

First Steps South East First Steps South East

LPCC Quarterly Meeting – Cluster H

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9 am

Introductions and Inspirational Story

Chairing meeting today is Debbie Collins, LPCC President

Welcome:

Inspirational story: Julianne shared that she was thankful that virtual visits were still an option.

Debbie stated she was thankful for the completion of a huge project for Infancy Onward was completed. This project included a statewide resource directory that included updated contact phone numbers. When the last few pages have been added in order to share, Debbie will help with the distribution. Several attendees were requesting the end project when available to the public.

Consent Agenda

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

Financial Report

Becky Haymond reviewed the Financial Report. She pointed out that there was a deficit in the last report due to an increase in the agency's insurance costs. She also noted that we had not been increase in this area for a few years. Also noted was the increase in PTO because we have retained staff long enough for them to earn additional time off. There has been a decrease in material usage such as paper, printing, and postage because First Steps is now making files electronically. Our budget continues until June 30 of 2022.

Becky said that a new grant cycle will be coming up, but she has no current news on it at this time.

Other Business

- **Cluster Oversight and System Updates**
 - Provider Networks Update –
 - Janet Ballard explained the IU- ECC Study to the group. The study concentrated on First Step provider recruitment and retention. The focus of the study included First Steps Directors and Therapists. Questions in the study looked at the following:
 - How has the workforce changed?
 - State policy on personnel recruitment
 - Retention & recruitment
 - Responsibilities of the Director or Therapist
 - Case load impact
 - Small business practices
 - Input on successes & challenges
 - How do the want to see changes happen?

- Janet will share her slides from the meeting with the group. More information to come from this study.
- Hopewell said... Juliann stated that Hopewell is changing where they are looking to recruit new providers. And she did like how Hopewell and NCA are sharing therapist for one child. Such as NCA completing a child's PT and Hopewell completing the same child's OT. By being open to sharing a child, this puts the child's needs first, and the child receives all services he/she needs in a timelier manner and lessens the children on wait lists.
- NCA said – Patty stated that traveling has decreased for many of their providers due to high gas prices. The program is also stressing how important keeping appointments with the therapist. Therapists don't get paid, if they don't serve that child.
- **Training Opportunities** – A request was made of participants to suggest upcoming trainings that would be of interest to the group.
 - April 19-20, Promoting Positive Outcomes Early Childhood Special Education Conference www.iidc.indiana.edu/ecc/news-and-events/preschool-conference.html
 - June 9-10, Indiana's Early Intervention Conference www.earlyintervention.iu.edu
 - March 2-3, Head Start Conference, www.indianaheadstartassociation.sched.com
 - Juliann shared that the Family Resource Centers in Madison and Delaware counties have workshops for families.
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- **Statistical Reports** –
 - 2021 Report was shared by Becky Haymond
 - Cluster H data counts were 2,288 referrals (Reminder: Not all referrals develop into IFSPs)
 - Cluster H usually has more referrals than Cluster J because of the great involvement of DCS making referrals for ALL children under age 3.
 - We usually see an increase in referrals in March.
- Lindsey Gilbert asked if LEA's could access the EI Hub. Becky stated that this concern has not been discussed by the state. The 30-month report that was sent to the LEA's monthly has not been created by the EI Hub. This report has not been distributed since March of 2021 when the EI Hub became active.

- **Old Business**

- LPPC Council Meetings - Will continue to be virtual until further notice and held 9 am to 10:15 am via Zoom. The next meetings will be:
 - Wed., May 4th
 - Wed., August 3rd
 - Wed., November 2nd
- **Staffing**- We have added two new Service Coordinators to First Steps South East. Nicole Everling is the one in Cluster H. We have a bi-lingual service coordinator position open, we are looking to repost this job in March 2022.
- **EI Hub** - Becky shared that First Steps South East is looking for trends in the system that need to be fixed before we started putting Service Coordinators in the system. We will do this by small groups. Lorrie Caskey, Delaware County, Cluster H has been trained as a Master Service Coordinator. She is putting the IFSP in the EI Hub. She also requested that all Service Coordinators check their family's EI Hub record to see if the following are correct:
 - Mailing address of the family

- Determined who the “head of the household” was assigned
 - Email of family recorded correctly
 - Parent Portal – Parents were sent an email of how to access the Parent Portal. A parent must use this portal to pay their cost participation amount electronically. The **EI Hub Help Desk’s** phone number is **877-522-1065**.
 - Christal Precht is the liaison for information correction in Cluster H. Her email is cprecht@thrive-alliance.org
 - Access to visit notes and service coordinator case notes will be coming soon.
- **New Business**
 - **COVID-19 Update** – We will continue to be virtual with all of our services for now. We will reevaluate the end of March. Service Coordinators are asked to use their own judgement to use masks or other PPE materials.
 - **Resilience Project**- We are gathering information about how to help families build resilience in this age we are living in. Some examples we are looking for are:
 - children/family mental health centers
 - social workers
 - psychologists
 - psychiatrists
 - family advocacy groups
 - community organizations
 - hospitals and health cares
 - systems of care
 - school programs
 - preschool/child care programs
 - church programs
 - libraries
 - any online supports/programs resources
 - etc.
 - Meeting attendees were asked to send any information like mentioned above or other resources in their area to Sue Ann Nuñez, LPCC Coordinator, snunez@thrive-alliance.org. This information will be compiled and sent to Steve Viehweg, sviehweg@iu.edu. Sue Ann will send out a reminder email.

Announcements and Updates

- **Federal Appropriations for Early Childhood** – Legislative information handouts are available. Anne Dolan requested that attendees make an informed decision then let your representatives know your thoughts. This legislative documentation includes Part C of IDEA, child care and head start topics in it.
- **FUSE Expo** - March 26 in Greenfield, IN
- **Loaner Laptops** - First Steps South East has laptops available to check out for families to meet with their First Steps service coordinator, evaluation team or therapists. WIFI will need to be provided by the family or they may come to Anderson Office, Library, etc.
- **Jay County DCS** has a new LOD, Justin Littman. Amanda Hartman is no longer there.
- Next LPCC Meeting – May 4, 2022 at 9 am

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

Attendance:

Ballard	Janet	Early Childhood Center at IU
Clott	Anita	Jay County Preschool Coordinator
Collins	Debbie	LPCC President; Infancy Onward Consultant
Dolan	Anne	First Steps SPOE office
Duckworth	Betsy	Preschool Specialist, Muncie Community Schools
Everling	Nicole	First Steps South East
Gilbert	Lindsay	Madison Co. LEA
Haisley	Sarah	Ivy Tech Community College-Muncie/Henry Co.
Haymond	Becky	First Steps South East SPOE office
Henson	Carrie	SC Madison County, First Steps South East
Jarrell	Julianne	Hopewell Center INC.
Kovacs	Patty	NCA Therapy
Littman	Justin	Future LOD for Jay DCS
Merkel	Scott	Preschool Assessment Coordinator, Anderson Community Schools
Modesitt	Missy	Muncie BY5
Nuñez	Sue Ann	LPCC Coordinator, Cluster H, First Steps South East
Shaffer	Susan	Education Disabilities Specialist, TRC Anderson
Wilson	Andrea	LOD for Blackford County DCS