

# First Steps South East First Steps South East

## LPCC Quarterly Meeting – Cluster H

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Debbie Collins.

### Introductions and Inspirational Story

Anne Dolan shared an inspirational story that a child care center contacted the SPOE office with a desire to help child in her care who was demonstrating significant social development issues negatively affecting the whole classroom. This was heartwarming to Anne because there have been many calls to the SPOE in the past from desperate parents attending other child care centers who have been told that their child is no longer welcome to attend child care due to similar issues. Hearing from a child care center director reaching out to First Steps to help find strategies to address the child's developmental issues for the benefit of the child, the family, and classroom teachers demonstrated a lot of awareness and caring by the child care center director.

### Consent Agenda

Motion to approve minutes and consent agenda was given by Julianne Jarrell and Sarah Haisley seconded the motion. Minutes and Consent Agenda were approved.

### Financial Report

Becky Haymond reviewed the distributed SPOE budget report. For the grant year that started July 1, 2022, budget expenditures are currently on track. Personnel is the largest budget expense. The SPOE continues to watch the budget carefully as costs are rising (rent, insurance, mileage). The SPOE is negotiating rent reduction opportunities for the Anderson office. The current lease is up in May 2023, but there is a fee if leaving the lease early.

### Other Business

- **Cluster Oversight and System Updates**

- **Provider Networks Update –**

- Julianne Jarrell of Hopewell Center reported that they are welcoming 3 additional providers to add to their staff, and possibly a 4<sup>th</sup> – 2 DT, 1 part-time ST, and hopeful about an OT prospect.
- Patty Kovaks of NCA Therapy said her agency wishes her report were just as positive. NCA is welcoming 2 new providers, but has also lost 2. NCA keeps smiling and doing what they can moving forward.
- Becky Haymond with the SPOE provided comments about general workforce changes around the state – lots of agencies are struggling with capacity to meet the needs. Becky reports that both Hopewell and NCA have been active in trying some creative problem solving.
- Connie Young with the State First Steps office provided comments that additional efforts are being made to promote early intervention as a career option to kids even before they enter college. Connie also expressed thanks to Becky for her leadership and ideas to pilot new strategies.
- A success story was shared about a potential Developmental Therapist attending Ball State with an Early Intervention minor who had experience with Early Head Start seeking some job shadowing experiences with the SPOE.

- **Training Opportunities** – Training opportunities shared by the group:

- Indiana’s Early Intervention Conference 2023 – Early bird registration is open to anyone working in the field and to families. The conference will be held June 8-9 in Bloomington, IN.
- **Statistical Reports –**
  - Statistical reports were reviewed. Referrals numbers are on track to meet or exceed pre-pandemic levels. Evaluations are continuing to be held virtually to help ensure all evaluations happen within 45 days from referral. There are a high number of instances of families not showing up for the scheduled evaluations, which would leave more unfilled holes in the schedule if there was not the ability to quickly refill the openings with families waiting from any county since no travel time is needed. For initial IFSPs, there are an average of 60 per month across the region. The SPOE has distributed the new state Medical Provider Referral Form for First Steps. A few medical offices have started using the form which allows for more immediate start to First Steps therapy. The form is working well.
- **Staffing Update –**
  - Becky Haymond from the SPOE reported that all positions in Cluster H are filled. However, due to case load levels, there is a need to add staff. The caseload size for a Service Coordinator in Delaware County is over 120, and in Madison County 80-85. The SPOE is looking at the budget hard, as it is evident that two additional Service Coordinator positions would be useful.
- **EI Hub –**
  - Case Management Area- All SPOE Service Coordinators are using the Case Management Area of EI Hub. To best gather and enter the information needed from families during the intake process, the intake activities have been divided into an initial phone conversation to confirm interest and gather basis information, then a face to face meeting to complete the social history, sign consents, and complete the family assessment.
  - State Data Clean-up: The state has set a February due date for each SPOE office to complete additional data entry and corrections to records in EI Hub. Local administrative staff will dedicate a lot of time to complete this request. Service Coordinators will do the data entry on their active caseload records. The newly hired Service Coordinators seem to take to using EI Hub faster than existing Service Coordinators.
  - Service Logging Area: Hopewell reports that using EI Hub is mostly going well, though some field professionals have frustration with inconsistent internet connection. Sometimes visit notes will disappear, sometimes provider authorization names are blank, and sometimes users experience slow loading speed when using. Billing is working fine, and getting paid is a good thing. NCA Therapy agrees with what Hopewell reports. NCA notices more connectivity issues in the rural areas, and providers have ongoing frustration with recurring intermittent issues that Hopewell described. Becky (SPOE) shared that there is an Indiana internet speed test initiative that aims to identify areas of the state to target for improved broad band internet access. Anne (SPOE) will send out the information to the group about how to participate in the test. Anyone around the state can quickly complete a test and report results to the project. Also in Service Logging, the SPOE continues to enter generic ICD-10 codes to allow providers to get started with therapy.
- **Old Business**
  - **State Quality Review of Records –** Cluster H had Quality Review in early September. The results are still pending. The SPOE has not received word of findings.
- **New Business**
  - **LPCC Officer Elections: Nominating Committee –** Anne Dolan shared that according to the local LPCC bylaws, elections for officers needs to take place in the Spring before July 1<sup>st</sup>. The next step in the

