Families 1st Annual Stakeholders Meeting

8/22/23

11:30-1:30

Venue 304

Minutes by: Megan Dailey

1. Welcome & Meal

* Sponsoring parenting classes and uses resources in the community. Families 1st acts as a referral source rather than a service provider.

1. Review of activities, finances & current progress on priorities - Caroline Sabin

* Highlights for 22-23 - Sponsored 91 vaccinations for minority individuals, PIWI for 4 agencies, featured 38 agencies in Frontline videos. Plans of Safe Care Pilot with lived experience panel. Youth and Families Thrive training, Trails West CASA (11 counties) Photo Voice Outreach, upgraded First Link (70 agencies registered), QR Code posters with contact info to emergency and crisis lines and community resources, service array activity to identify gaps and needs
* Finances 22-23 - $256,000 total spent $108,922 went directly to families, $22,695 went to coaching, $5,759 to training and outreach
* Received $16,000 through ARPA Dollars for working families. Project Connect - 45 families attended, Medica Foundation for Latino Health Immunizations for minorities, Agape Giving - 6 local churches providing different items for basic living.
* First Link - huge bump after service array meeting - on track to have 3,000 to 4,000 unique visitors by the end of the year.
* Straight up Advocates - Lived experience group. Meet bi-monthly. Peer Support for those who are system involved
* Current Active Initiatives - Promotion of First Link, Transportation Task Force, Disability Resources Networking.
* Transportation Task Force - Kevin Taylor
  + Discussed getting people transport they need to get to and from school and work and how the bus system is used by the school district taking buses away from people trying to get to work. A lot of brick walls to find solutions to. Meeting 1pm next wednesday at Mid-Plains Community College available by zoom, enterprise van services. Also discussed business opportunities for people in the community to provide transportation
* Disability Resources & Networking
  + Met in July to get disability services back on track. Talked about connecting with Monroe Meyer to get a services coordinator locally. Caroline is having a meeting with them next Monday or tuesday. This person helps guide families to get their child the services they need. Focusing on networking with all agencies involved and transition period guidance. Getting set up with services that they will need long term. Application assistance for services.
* Communications - Caroline Sabin

1. Area Agency on Aging - Erin Arnesdorf, Torey Franzen, Amanda Barkmeier

* Resources for elderly. Federally, State and County funded. Cover 17 counties - Kansas to Thomas, Hooker, Grant, and then Keith to Dawson.
* Some in-home service for those age 60 and over. Care Management - provide grant amount to individuals 60 or older with a limitation for personal care, lifeline services. Family Caregiver Program - give grant amount to provide respite when the caregiver has to be out of the house for errands etc. Coordinator that helps sign up for Medicare and new prescription drug plans.
* Medicaid waiver program - more intensive in home assistance, DHHS funded, goal is to keep individuals in home longer as opposed to going to Nursing Homes. 65 or older and have to meet nursing facility level of care to be eligible. DHHS does screening then refers to Area Agency on Aging.
* Needs - lack of providers to provide care that they provide - in home and respite care. Transportation for clients that don't live within bus routes. Always looking for volunteers to help them sign up for prescription drug plans. Internet access for applications etc. Hard to provide any emergent services due to guidelines and regulations by the state and federal.

