding the birth to 3 program to refer children early, and not taking a "wait and see" attitude. Initial evaluations are free so there is no downside to referring a young child for a screening. EI is happy to work with day cares and other 0-3 programs to keep the child in their initial program, and using the natural environment to provide needed services. Once the new brochures are printed, how will they be distributed? A poster was discussed to encourage families to explore the benefits of Early Intervention.
- c. Parent Involvement-discussed asking Service Coordinators to provide names of parents who may be interested in participating in the LIC. Also discussed attending the Autism Parent Support group and the Downs Syndrome Support group to see if any of those parents would be interested in LIC, or know other parents who might be interested in LIC. Jim Runyon noted that a couple of the LIC's in CFC #16 are using stipends to help parents with the cost of child care and/or transportation costs to attend LIC meetings. Another suggestion was moving the time of the LIC meeting so parents who work could more easily attend. Gary suggested using part of the LIC meeting time to "spotlight" a community agency that works with children/families that may draw interest from parents. Perhaps gathering emails from parents at intake to share LIC information or upcoming community activities would help develop some parental interest.
- d. Transition-looked at transition information that was made available through SEAPCO and liked how they laid out the transition process. Discussed contacting other districts or Special Education Coop's to see if they already have transition information for their families which can be utilized by the LIC/CFC.

VII. Program Announcements/Updates

- a. Marsha shared information about the upcoming PEP day on Feb. 2/20/2015, which will feature a morning session on "Happiness Advantage" which will help relieve stress and provide motivation and a PM session on "Dot, the Story Teller" who will provide some fun



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and enjoyment and teach you how to make reading a story to your students fun! Both sessions are free, and will be held at the Riverfront Museum.

- b.** Jamie Capitelli announced 3 groups at Crittenton Centers, these are all open to the community:
1. Helping Little Hands Learn Playgroup; 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30-6:30 at Crittenton Centers
 2. Parent Care and Share: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm at Crittenton Centers
 3. About Baby and Me, Infant Education Class, attend 2 classes and receive and free Pack and Play, 1st and 3rd Tuesday, each month at Crittenton Centers. Call Jamie at 309-674-0105 ext. 218 for more information or to register.

Next LIC meeting: The Neighborhood House

Date: February 11th, 2015

Time: 12pm-1:30pm (approx.)

LIC 16 Mission Statement:

The Local Interagency Council is a collaborative group of local providers, public agencies and families who work together to support the Early Childhood community through Public Awareness activities, Child Find and Transitions into local school districts. The LIC will strive to strengthen communities, empower families and advocate for the development of children ages birth to 5.