

Families 1st partnership Quarterly Collaborative meeting

Tuesday December 5, 2023 | 1 pm

MPCC #202, 1101 Halligan Dr., North Platte, NE

**AGENDA**

1. Munroe-Meyer Report review
2. Updates
   * Transportation Task Force
   * Regional Disability Resources
   * Minority Needs
   * Straight Up Advocates (lived experience group)
   * Inmates Outreach
   * Communications
3. Families 1st-new grant year & funding
   * Set priorities
4. Next meeting: Tuesday February 27, 2024

**Introductions**

**Annual Report:**

**-Surveys go straight to Monroe Myer. We served 228 people here out of 48418 across the state. Of this, 94% are white, then Hispanic being the highest percentage. Those who request assistance are made up of 71% female and the rest male. The age of those served: 27-40 is the biggest age group requesting assistance. 1 central navigator, 12 coaching: EDN, PALS, home visiting program etc, can ask for assistance. Few agencies contracting: Homeless shelter, brain injury alliance. Community Action Partnership is reimbursed by FFP for their help. 456 served 2021 (height of COVID). 289 in 2022. Increase in the white population in 2022. In 2023, there were more males requesting assistance. Next year, would like to know about single parent homes. FUNDING: 2021: $132,000; 2022: $71,714 and 2023: $100,608. Bills are higher than normal; utilities and rent have gone up a lot.**

**51% only responded to the survey. Pre survey and post survey numbers aren’t matching up? Find out how we can get better feedback on the results. Try to find areas of need where the families don’t feel supported.**

**Older Youth: 44 served. 70% white. Youth who are current or past foster care, facing homelessness, juvenile court involved. About 60% qualify for public assistance (already receiving some type of benefits). Inflation is making things difficult. More Native American in this group. Males who applied is higher than it has been in the past. $12,000 for 38 youth. Amount per assistance is higher.**

**Circle of Security Parenting Class (COSP)- number of participants: 40, children: 103. Male 12 and female 28. Nebraska Children and Families receives all data because COSP is a NCF initiative. Flier for new 8 week class starting soon.**

**PIWI class (Parents interacting with infants) happened after June 30th so data will come soon. 6 parents in July/August.**

**Plans of safe care: Prevention- Straight up Advocates. Trying to get the word out on HHS initiative to connect mothers who are potentially using or could use while pregnant. Highest rate of infants removed at birth for drug related reasons in North Platte and Hastings.**

**Collaborative Successes and Challenges: Service Array- talk about concrete supports. All topics were discussed. Feedback was given. Set priorities including transportation, communication of resources, and child care.**

**Evaluations might change due to restructuring at Monroe Myer. Feedback is helpful.**

**UPDATES:**

**\*Cassandra Straight up advocates: Women who are dealing with the system. September there was a recovery walk. You can get through this without drugs and alcohol. Lived experience. struggles, achievements and resources are brought to the table to collaborate. Support group to be involved in the community. Just did the building a cardboard house for a community event. Looking for community activities. Close to 30 people at the recovery walk. Meeting tonight from 5-7 Tuesdays every two weeks but might be changing soon. Information will be sent out if people want to join. Meetings at 304 E. 6th (Families First). Nice to have a head count for meals but you don’t have to call or RSVP to meeting. Part of a panel presentation held last January. People from Washington DC were watching this presentation. HHS is now using this as a training video.**