1. Minority Needs Survey Review and Reflections

* Diabetes, cancer, HBP and Covid as well as access to healthcare in general, cost of insurance and interpretation as well were the main concerns.
* Addie Dobbins LMCA - providing translating services and helping non-english speaking families navigate the legal system. Also helping with paperwork for immigration. Transportation and Housing are still big needs. Hosting community events for hispanic families in the area. Started communicating with Chamber of Commerce. Website is LMCA308.org
* HOPE Esperanza also helping organizations get devices for translation and hosting community events as well.
* Other languages in the community - school district anticipating increase in languages in the next 3 years. Migrant Education is also starting to see more South African language. West Central District Health is starting to get requests for Russian, Mandarin and Arabic. Requesting documents in plain language around 5th grade level education. Health Literacy Program - training to make sure information is culturally and age appropriate and health literate.
* Potential services for teaching ASL
* Goodwill using devices called Pocket Talk that are HIPPA compliant and seem to be working well. 100+ languages ($250 per unit).
* <https://www.pocketalk.com/>
* WCDH uses a Javasen Device for translation. Seems to be more accurate than Google Translate.
* WCDH Center for Rural Affairs provided a peel and stick decal with “Welcome” in several languages to indicatie willingness to provide information in needed languages.
* Any interest in creating a focus group for meeting the needs of Minorities?
  + Mindy, WCDH

1. Community Partner Updates on services and activities

* Housing - Connection maintained full capacity over the summer, working on funds to help with transition. New apartments at the mall and on West A St. Modular project going on by the cemetery. Builder has applied for building permits, projected in the next 2 years. Subdivision of 30 houses on West State Farm Road starts with 19 houses called Victory Village - apartments are going to have a portion of income based.
* Utilities Assistance - Community Action out of funding until October. Region II if they qualify. Families 1st is currently the only source of assistance.
* Salvation Army - food program is the main resource continuing to get several trucks weekly.. Running low on funds for other resources.
* Food - Backpack program through the school, mobile food pantry monthly, Catholic food Pantry - record month in July and it continues to increase by the month - 465 people last month and on track to beat that this month. Grace Ministries, HOPE Esperanza, Salvation Army
* Driver’s Ed - Kearney Safety Center - 18 or Older can do it online. $260-$340 depending on location for in person classes.
* Dental - families 1st had funding to pay for dental care but dentists won't take private pay if they are on medicaid. Still difficult to get dental treatment in the community.
* LGBTQ - working on fliers and decals to identify as allies and a safe place. Trunk or Treat with Bowling alley in October.
* Child care - DHHS is having a steady flow of people getting certified as in-home providers. Centers are limited based on the amount of staff they have. One attendee - Attending conference in Milwaukee for Early Childhood Development collaboration. C4K interviewing for new coordination next Wednesday.
* Mental Health - hospital has hired two new Psychiatrist - one is predominantly a child psychiatrist. New director at the Region - getting back into routine, need for more staff and therapists.
* Guardianship - Families 1st does help pay guardianship fees sometimes. Need guardians and payees in general in our community.
* Refugee Services - Berean had done outreach for Ukrainian refugees and HOPE Esperanza welcoming service in Cottonwood Square - hours to be determined.
* Veterans Services - Having issues with housing and being able to assist with deposits. Still trying to assist with food and transportation. Suicide awaremenes walk September 16 at Lincoln County Racetrack 10am-1pm. T-shirts available and accepting non-perishable food donations. The Department of Labor has an employment rep that comes bi-weekly.
* Labor - lots of job openings in the area, jobs that they are aware of are on their website. Lots of training for CDL. Lots of CNA and Med-Aide Courses. Still have funding through Title 1 to help with training. Interview prep, resume building, and help filling out applications.
* Coaching - $300 per individual through Families 1st partnered with Goodwill, Connection, WRC, Brain Injury Alliance, EDN. Budgeting, connection with other community resources,
* Addiction Services - rehab center listed as a need for the county, also attending conference for Opioid solutions, WCHD has an opioid program that ends this month, looking to apply for additional funding. Primary focus is on prevention and Narcan training. Can get Narcan at Westfield and USave free of charge. Each individual can get 4 boxes. Each box has two doses. Recent change for Narcan to be over the counter. Funding available for Rehab Center but struggling to find an agency willing to take on the oversight of it.
* Laundry Services - still a need but combined with a transportation need.
* Rooted and Relationships. Panhandle will come and brainstorm ways to approach.
* Presbyterian church is giving away sanitation kits.
* Continue to work on transportation

Next Families 1st Partnership Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting Tuesday Dec 5, 2023