

Forest Warren Local Interagency Coordinating Council

285 Hospital Drive

Warren, PA 16365

Minutes

December 21st, 2021

10-12 pm – Via ZOOM

IN ATTENDANCE: Angela Sutton – EI Coordinator, Carrie Salapak – Special Educator IU5, Shelli Tubbs – Head Start and EI Evaluator, Emily Wachter – Head Start and EI Provider, Beverly Ruhlman - Parental Supervisor, Ben O'Neill – EI Service Coordinator, Mary Hall – EI Service Coordinator, Stacy Confer – EI Service Coordinator, Maggie King – Health Advocacy Associate Children First, Lynn Floravit – IECMH Consultant.

INTRODUCTIONS: Angela welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Carrie Salapak and Stacy Confer approved minutes.

MAGGIE KING, HEALTH ADVOCACY ASSOCIATE CHILDREN FIRST: Maggie introduced herself and explained she works for the non-profit Advocacy Children First organization in Philadelphia who has been an organization for the last 40 years. Maggie stated she primarily works on the statewide effort to reduce childhood lead poisoning. She also is the coordinator of the Dream Care Campaign which helps undocumented children in Pennsylvania have access to health care. Maggie stated that lead poisoning is still a major health issue in Pennsylvania. More than 8,000 children are poisoned each year. Children in Pennsylvania are poisoned at a rate 2 times higher than Flint Michigan where the lead crisis happened. In Flint, the poisoning was from a water source and in Pennsylvania it is lead based paint. Lead based paint wasn't banned until 1978 and most homes were built before the ban. Forest County has 74% of homes built before the ban and Warren has 75% built which is over the state average. Children are poisoned in Warren County 2.5% more than in Flint, Michigan. Only 20% of children are tested across the state. African American's and Hispanic's are more likely to be poisoned because many live in older houses. Across the state African American children are poisoned 4 times higher than children who are white and 2 times higher than children who are hispanic. Lead poisoning is preventable and Maggie introduced the lead free promise project. It is a statewide coalition, run by Advocacy Children First. Currently there are 47 endorsers of the project. The project is working towards getting all lead out of houses, having children tested at ages 1 and 2 and referring children to Early Intervention if the child has elevated blood levels from lead poisoning. Children with Medicaid are required to be tested at ages 1 and 2. The project is advocating for all children to be tested regardless of the type of insurance the child has. Previously lead based paint was just painted over, but the lead is still in the home. The way to prevent a child from lead poisoning is remove the child from the source. Maggie provided a copy of the resource guide for care management of a child with lead poisoning to the group. Maggie invited anyone interested in joining the project to contact her.

LYNN FLORAVIT – IECMH CONSULTANT: Lynn is an Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant. IECMHC is a free resource that offers support for children's Social-Emotional development from ages 0-5 with learning programs that participate with Keystone STARS. Lynn spoke that IECMHC is talking about the healthy social and emotional support for children age 0-5. They really focus on attachment and

forming close healthy relationships. They try to have children express and regulate their emotions. They want children to explore their environment, community and expectations for young children. Lynn works with the provider to recognize the strength's and potential. They work to figure out the child's challenges and to find out why the child is behaving the way they are. They help to create supportive environment and help to build relationships with families. They focus on the Pyramid Model. They work more towards nurturing and responsive relationships. Children need to feel like they are supported. They work with the provider to see the positive and help show them how to nurture and see the positive. They target social and emotional support to the provider and the family. When a provider is concerned about the social emotional development of a child or behavioral concerns they should be referred. If a child is having issues at a child care facility they can come and help that facility. Some reasons for referral to their agency are attachments, when they don't seek a family member for support, self-regulation, when a child is having temper tantrums and unable to deal with their emotions. They handle if a child is not communicating properly. They handle aggression and interaction. They have a request form on their website. They request should be emailed or faxed. Once a referral is made first they do an observation of the child in a classroom setting. After the observation, she speaks with the teacher to discuss the strengths and needs of the child then do an action plan as a team involving all parties. Lynn then goes into the facility to help implement the plan with the provider and the family. She stated she provides resources to help. Benefits of IECMHC are it reduces caregivers' stress, boosts caregivers' confidence, increases caregivers' reflective practice, fewer incidences of challenging behaviors, fewer suspensions and expulsions, and linking families with community services. Lynn gave out a website. She stated during COVID they created a news letter called bright start. kids. future. Anyone can sign up for the newsletter. In the newsletter it provides a lot of useful resources for providers. During COVID they also set up Virtual Office Hours to help providers with behavior of children.

OLD BUSINESS: Angela stated Early Intervention is still working on the Coaching Module. Carrie stated she didn't have any updates for IU5.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

PROGRAM UPDATES: Angela stated that referrals are 6 for October, 8 for November and 6 for December. She stated referrals slow down around this time of the year. Carrie shared that referrals are behind. They have 46 referrals that need done within 6 months. Shelli stated she has 22 in the process and more coming to Carrie. Beverly shared that perinatal department are training to provide parents and teacher evidence base, home base module launching in July. There will be 3 parent teachers. They are going to be serving pregnancy to age 3.

ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting is March 15th, 2022 via ZOOM