Families First Partnership Quarterly Collaborative Meeting

December 5, 2023, 1:00-3:00

MPCC #202, North Platte, NE

1. Munro-Meyer Report Review

Review of annual report. Information collected through surveys by families assisted. Qualtrics survey with info to Munro-Meyer.

Caroline reviewed statistics.

1 central navigator

12 staff members through agencies provide coaching

Central Navigation – 2021 was year with highest number served, fewer in 2023—see report

Gender – increase in males served increased in 2023

Support services - $106, 609 in 2023, with 352 requests for an average of $302.87 per person/family served

86% of respondents reported feeling respected and valued, 80% learned techniques to improve relationships with children

Older youth served 42

$12071 support to youth

Circle of Security Parenting report – 40 participants, 103 children

Stephanie Morse COSP program

A PIWI class was held after June 30, 3023 – sponsored by WRC

Plans of Safe Care – prevention strategy – through Straight Up Advocates

1. Updates

Straight Up Advocates – Cassandra – work with women in drug recovery, support, lived experiences, connect with resources and support. Recent Recovery Walk, with approx. 30 participants

Meet Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00 at F1P office. Meals provided, no preregistration required.

Disabilities Resources – Tammy from Bethel church. At May quarterly meeting, need discussed, and group put together. Families with disabilities overwhelmed, networking needed of agencies working with those with disabilities. Need for partnership. Munro-Meyer has parent coordinator in other locations, but not in NP. Need for service in NP directed to Munro-Meyer. What are greatest needs? Communication between agencies and organizations and parents. A barrier for communication – information can be overwhelming, families with special needs children overwhelmed. Trying to help families know about resources. Need for networking. Need for connections with school system. Possibly a day set aside for families with special needs children to meet with schools. Need – medical concerns—are medical personnel available to help mentor parents? Possibility of pairing up with other parents may be of benefit.

Nov. meeting – Rep from Parent Training Institute—a resource to contact to help families—education, rights, testing. Possibility of having someone from Institute come to NP to meet with parents, possibly in March or April. Other discussion – flow chart for parents? PTI may have flow chart to help parents. Group may work to help develop and work on flow chart. Need for medical needs, education, but especially assistance with relationships. Group would like to utilize a respite program for parents, possibly quarterly, with activities for children with disabilities and their siblings, give parents a respite break at no cost. EMBRACE ministry provided through Bethel church. Would like to direct families with resources, possibly look at assisting families with financial needs. Respite event information will be placed on Facebook, especially on Bethel church’s Facebook. A suggestion was made to connect to Paula with SW Respite.

Inmates Outreach – Shir Smith. Strengthening Purposes for Inmates. Many programs have been available for inmates, but group wants to connect those programs. 20 different resources are provided to Lincoln Co Detention, 20 (?) counties covered. Issue – helping needs after release. Biggest needs – housing, staffing.

Red Cross can help with emergency housing.

Need – homeless high school students. (NPHS has a program utilizing a liaison to work with homeless youth.)

Brain injury, trauma are often cause for those incarcerated. Drugs, alcohol abuse just coping mechanism.

For those release—need for a goal, need steps to prepare for success

Group meets in January.

Transportation task force. Kevin Taylor, with city, has been instrumental, also Chamber, Dept. of Transportation. At group’s last meeting – there’s a need to set goals, what should goals be? How can we improve current transportation? Need for Uber? Some groups provide transportation for their population. Need to look at public transportation. More buses could be provided with matching funds, possibilities of source of matching funds, Walmart DC, GPH, for example. What are biggest needs? How can we reach out to businesses for matching funds? Suggestion made by today’s meeting participant to contact Marvin Planning since they are working on city planning. Another possibility – Enterprise can provide a van for a business to provide transportation for employees.

Minority Needs – Needs for non-English speakers, difficulties accessing community resources. Need for health literacy class—WCDHD will provide this in Jan.-2nd Wed of each month. Trudy provided information about health literacy—health literacy for the provider—how to ensure people understand information about their health, using plain language rather than technical terms, good human communication, active listening, Teach Back, cultural sensitivity, awareness of cultural needs and norms, how to talk to people.

Agencies having resources to provide communication. HOPE may have devices available. Devices won’t and can’t replace human interpretation.

Resource – LMCA – Community advocates – Spanish lessons – date and time (?), conversational Spanish lessons. Eva reported that thus far not large response, lessons will start again in Jan.

Social determinants of health – poverty, environment, transportation—needs to be addressed

Communication – F1P working on service directory. Trying to get directory available as a phone app, but having some difficulties, working on other possibilities. Work groups on the above topics have helped communication with communication agencies.

1. F1P – new grant year and funding. Funding has dropped from $300,000 to $106,000. Will have to drop services to basically staff and office space. Direct financial assistance to families will be limited, referrals will be made instead.

Nebraska Rent Help.org available for rental assistance—ERA funds. Possible working in conjunction with Legal Aid for those facing evictions.

Suggestion made by meeting participant of possible AKSARBEN Foundation for possible funding. Funds available to non-government agencies.

Priorities – should F1P focus be on training, assistance to families?? Participants –need for networking. Caroline – central navigation and gathering partners to develop programming and assistance.

Concerns expressed – homelessness

Camden Grasmick – UNL Extension offering cooking classes for SNAP.

How do you connect, encourage people to attend classes.

Do we only offer matching assistance?

Should assistance be connected to workforce development?

How do we help people be accountable?

Child care – Val reporting few openings. Interest in future child care options, but still concerns for immediate needs. Some child care scholarship funds are available to working families with low income.

Next meeting Feb. 27, 2024