

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 15, 2008

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. in the U.W.Extension, Room #2 in the U.S.D.A. building in Medford. Members present included Julie Nofsinger, Donna Kalmon, Sally Toepfer, Joseph Greget, Michele Armbrust, and Kim Lewandowski. Members absent included Sheri Johnson, Anne Brost, Doreen Fierke, and Lori Willner.

A motion was made by Michele Armbrust to dispense with the reading of the September 8, 2008 minutes and approve them as printed. Kim Lewandowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Thornton, director of Black River Industries, presented information to the committee regarding programs and services available through Black River Industries. His presentation included descriptions of sheltered employment or prevocational services, supported employment, day services, supported apartment services, transportation, food services, and representative payee services. Discussion followed.

The Family Support budget update was then distributed amongst committee members. It outlined various expenditures of allowable services. Fifteen children are being served in 2008 with three children on the wait list. The \$1,000.00 reserved for emergency was not utilized.

The Birth to Three Program update was then discussed. Thirteen children are currently in the program receiving services. Five children are in the evaluation process for eligibility, with two additional referrals just received. One child is waiting for the IFSP process to plan for services. Expenditures for these services remain high; however, the agency has been receiving reimbursement through third party collections, primarily Medical Assistance. Ms. Toepfer updated the committee with results from the Birth to Three Developmental Day Screening that was held on November 11, 2008 at Sand Box Day Care Center. Thirty-six children and their families attended. Five children were referred to the Birth to Three Program for further evaluation. Overall, the screening was well received and the screening will be offered again next year in October.

There was no other business.

The next Family Support Program Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2009 at 12:00 noon. Ms. Toepfer will try to arrange for the meeting to be held at the same location.

A motion was made by Michele Armbrust to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Donna Kalmon. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer, Acting Secretary for Lori Willner, Secretary

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 8, 2008

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. in the U.W. Extension, Room #2 in the U.S.D.A. Building in Medford. Members present included Julie Nofsinger, Donna Kalmon, Sally Toepfer, Lori Willner, Joseph Greget, Michele Armbrust, and Doreen Fierke. Members absent included Sheri Johnson, Anne Brost, and Kim Lewandowski.

A motion was made by Michele Armbrust to dispense with the reading of the April 28, 2008 minutes and approve them as printed. Donna Kalmon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Toepfer shared two policies that had been sent to the State with tentative approval by the committee. These were approved by the State. After reviewing the policies, the committee unanimously approved the Taylor County Family Support Program Wait List Policy and the Taylor County Family Support Program Specific Groups to Receive Priority.

The Family Support Program budget update was then distributed amongst committee members. It outlined various expenditures of allowable services. Fifteen children are being served in 2008 with four children on the waiting list. The \$1,000 reserved for emergencies have not been utilized thus far.

The Birth to Three Program update was then discussed. Eleven children are currently in the program receiving services and two children are being evaluated for eligibility. There has not been any change in the contracted providers for therapy services. Expenditures for these services remain high; however, the agency has been receiving reimbursement through third party collections (primarily Medical Assistance). Ms. Toepfer shared that the 2009 Birth to Three Program allocation will be reduced by approximately \$1,000. The 2006 determination status notification received by the State was distributed. This determination is based on 14 federally defined indicators for Part C of IDEA. Taylor County has been identified as meets requirements. Partial analysis for federal indicators compliance of more recent data collected from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 also showed good results with compliance at 100%. Taylor County Birth to Three received a certificate of appreciation from Wisconsin Department of Health Services for ongoing commitment to quality services for young children and their families.

Ms. Toepfer then presented information on guardianship including who needs a guardian, how is guardianship established, the rights of wards, and the responsibilities of guardians. Discussion followed.

There was no other business.

The next Family Support Program Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 15, 2008 at 12:00 noon. Ms. Toepfer will try to arrange for the meeting to be held at the same location.

A motion was made by Donna Kalmon to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Michele Armbrust. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Lori Willner, Secretary

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2008

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. in U.W. Extension Room #2 in the U.S.D.A. Building in Medford. Members present included Donna Kalmon, Sally Toepfer, Lori Willner, Joseph Greget, Michele Armbrust, Anne Long, Kim Lewandowski, and Doreen Fierke. Members absent included Julie Nofsinger and Sheri Johnson. Others in attendance included Diane Messman, Diane Zuleger, Coral Branstiter, and Laura Holmes.

