

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 13, 2007

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. in Room M112 at Northcentral Technical College in Medford. Members present included Doreen Fierke, Donna Kalmon, Julie Nofsinger, and Sally Toepfer. Members absent included Lori Willner, Joseph Greget, Sheri Johnson, Michelle Armbrust, Anne Long, and Kim Lewandowski. Others in attendance included Breanna Nofsinger.

A motion was made by Donna Kalmon to dispense with the reading of the September 13, 2007 minutes and approve them as printed. Doreen Fierke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Toepfer shared the 2007 Family Support Program update. Seventeen children have been served so far this year. To date, there are six children on the waiting list for Family Support services. The handout also itemized areas in which funding was utilized.

The 2007 Birth to Three Program update was then shared with the committee. Fourteen children are receiving Birth to Three services, one child is currently waiting for an IFSP, and four children are in the process of being evaluated for eligibility. The financial update was bleak as the expenditures for therapy services are very high with third party revenues very low. Taylor County received the written report regarding the Birth to Three Program review from the State which was very positive. Laura Holmes has been hired as the Early Interventionist/Support and Service Coordinator position and will start full time on December 27th.

All service areas listed in the Family Support Program manual were discussed with recommendations made by committee members to clarify and specify services and items to be approved for funding. Committee members agreed that Family Support should be considered funding of last resort but remain flexible to families. Ms. Toepfer will summarize the recommendations made and share these for further discussion at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

The next Family Support Program Committee meeting will be scheduled in February or March dependent on when the 2008 program plan update is due. That information has not been received from the State. Further discussions regarding service descriptions and priority funding will be part of the agenda.

Donna Kalmon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Doreen Fierke. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Doreen Fierke, Acting Secretary

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 13, 2007

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. in the Board Room at the Taylor County Human Services Department by Sally Toepfer, Acting Chairperson. Members present included Lori Willner, Joseph Greget, Doreen Fierke, Sheri Johnson, Michelle Armbrust, and Sally Toepfer. Members absent included Julie Nofsinger, Tina Dahl, and Kim Lewandowski. Michelle Bitzer has resigned from her position as she has moved out of the area. Others in attendance were Kelley Isola, Donna Kalmon, and the presenters Jill Nelson and Julia Stavran.

A motion was made by Michelle Armbrust to dispense with the reading of the May 17, 2007 minutes and approve them as printed. Sheri Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Julia Stavran and Jill Nelson, staff with the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, gave a presentation regarding their agency and the programs that they provide. They shared information about the medical home concept, the Northern Regional CYSHCN Center services, and explored ways to improve quality of services to children in Taylor County by the application of the medical home concept. Various information and handouts were distributed and discussion followed. After the presentation, Julia, Jill, Kelley, and Donna left the meeting.

Ms. Toepfer proceeded with the 2007 Family Support Program update. Seventeen children are being served so far this year. To date, there are six children on the waiting list for Family Support services. The handout also itemized areas in which funding was utilized.

The 2007 Birth to Three Program update was then share with the committee. Fifteen children are receiving Birth to Three services and one child is currently being evaluated for eligibility. Ms. Toepfer reported that the State completed their Birth to Three Program review on Friday, September 7th. The State staff will be sending out a report of how Taylor County did in the review. Preliminary verbal feedback was positive.

Child care services were then discussed. No guidelines or criteria for child care providers that are reimbursed through the Family Support Program are offered in the program manual. Ms. Toepfer asked if the committee members felt that some general guidelines should be developed as some case managers have questioned this area. The committee recommended that Ms. Toepfer compile a few different examples of guidelines and present them to the committee for consideration at the next meeting.

The next Family Support Program Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 12:00 noon at the U.S.D.A. Building U.W.-Extension, Room #2. The Family Support Program Plan will be reviewed at this meeting. Ms. Toepfer will attempt to recruit two new committee members as there are currently two vacancies.

Michelle Armbrust made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Doreen Fierke. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Lori Willner, Secretary

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 17, 2007

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Taylor County Human Services Department by Julie Nofsinger, Chairperson. Members present included Julie Nofsinger, Lori Willner, Kim Lewandowski, Sally Toepfer, Michelle Bizer, Sheri Johnson, Doreen Fierke, and Michelle Armbrust. Members absent included Tina Dahl and Joseph Greget.

A motion was made by Doreen Fierke to dispense with the reading of the February 22, 2007 minutes and approve them as printed. Michelle Bizer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Stephanie Baublitz, consultant with Mid-States Independent Living Consultants (MILC), began the meeting with a presentation of services offered through MILC. MILC is a publicly supported, nonprofit agency serving people with disabilities of all ages. The services are consumer directed working together with staff to meet various goals. They have offices in Stevens Point and Rhinelander and serve eleven counties, one of which is Taylor. The services included are advocacy, independent living skills training, peer support, employment services, assistive technology, benefits counseling, architectural accessibility services, community education/presentation services, recreation opportunities, housing/home purchase information, and personal assistant services. Information was also shared regarding WisLoan, Telework and TEP. Stephanie also discussed their loan closet and brought various items that were available through this program. After the presentation, Stephanie left the meeting.

