

**NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM
HUMAN SERVICES OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2014 8:45 a.m.

NCHC – Wausau Campus

Present:

Gary	Bezucha	North Central Health Care
Julie	Burmesch	Wausau School District
Dean	Dietrich	RuderWare
Sandy	Ellis	Prevention Solutions, LLC
Paula	Hawkins	North Central Health Care
Cathy	Howe-Thwaits	MCCDA-Head Start
Erica	Huffman	North Central Health Care
Joanne	Kelly*	United Way of Marathon County
Mary	Olson	Childcaring
Amanda	Ostrowski	Marathon County Health Department
John	Robinson*	North Central Health Care
Ginny	Rusch**	Birth to Three
Deanna	Schuette	United Way of Marathon County
Lee	Shipway	Peaceful Solutions
Joan	Theurer	Marathon County Health Department
Vicki	Tylka	Department of Social Services
Mandy	Wright	State Assembly Representative

*HSO Committee members

**via phone conference

The HSO Committee meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., joining the Early Years Coalition and Early Years Planning Committee meeting. Roll call was noted; no quorum present.

- Early Years and other community groups are using the LIFE Report as a focus. It is a launching point.
- April 29th (7:30-9:00AM – location yet to be determined) United Way has a confirmed national speaker on early years. There will be sharing of information in the community, his presentation, and a call to action. The speaker will be addressing how these children in their early years are the future work force.
- Joanne Kelly talked with Connie Zebro about looking for commonalities in children with high needs being seen in the schools. Connie can look into possibly talking with families.
- Behavior Issues used to show one in five years; now seeing five in one year.

- Economy has had a huge impact. Families struggle to get by and often quality child care is put on the backburner.
- What are solutions and opportunities to address the problems?
- We may not have as much of a provider problem as we thought we had in psychiatry and other professional services.
- Infant support specialist credentialing could address problems. Providers are seeing that the credentialing program would be beneficial.
- What we are missing is the seamless system to support the child. Needing more of a wraparound system. General family mental health issues also need to be looked at.
- Dean Dietrich shared there are four things happening:
 - Early Years Coalition (EYC) has an action team dealing with quality child care and providing resources to go for more education to become better certified.
 - EYC is developing a work plan for 2014 – within the context will be further focus on early years interaction (first 1000 days); i.e. literacy, playing with the child, baby talk with the child, the notion of parents as a first teacher, etc.
 - RaiseGreatKids.org website – continue to focus, advertise, push – how best to address mental health issues within that context.
 - Focus on state young star program and grading of day care providers; funding set aside to do more with this program.
- Dean shared two concerns:
 - Somehow bring schools to the table to be a discussion partner in the process.
 - This could be a focus of EYC. It will be in the work plan to be discussed. The call to action of the LIFE report is what they need to focus on. They want to help but can't take it on as a lead project.
- The Human Services Operations Committee (HSOC) was trying to address the issue of the schools. Do we need a summit to pull everyone together? We need a focus on the families to address those with traumatic experiences/issues. How do we identify and intervene?
- North Central Health Care (NCHC) is charged with substance abuse and mental health issues.
- In order for EYC to be successful, they need to let go of addressing the problem with the parent. All their focus must be on the child.
- HSOC is trying to broaden the dialogue and look for opportunities for collaboration.
- An unmet need is a focus on the family.
- Poverty, trauma, mental health and substance abuse issues are a focus for a targeted group to give parents a message that they need to be a good parent.
- We don't have the opportunity to intervene with children who don't present themselves until later school years.
- We can't have healthy kids if we don't have healthy parents.
- Do we need to outline a system of care?
- Social emotional screening from birth would be helpful. It offers an opportunity to look for a common point of entry.

- Engagement and voluntary services – it is more of a problem to engage families. It is the key. Families may think they need something different from what we think they need. Financial blocks are sometimes the problem in engagement.
- Mandy Wright share that the state is focusing on resources; we have identified a need, we have the providers, it is the resources we are lacking.
- Children have social emotional screening in child care. If identified, plans are put in place for that domain, but it doesn't always go further.
- There are both bio-genetic problems for pre-disposition and poor parenting problems.
- A seamless continuity of care is needed.
- Early years mental health needs to be a part of the focus.
- Next steps:
 - There is value in a community summit to broaden the discussion.
 - Look for other partners in the issue.
 - Determine whether there is a role for NCHC to play?
- John will report back to the HSOC:
 - There is a recognition of a need
 - We need to go forward with a community approach.
 - EYC knows mental health needs to be a focus but it is not their lead task.
- The state needs to focus on poverty – minimum wage, paid family medical leave fund for all employees; accept federal Medicare funds.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

P. Hawkins