

RICC Meeting Minutes

August 30th, 2010

There were 11 members in attendance: Carol Brakel, Ramona Gunderson, Jodi Hebl, Joan Karpenko, Dora Elberts, Cindy Williams, Sherri Nelson, Marilyn Arneson, Judy Schill, Danielle Kovarik, Laurie Santangelo

The meeting started with Marilyn suggesting we find a new Healthy Families representative as Shannon has moved to the Early Head Start Program. We decided to invite Early Head Start to sit on our council. A letter will be sent by Jodi Hebl, RICC Coordinator with assistance from Carol Brakel and Ramona Gunderson. It was also discussed the need for more parents on the board and the need for a pediatrician. Jodi will also send invitations to Pediatricians and families with assistance. It was also suggested to ask other family support agencies to join, programs mentioned where Anne Carlson and Development Homes, letters will be sent to these agencies also.

A brief discussion was held on the frequency of the meetings and the possibility of only 2 times per year, members agreed they like to attend 4 times, and hope to keep it as is. Members like being able to meet face to face and share reports and training.

We did introductions, a new member was present. Cindy Williams from the School for the Blind joined us for the first time. She has attended meetings in Devils Lake in the past. Welcome!!!

Dora Elbert, school representative, stated that she appreciates the willingness of the Infant Development staff to follow children, in the summer months, after they turn 3 and transition to PSN in the summer. ID staff is paid through a separate contract for these hours. Dora is glad there is not a gap in services for these children.

Carol Brakel briefly mentioned the upcoming Baby Crossroads Conference, it will be held in Bismarck on September 28th-30th. Part of the agenda will be the new billing and Therap systems coming November 1st. Carol explained the current Assist system and that the new Therap system will be a web based, making it easier for different entities can access the information more efficiently. The system will have access out of the office also, and can be used in family homes. Training for the Therap system will be in September and October, it should be "live" on November 1st, 2010.

Marilynn commented on the Autism Waiver and that it was scheduled to be approved on July 1st. This waiver will have 30 slots state wide for children birth to five. It will be determined at the child's 4-9 meeting whether or not the child will be eligible for continued services. It was asked how eligibility will be determined; Carol said there will be a task force that will evaluate children. The task force will consist of a Physician, PT, OT, psychologist and more. The team will have had to have experience with children who have autism. It was also mentioned that the child will qualify for ID services until the age of 5. Members showed concern of how the team would be able to evaluate the all the children in North Dakota who would apply for this waiver. Ramona stated that she has heard the possibility of some consultations being done over the phone.

There was a short discussion on the Medically Fragile Waiver and the "point system" being reduced. As of now there are only 2 children on the waiver. Also mentioned was the new Hospice Waiver, Joan, from Pathfinders and Family voices, said that Family Voices will be holding a topical call this evening on that waiver. Professionals and parents are welcome to join in on that call, typical after the call takes place Family Voices posts the call on their website for you to listen. Members requested having Cathy from the medicaid office come and speak on both waivers, whether it be polycom or in person.

We then discussed upcoming training and events:

Joan Karpenko- 504 training in Fargo on September 23rd and in Bismarck on September 23rd

Dora Elbert- Not sure on the month stated but dates are 21st and 22nd the state is holding "train the trainer" training on "how to deal with behaviors".

Laurie Santangelo- October 14th Valley Dental Health Clinic will be holding a "Thank You Open house

October 15th Jody Helm from Bismarck will be holding a polycom training on mental health tools available at public health.

At this time we did Agency updates

Ramona updated that the merge with the Anne Carlson Center is going pretty well, there are a few kinks being worked out, but is to be expected with any change. She also stated that many kids transitioned out of the program in June and July, but the referrals are coming in now just as fast. Ramona also informed members of a new PT on staff at ID, Greg Paintner. Greg had done a short internship through UND last previously and was very taken by the program. She also updated on the 2nd group of ID staff attending the Julianne Woods training and that staff are doing great. There is upcoming training for ID in Bismarck with Julianne September 8th-10th.

Carol Brakel spoke on behalf of Carol Johnson to update on Right Track. The referrals are quit high with 125-130 screens per month. Carol Brakel also stated that she would like to meet with hospital personal to make sure that babies are getting referred.

A short conversation was held about the Williston area not having an ID program; Ramona stated that they may have found a provider starting September 1st.

Carol Brakel said that the most recent waiver has given her staff the biggest changes; DDPM's are considered more of an agency than a provider. We cannot provide any services when the child is hospitalized, including out of state, cannot pay for meals or lodging either. There are other state dollars that can be accessed for families.

Marilynn Arneson, DDPM, mentioned that Sanford Health in Sioux Falls said there are no hotels willing to accept medical assistance for lodging anymore and is working with area business to remedy that. Other members also spoke about the lack of lodging in St. Paul, there is only one hotel that will accept MA and it is a bad area of town.

Cynthia Williams updated the group on the School for the Blind; she has been taking in referrals. She also mentioned an upcoming program for families who are being followed by ND School for the Blind, the program covers ages 3 and up. It will be held May 11th-12th, parents can come with the child, for the most part the person in the program will stay in there "dorm" facility over night parents stay in a local hotel. For the younger children parents can stay on sight or take child to hotel with them. It is new as of this year to accept children under 1st grade for this 2 day program. It is also free to North Dakota residence. For more information you can go to nd.visionservices.com the Out Reach newsletter will also have more information on it.

Sherri updated that the Dual Sensory Program had 6 new referrals this spring and that over the entire name change has helped with referrals. The program now has 44 children with combined vision and hearing impairments.

Danielle, form Public Health, stated that the flu shot and the h1n1 will be combined this year, there will be some clinics held in the high schools only.

Laurie, from Public Health, said that Healthy Steps screening is about an hour and is very comprehensive and continue to do a lot of the screenings on children.

Joan gave us all a quick update with Pathfinders and that they are redoing their website and will be offering more training for families one topic is How to advocate for your child. They will also be giving more information about their lending library.

Joan also mentioned that Family Voices just held their Leadership training in Edgely they had 20 families join them. She also said that Donene had the pleasure of joining a family in Washington DC at a presidential conference the topic was insurance caps on benefits.