process is to form a nominating committee. Current officers are automatically part of the nominating committee, and Anne asked that other LPCC members interested in being on the nominating committee are welcome. The committee will identify candidates and contact them to ask if they would accept being nominated. Officer positions are Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. Also, members are welcome to volunteer to be nominated. No one volunteered at the meeting today, but Anne suggested anyone can contact her after the meeting.

- **2023 LPCC Meeting Dates and Times** – Anne Dolan opened discussion about setting the 2023 meeting schedule. If the group decides to stick with the same schedule, meeting dates will be 2/1/23, 5/3/23, 8/2/23, and 11/1/23. Those present voted in favor of keeping the same schedule for 2023.

### **Announcements and Updates**

- **State Request for Proposals for First Steps System Point of Entry (SPOE) via Event ID # 0000073695** – Becky Haymond shared that the state has made a public request for proposal for delivering SPOE services. Entities can review the scope of work to start July 1, 2023. Thrive Alliance (the current SPOE for Clusters H&J) will submit a proposal to continue delivering SPOE services to both clusters. There is a state information meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> to review requirements. Proposals are due by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Becky may be asking LPCC members for letters of support.
- **Tangram** – Kari Sheward from Tangram shared the latest information about Tangram program developments. Tangram is working on diagnostics for autism starting with a private pay model. They are currently working on accepting traditional Medicaid and large insurers. They have a location at 54<sup>th</sup> and keystone in Indianapolis and can transport equipment. Another program from Tangram is called “Bridge the Gap”. Bridge the Gap will offer tools and strategies to parents of children newly diagnosed with autism who are waiting for Waiver or ABA therapy. Parents can come in a few hours a week to get lessons. There will be three Tiers: 1<sup>st</sup> Tier is youngest to 6 years old, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier is Age 7-12, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier is Age 13 to young adult.
- **FUSE** – FUSE has organized the free “Inspiring Abilities Expo” event this coming Saturday 11/5/23 in Marion County at Perry Meridian Highschool. Families and professionals are invited to attend to visit tables featuring a variety of community resources specific to families with children with disabilities and special needs.
- **Firefly** - Tashia Weaver shared info about many activities. In Delaware, Jay, and Blackford counties, the “Safe Sleep” presentations continue to be full every month with lots of caregivers who receive incentives to attend. “Transforming Through Art” is scheduled bi-weekly in Delaware County for individuals to work through trauma. It is also coming to Madison County. The “Parent Café” programs are happening monthly in Delaware, Madison, and Jay counties. Families can bring the kids and eat food. The program can pay parents for facilitating. In Jay county, “Safesitter” will be offered to teenagers and also caregivers as well as offering a home alone safety class for 4-6 graders at after school programs. Blackford County has launched a Prevent Child Abuse group.
- **Next LPCC Meeting** – February 1, 2023 at 9 am, will be virtual.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Attendance:

Aponte	Chastity	Conduct Curb Autism Behavior Center
Austin	Whitney	First Steps South East
Collins	Debbie	LPCC Chairperson; Infancy Onward Consultant
Dolan	Anne	First Steps South East
Ferguson	Ginger	First Steps South East
Haisley	Sarah	LPCC Vice-Chairperson, Ivy Tech
Haymond	Becky	First Steps South East
Henson	Carrie	First Steps South East
Jarrell	Julianne	Hopewell Center
Jordan	Angela	Wayne County Department of Child Services
Kovacs	Patty	NCA Therapy
Leisure	Holly	TRC Headstart
Modesitt	Missy	By5
Myron	Shalee	Blackford Schools
Russell	Erin	
Sheward	Kari	Tangram
Weaver	Tashia	Strengthen Healthy Families & Outreach for Firefly Delaware & Jay
Young	Connie	First Steps Indiana Outreach Manager, FSSA