Ms. Toepfer proceeded with the 2007 Family Support Program update. Seventeen children are being served so far this year. To date, there are eight children on the waiting list for Family Support services; however, two children will be assessed in the near future with program involvement to follow. The handout also itemized areas in which funding was utilized.

The 2007 Birth to Three Program Update was then shared with the committee. Eleven children are receiving Birth to Three services and six children are currently being evaluated for eligibility. The Birth to Three Program participated in Gilman, Rib Lake, and Medford Child Development Days, which went well. Four referrals were received from the Medford Child Development Days.

Due to time constraints, the discussion on Child Care will be postponed to the next meeting.

Under Other Business: Toepfer shared a section of the governor's budget proposal that discussed Family Support. It is being suggested that DHFS will establish criteria for priority of services that take into account urgency of need, statewide consistency, developmental impact on eligible children, and other factors such as child and family risk to ensure that available funds are used consistently and effectively. It also included that for the Birth to Three Program the state will allow carryover of Birth to Three funds.

The next Family Support Program Committee meeting will be scheduled for September 13, 2007 at 12:00 noon in the Board Room of Taylor County Human Services Department. Ms. Toepfer has contacted Jill Nelson of the CYSHCN to talk about their resources as well as the medical home concept.

Doreen Fierke made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Michelle Bizer. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Lori Willner, Secretary

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 22, 2007

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Taylor County Human Services Department by Julie Nofsinger, Chairperson. Members present included Julie Nofsinger, Lori Willner, Kim Lewandowski, Sally Toepfer, Doreen Fierke, and Joseph Greget. Members absent included Tina Dahl, Michele Armbrust, Michelle Bizer, and Sheri Johnson. Robin Mathea, Kelley Isola, and Diane Zuleger were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Doreen Fierke to dispense with the reading of the December 5, 2006 minutes and approve them as printed. Joe Greget seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Robin Mathea, Director of Parent to Parent of Wisconsin, began the meeting with a presentation of her program. Parent to Parent of Wisconsin is a statewide parent matching program funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Program of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Her office is located in Rhinelander, Wisconsin; however, the program serves the entire state. Parent to parent support provides emotional and informational support to parents of children who have special needs through carefully matching in a one-to-one relationship a trained support parent to a newly referred parent. Because the support parent has shared the experience of disability in the family, the support parent is often able to provide a unique form of support that only can come from another parent who has "been there." The program includes elements of matching, training, follow up, and evaluation. Robin went on to explain the importance of parent to parent support as well as how to make referrals and contact information. Robin shared program brochures as well as other information with the committee. After the presentation, Robin, Diane, and Kelley left the meeting.

Ms. Toepfer then went on with the 2006 Family Support Program Summary. Seventeen children were served in 2006 with the total service budget expended for services. The handout itemized the areas in which the funding was utilized. To date, there are seven children on the waiting list for Family Support services.

The 2006 Birth to Three Program Summary was then shared with the committee. Forty children were referred to the Birth to Three Program in 2006. Thirty-three children received Birth to Three services throughout the year. Birth to Three Program expenditures were high at \$39,415.16 with program revenue, which included insurance payments for therapy services, being \$4,788.86 and \$1,835.00 from parental cost share.

The 2007 Family Support Program Annual Plan Update was then discussed with the committee. Ms. Toepfer shared the information that was required by the State and went through the various items in the Plan Update that the committee needed to decide on for program implementation. The committee decided to keep the program the same as identified in the 2006 Family Support Program Plan. Ms. Toepfer expects to serve seventeen families in 2007.

Doreen Fiereke made a motion to approve the 2007 Family Support Program Plan Update as completed by Ms. Toepfer. Julie Nofsinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The committee then discussed the selection and approval of the committee chairperson and secretary. Julie Nofsinger, chairperson, and Lori Willner, secretary, volunteered to remain in their positions for 2007. All members agreed and approved the ongoing positions.

Other Business: Ms. Toepfer shared a brochure on the Circles of Life Workshop and encouraged members to contact her if they are interested in attending.

The next Family Support Program Committee meeting will be scheduled for May 17, 2007 at 12:00 noon in the Board Room of Taylor County Human Services Department. Ms. Toepfer will attempt to have a presenter to discuss either the lending library offered through Mid-States Independent Living Center or the medical home concept, a resource through CYSHCN.

Doreen Fierke made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joseph Greget. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Lori Willner, Secretary