**\*Disabilities Resources- Tammy- (disconnect through Covid; reconnecting communication since July- learning what everyone does) Bethel Church: Disabilities outreach-EMBRACE- respite for families with disabilities. Ministering to families with disabilities, finding they are overwhelmed and/or do not know where to go. Networking need for agencies who work with people with disabilities. Talked about Monroe Myer at a meeting. Parent resource coordinator-2 in Kearney 1 in Scottsbluff but not one for North Platte yet. Start directing towards the service so they see the need for a resource coordinator here. Greatest needs: finances and communication. Communication breakdown between organization and parents. Due to? Change in personnel, overwhelming amount of information (this is our job but imagine being a parent trying to navigate through the same amount of information). Possibilities: networking information, connect to the school system (when school starts, set aside a day for families with a child with disabilities so admin and staff can meet family). Helping parents- new parent discovers they have a child with special needs, medical staff can come alongside and mentor parents through this or a parent who has been through this. GPH, Midplains, west central health district as partners? November meeting- Parent training institute joined via zoom-resource parents can contact to ask questions about education, parents rights, testing etc. What does it mean to go through a waiver? March/April conference to get parents informed. There used to be a flow chart that families could look at to navigate disabilities services. Helps to understand what to do and/or where to go. Child training institute had them-outdated. Trying to get more made. Importance of having medical model to understand needs; educational model. Relational model is left out so as a faith-based church resource trying to work on that. Respite event- allows parents to have a break quarterly. Some type of activity to let the kids know they are loved. Also providing something for the siblings who are not getting all the attention do to their siblings needs. Allows parents to take a break and do what they want/need. Had a craft event Saturday- 8 showed up; very appreciative. Hoping to connect within the community to help direct to the resources. Offering as a free service as a lot of these have a lot of medical bills. Respite events mostly on Facebook through Bethel Church of North Platte or on the FFP Directory. Sometimes there will be a sign up or needs. Southwest Nebraska Respite? They also work on providing respite and have funds- Paula- Caroline knows how to reach her. EDN also provides support for new parents of children with disabilities. EDN home visiting on a regular basis allows us to talk about resources. When they get to school age the communication breakdown happens. Conference will hopefully start to help them stand up and advocate. Parent Training Institute is free to parents. Waitlist is 2 years at least and up to 8 years for DD services. This is overwhelming including the paperwork to apply.**

**Shir Smith-Inmates Outreach- Strengthening purposes for inmates. A lot of programs who work with inmates, working on connecting the dots. 20 + resources provided to Lincoln County Detention Center. Serve 19 counties. Hired another person to cover panhandle. Detention centers are begging for help: no ids, social security, treatment facility, nowhere to live etc. If anyone has ideas reach out to Caroline or group. 2 most important: Housing and Staffing. Talking to the Red Cross to get emergency help during cold weather. We have the means- cots, blankets, food- but need staff. 67 (3 years ago) homeless children in the high school system- sleeping in cars. If we don’t intervene, what will happen? Jail? Juvenile detention? 100% of inmates on death row have some sort of brain injury. Not about drugs and alcohol-these are coping mechanisms not the problem. Speaking to the senate this summer. Biggest issue working with homeless youth- in a relationship and won’t leave partner for housing. Talking about a homeless shelter. Grace-homeless liaison- number not accurate- not just sleeping in car- could be living with family members or shelters etc. So not actually just sleeping on the streets. Shir would like to connect with Grace as she is working with some homeless youth. When people are released from jail, if they don’t have some sort of goal- they will likely reoffend or go back to their old ways.**

**Transportation task force- kevin taylor (sick)- department of transportation has been helpful. Providing information about what is actually possible for the community. Decided to set goals for what the needs of the community are. Need an ‘n/a’ choice on survey so people don’t quit. Job boards or carpooling? Didn’t seem feasible or safe to do this. This was dropped. How can we improve transportation? Only 2 Ubers and not reliable. Party bus in only licensed for a certain population. Cabs limited by drivers. State and Federal funding available-add buses to the city route would require a 10% match from the community. Start checking with DC, college, hospital etc. to see if they would contribute so they are part of the route. Next steps: community survey to find stop points and to reach out to businesses to contribute money to help with this. Mikayla- at jobfairs- one of the biggest challenges for hiring is transportation. The other piece of the picture is have you approached a grant funding application? -still trying to get information. Judy Clark good line of communication is Keith Marvin (Marvin Planning)- should be able to do a transportation survey free of cost due to city planning. Enterprise has a van pooling service-company can rent a van to car pool- drivers would be a part of the company. $1200 a month or so.**

