

Health Services Advisory Committee Minutes

December 14, 2016

Members Present: Tiffany Footit, Sarah Myers, Dr. Gregory Dye

Staff Present: Lillian Okla, Barb Buck, Lindsey Ohren, Jennifer Diggs, Carrie Whitehill, Emily Schmeiss, Jess Zimmer

Welcome and introductions were made by those in attendance.

Minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Dye made motion to approve and Sarah second it.

Program updates from the Director:

Lindsey Ohren gave program updates. She informed the group of the Comprehensive Services and School Readiness Monitoring that took place last spring. The program was compliant in all areas. The program is currently working on aligning the school readiness goals to the curriculum and Head Start guidelines. There are areas of improvement in regards to the Board. They are currently working on internal systems and this is taking place now through February. The Social/Emotional Curriculum is underway to changing from the Nurtured Heart Approach to Conscious Discipline. There is an action team composed of staff from the various sites and positions. The plan is to have full implementation of Conscious Discipline for next year. The updated Performance Standards were released in September. They require a parent curriculum. Conscious Discipline is considered an approved curriculum, but still need to approve it with OHS. The program is looking at changing the current ERSEA point system. This is the point system that is used to determine which children are selected for the program. The plan is to review the current point system and align it better with the needs of the community. Tiffany asked if all of the open positions have been filled. Lindsey informed the group that there are currently 3 teacher assistant positions open (2 at Early Head Start, 1 at the West location). They need to have a minimum of a CDA. Head Start will help pay for the CDA, but there is a 3 year time commitment or the person would have to pay it back.

Dr Dye's recommendations for the Spot Vision:

Dr. Dye had given recommendations and guidelines for the Spot Vision Screener this past summer. Head Start Health Coordinators have been using it this school year for vision screening. Lillian mentioned that it is a very easy screener to use and is working very well with our age groups.

Expired/Inactive Medicaid numbers:

Lillian expressed concern with meeting the Head Start 90-day requirements for Well Child Exams and Dental Exams due to families having issues with Medical Assistance. Families are making the appointments, but when they arrive, the clinic will not see them due to MA not being active. Lillian explained that we do not have the resources to check on MA's and that we have lost our contact at Cass County due to the person retiring. Tiffany offered to help us get the MA information by having us contact her. Tiffany also stated that she will talk to her supervisor about the possibility of Head Start having access to the MA system to look up information ourselves. The other obstacle for families can be transportation. We have recently been okayed to use the agency vehicles to help assist families get to their needed appointments. Tiffany also mentioned that she has taxi vouchers available to use to get to medical appointments at any clinic location. They could not be used to get the parent to work, but could be used to pick up from home or school and return to the same location.

PCP-Primary Care Providers:

Lillian shared a letter that some of the Head Start families have been receiving from Medicaid. It is required for the family to pick a Primary Care Provider (PCP) within 14 days or MA will pick one for them. Lillian pointed out that this can be a real struggle for our DLL families due to them not being able to read English and then not responding in time. Tiffany stated that this current system will also pick random doctors, so a child could be placed with an OG/BYN doctor instead of a pediatrician or family practice doctor. Lillian asked how often MA needs to be renewed, if it is yearly or case by case. Tiffany confirmed that MA is case by case in regards to the renewal process, so it is not necessarily yearly.

Review Health Data:

Lillian shared the health data for Early Head Start and Head Start. The data showed the past three years and covered the topics of health insurance, medical homes, well child exams, and dental homes.

Community Updates:

None at this time.