A motion was made by Doreen Fierke to dispense with the reading of the February 5, 2008 minutes and approve them as printed. Anne Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mary Jo Johnson, manager of outreach and fund development, and Heidi Elgersmen, manager of family services from Opportunity of Northcentral WI, Inc., were present to share information about their organization. Mary Jo gave an overview of the services that are provided, including daycare services, childcare, respite, transportation services, and supportive living. Heidi Elgersmen gave more specific information on respite care services available to children, which included Tyler's Home, in-home respite, and respite activity day. The majority of services that Opportunity has available are provided in Marathon, Wood, and Portage Counties. They may be interested in expanding to Taylor County. Taylor County consumers can access the children's respite in Wausau if interested. Opportunities may also be able to help out with some in-home respite for Taylor County residents depending upon staff availability. After discussion, Mary Jo and Heidi as well Diane Messman, Diane Zuleger, Coral Branstiter, and Laura Holmes left the meeting.

The Family Support Program budget update was then distributed amongst the committee members. It outlined various expenditures of allowable services. Fifteen children are being served so far in 2008 with six children on the waiting list. The committee discussed some of the program changes that were implemented in the 2008 program plan. Ms. Toepfer indicated that some families have expressed concern about the age limit restrictions that were placed on providers for child care and attendant care. The case managers were able to assist families in accessing other resources.

The Birth to Three Program update was then discussed. Twelve children are currently in the program receiving services, five children are being evaluated for eligibility, and three children are waiting for the Individual Family Service Plan development. There has not been any change in contracted providers for therapy services. Expenditures for these services remain high; however, the agency has been receiving reimbursement through third party collections.

Under Other Business, Ms. Toepfer discussed the Children's Long Term Support Waiver. The State is requiring that any children currently served under the CIP-1 Waiver be transferred to the CLTS Waivers by the end of the year. Each county received three fully funded slots for each of the target groups (developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and severe emotional disturbances). Staff are currently working to submit for service packets for State approval and will also be working on transferring the CIP-1 children to the CLTS Waivers in the near future. Information obtained from recent conferences was also shared with committee members.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 8th at 12:00 noon. Ms. Toepfer will try to arrange for the meeting to be held in the same location. The committee recommended that guardianship to be the topic for this upcoming meeting.

A motion was made by Donna Kalmon to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Michele Armbrust. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Lori Willner, Secretary

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 5, 2008

The Family Support Program Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. in U.W. Extension Room #2 in the USDA Building in Medford. Members present included Donna Kalmon, Julie Nofsinger, Sally Toepfer, Lori Willner, Joseph Greget, Michele Armbrust, Anne Long, and Kim Lewandowski. Members absent included Doreen Fierke and Sheri Johnson.

A motion was made by Kim Lewandowski to dispense with the reading of the September 13, 2007 and December 17, 2007 minutes and approve them as printed. Michele Armbrust seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Toepfer shared the 2007 Family Support Program Summary. Seventeen children have been served in 2007 with six children on the waiting list for Family Support services. The handout itemized areas in which funding was utilized. The total of \$18,546.00 was expended for services.

The 2007 Birth to Three Program Update was then shared with the committee. Fourteen children are receiving Birth to Three services and five children are in the process of being evaluated for eligibility. The financial update remained bleak as the expenditures for Birth to Three Services are high with third party revenues being low.

The committee then discussed statutory changes that affect the Family Support Program. One significant change is that counties can no longer serve families on a first come, first serve basis. Counties need to develop a policy that would ensure that all families currently receiving Family Support services and those on the wait list would have their needs assessed on an annual basis. Advisory committees would need to determine what and how families should be prioritized as part of the annual Family Support Plan. A draft of specific groups to receive priority was reviewed, discussed, and then approved by the committee.

The other change affecting Family Support is that the State does not want "enhancement" services to be funded. Ms. Toepfer shared guidelines for specific funding request which was a draft handout that more clearly defined what can be funded under each service category. The committee discussed the guidelines and a few changes were suggested that Ms. Toepfer agreed to make.

The 2008 Family Support Program Plan was then reviewed by the committee as well as the data information that had already been submitted as required. Joe Greget made a motion to approve the 2008 Family Support Plan as presented. Anne Long seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Other Business: Information regarding several upcoming training opportunities was shared with the committee.

Tentative meeting dates and times were scheduled and are as follows: Monday, April 28; September 8; and December 15 from noon to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Toepfer will try to reserve U.W. Extension Room #2 for these meetings. Suggested topics for future meetings included Tyler's Home, transition services, guardianship, and adult services.

Michele Armbrust made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Donna Kalmon. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Toepfer for Lori Willner, Secretary