**Minority needs- Megan not here- needs of anyone who doesn’t speak the language, understand how to get around, unable to access community information. Health Literacy Class- took a pool during interagency. West Central will present starting in January 2nd Wednesday of every month 11-12 via zoom. Trudy is taking health literacy class currently-meant for the provider not patient. How to make sure people understand information about their health. “Plain language” good human communication and active listening, teach back with cultural sensitivity. Meet people where they are and embracing inclusion and diversity. A willingness to look at cultural differences- ex: physician would talk only to the husband in some cultures, not the wife. Framed in health care but it is just how to talk to people in a way that they are heard and understood. Megan will be offering a condensed version. Definitely worth the time. Making sure agencies about language access. Hope Esperanza is working on communication devices. No replacement for human connection. LMCA another language resource- Tuesdays and Thursdays youth 430-6; adults 6-730; $10 per session Spanish classes. Conversational lessons. Scheduling has been difficult. Will start again in January. Also, social determinacies of health- poverty, environment, transportation etc.- trying to determine the root causes of poor health care.**

**Communication-FFP working on directory- information and availability. Trying to convert into a phone app. Hit a wall trying to get the phone app so working on alternative options technology wise. Be patient and if asked to provide directory information, please do!!**

**Work groups have improved communication for target populations.**

**3. FFP and new grant year. Started October 1st but no contract: $300,00 to $126, 000. Basic infrastructure and employee needs. Just the bare basics. Delisia will continue full time; Caroline will go to part time in January. Nebraska Children’s will know if additional funding in mid-January. $14,000 is already gone to help families. ERA funds is where the families will be directed. Access ERA information will be sent out: Nebraskarenthelp.org: renter fills out a portion then landlord will fill out a portion. Taking more than a month to process these. Legal aid will be notified of eviction notices. Caroline referring people out to other agencies for assistance. Aksarben Foundation has a fund of over $2 million to promote reimburse office up to $7500 a year. The focus is for outstate Nebraska-worried about not being able to spend all the funding. Some accountability and reporting. Government agencies do not qualify. This is called “Intern Nebraska”. 2-3 year program; potentially longer.**

**Centris banks have grants right now that we could apply for. What are our priorities in the community? Nebraska Children’s and Family funding will go to families with children. A need is knowing the resources and connecting them. Homelessness is becoming a bigger challenge. Community Action only has $10,000 per quarter. Food insecurity? Not really- foodbanks give food but not necessarily kid friendly. Extension tried cooking classes for low-income homes. Not well attended but will continue to try to offer. Provide an incentive (gas vouchers etc.). If funding is not available then let’s offer education to families. Can this be a requirement for participation in program? This has been attempted but not successful. Bright Course videos- get $25 per video (20 minutes in length) wasn’t even successful. Community Action- must complete a module for assistance- if not- they are barred from getting assistance in the future. Coaches have discussed a matching program in the past. Difficult to get families to have their own part in solving their problems. Good programs through workforce- make more connections. Maggie- trying to change the mindset of people to make their own decisions and changes. The difference between enabling and helping. State is trying to develop a Prevention program- Stevens group trying to do a child welfare reform. Cheryl has a copy of the draft of the proposal. Money will be steered towards rental assistance- ERA can be for 18 months.**

**Val-Childcare C4K- still not a lot of openings- doing research for the housing development group. Interested in opening a childcare facility in the future. Trucks and Tiearas availability went up so they might have openings. Still have some funding for childcare scholarships. Trying to keep funds coming in for scholarships. Famililes that qualify working and under 250% income. Famililes who do not qualify for DHHS subsidy are the ones who usually qualify.**

**Next meeting Tuesday February 27th.**