

**First Steps of North Central Indiana (Cluster C)
LPCC Meeting Minutes
2101 Fillmore, Fort Wayne, IN
September 9, 2010
8:30a.m.**

Facilitated by: Katie Blosser

Council Members Present: Teri Conrad, Donna Driscoll, Nancy Moore, Stacey Dickerson, Joy Koch, Valerie Potchka, Tim St. Peters

Other Attendees: Katie Blosser, Angie Jarvis, Elaine Armstrong, Kim James

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes: Approved by Donna Driscoll, 2nd motion by Nancy Moore

Staff Updates

- Kim James reported on staff updates and stated that Amanda Merchant will be moving and leaving First Steps. Her caseload will be dispersed amongst all service coordinators.
- There will be a new service coordinator starting soon. Danelle Aspinwall who will be serving Huntington County and taking over for Becky Pulling who will be serving Allen Co.
- Brittini Tubbs is no longer with First Steps and Cathy Stine has assumed her caseload.
- Katie Blosser will be moving and leaving First Steps at the end of September.
- Kim stated that providers should email her if they are unsure who the service coordinator is at this time and she will forward on information as well as let providers know who is covering the case.

State Updates

- Angie reported on state updates and stated that recently First Steps supervisors have met with the state to discuss changes that will be taking place. There will be more will be shared as the state releases more information.
- Beginning October 1, 2010, the state will no longer pay for newborn hearing screening follow-ups. Families will be referred to their primary care physicians to set-up a check with audiologist. There were many newborns that failed due to outside errors and were checked okay after second screening. If newborn does fail 2nd screening when getting tested outside of First Steps, a referral can still be made to the program and First Steps will work with family.
- The SPOE and LPCC contracts are being reduced significantly. Percentages are not determined yet and will be released when the state finalizes decisions.
- The state asked SPOEs to look at contracts to see where costs could be cut. Reduction will take place effective October 1st, 2010. At this time, SPOE and LPCC contracts will be combined. The LPCC budget will be reduced significantly and only carry out the minimum requirements for now. Marketing and paper brochures are to be put on hold for now.
- Some of the changes being considered are changing to quarterly meetings for LPCC and only having sub-committees that ties in with federal requirements.
- There is a deficit of \$16.5 million, which the state is looking to make up half of this year and all of it next year.
- Last year the First Steps program cost \$70 million.

Budget Report

- Angie reported on the budget information in state updates. More budget information will be shared at the next meeting.

SPOE Data Reports

- Angie distributed SPOE Data Reports and went through them with the council including monthly summaries of referral, intake, and IFSP.

Election of Officers

- Angie asked for volunteers or nominations for chairperson of the LPCC. Donna Driscoll nominated Nancy Moore as chairperson. There was a request to clarify responsibilities. The council agreed responsibilities of chairperson would be to communicate with a staff member of First Steps about the meetings and facilitate meetings. Vice-chairperson will be chosen as well who will fill in when chairperson is absent. Due to the uncertainty of the changes and potential impact to the LPCC, a First Steps staff person will continue to facilitate the meetings until further information is known.

LPCC Coordinator Update

- Katie Blosser reported on community outreach activities. She stated she has been working closely with the NICUs of hospitals to set up procedures on how referrals are made and how to make better connections with parents. This will consist of bi-weekly visits to speak with parents who have children in the NICU.
- Angie Jarvis reported on the concern/complaint log stating there have only been a few concerns, which were taken care of internally by disciplinary procedures, and retraining.
- Katie reported on the Transition Committee. She stated that MOAs have gone out and are waiting to be signed and sent back. Chairperson was chosen. Candy Lisinicchia who is the LEA for Huntington County. Next Transition Committee meeting is September 13th at 9:00a.m.
- Katie reported on provider recruitment and stated there has been an increase of Developmental Therapists, possibly due to school lay-offs. This was discussed and was determined that it needs to be known to interested DT's that there are many who have openings on their caseloads at this time.

Notes

- Nancy Moore asked about the status of Achieva Resources, the fiscal agent for Cluster H who holds 7 counties. On November 1st, AWS will assume the majority of Achieva Resources services including the Cluster H SPOE. Achieva will still be in existence, but will go back to a "grassroots" model focusing more on the foundation and advocacy for people with disabilities.