

ECP Meeting
Monday February 20, 2017
Minutes

United Way of Franklin County Office

In attendance: Gladys Leon, Lori Beam, Karen Wert, Marty Dombrowski, Stacey McCole

Staff: Amy Hicks, Cheri Kearney, Vanessa Bigler, Channa Dorvilias

Topic: Behavioral Health and Cognitive Development

Speaker: Karen Wert from Laurel Life

Meeting began at 11am

Amy Hicks: discussed Early Childhood Expo

- Encouraged everyone to spread the word about the event on Saturday, April 22nd
- Volvo is the main sponsor, our contact Andy Williford has a high interest in early childhood
- Breakfast for the event will be served at 8am for participants and providers through Orchards Acosta Academy
- Doors open at 9am.
- Chambersburg Police will be there for a meet and greet
- Cumberland Valley Music School will be bringing instruments for an "instrument petting zoo"
- Childcare providers can speak with Keystone Stars about running a daycare/ licensing/ operations, etc

Encouraged inviting other groups to be involved and noted we still have slots available for learning activities at the expo

Expo planning Meeting: March 10th at 10am.

Kindergarten readiness flier- worked on at the meeting on March 6th at 10am.

Next ECP meeting: March 20th with a topic of Infectious Diseases

Karen Wert: Laurel Life

Karen discussed behavioral challenges and tools we can utilize.

- Most behavioral changes are classified as aggression or disruption
- Social isolation also has impact on social and emotional development
Gladys mentioned that she sees lack of family support resulting in hitting, spitting, fighting and profanity
- First step is defining the problem
- Second step is discovering what is causing the problem
- Best to use a Functional Behavioral Assessment- Can be assessed in schools by a behavioral specialist

Behavior serves to:

- 1) Get attention
- 2) Get access to a tangible object/want
- 3) To escape attention
- 4) To escape a task
- 5) Sensory purposes (can occur with both seeking and avoiding attention)

The method Karen described is to develop ways to meet function with positive behavior. Rewarding positive behavior and teaching children to ask for help when needed. Pay less attention to bad behavior, more attention on positive behavior and rewarding good behavior.

If the need is greater than basic needs, behavioral health services can be utilized.

Under the age of seven, PCIT (Parent Child Interactive Therapy)

- Works with parent and child together
- Therapist works with parents to break patterns of negative interaction

Children with Autism are now covered for more services within PA due to changes with insurance companies.

- Functional and behavioral assessments can be done and services rendered to those in need

BHRS (Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services)

- Services come into the home to serve the child in need

Amy asked how parents connect with their office for services.

Karen explained most call the office, but word of mouth amongst parents is the most common way information is shared.

- The child must have a mental health diagnosis to receive services
- However, for outpatient counseling, a diagnosis is not needed
- In PA, if a child has a mental health diagnosis, they are eligible for MA through a “**loophole**” in the requirements. **It is not income based in this scenario.**

Challenge: Letting families know to say they are calling about the “**loophole**” for services. Otherwise, they may be dismissed as not qualifying if they make more than state guidelines for medical assistance.

- Karen suggested that when calling they mention “**loophole**” and the offices will know what they are calling for
- County case management is done by Sam, she helps many families with this

Applied Behavioral Analysis:

- Behavioral health for kids that are struggling, but not being placed into a program or foster care
- Family based services (more intensive)- Entire team works with the family up to 10 hours a week

Children with trauma: it impacts cognitive, emotional and social development

Karen Wert has a speaker that can help with training providers, his name is Paul Moncha.

Services:

- Outpatient services are the most basic level of services. Most insurance companies want clients to start there, and then if there is a proven need for additional level of care, then the client is moved into a higher level of service.
- Parents must sign off on services, and most are referred by word of mouth. Other referrals come from schools, family doctors, specialty doctors, and county case management.

Marty Dombrowski-

Special Kids Network- PA Elks Major Projects Inc.

- Two tiered system
- Elks Service Group provides a nurse for every county (Jamie Shaeffer is for Franklin County)
- Toll Free number- can assist families at no charge
- Three coordinators for all of PA, based in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh
- Main Phone number is 1-800-986-4550

Meeting concluded at 11am

Next meeting is:

Monday March 20th

11am

Topic: Infectious Diseases