

Forest Warren Local Interagency Coordinating Council
285 Hospital Drive
Warren, PA 16365
Minutes
September 21st, 2021
10-12 pm – Via ZOOM

IN ATTENDANCE: Angela Sutton – EI Coordinator, Kelli Davis – Titusville Regional Literacy Council Director, Judy Campbell – Parent to Parent Norwest Regional Coordinator, Kim Johnson – The Guidance Center, Special Instructor, Mary Hall – Service Coordinator, Carrie Salapek – IU5 Supervisor 3-5, Stacy Confer – Service Coordinator, Ben O’Neill – Service Coordinator, Ronna Tipton – Forest Warren Human Services Administrator.

INTRODUCTIONS: Carrie Salapek introduced herself as the Supervisor of IU5 3-5. She was born and raised in Warren County. She has been a Teacher for the last 22 years. She stated she is excited to work with the LICC members and share insight and services for younger children.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stacy Confer and Ronna Tipton approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: Angela Sutton spoke about we are still continuing to do services for birth to 3. EI was doing a lot of Tela-intervention and now the Service Coordinators are going into the homes. But EI is still doing Tela-Intervention. EI actually have some families that prefer the Tela-Intervention so we are continuing with that service.

NEW BUSINESS: Angela Sutton introduced Ben O’Neill as the new Service Coordinator for EI Infant Toddler Program Forest Warren County. Ben O’Neill introduced himself. He has lived in Warren County pretty much his whole life. He was with the Barber National Institute for many years. He recently came to the Early Intervention position from the YMCA where he worked with Preschool classroom.

JUDY CAMPBELL – PARENT TO PARENT: Parent to Parent is celebrating 25 years. They have a new logo and new look. Their mission statement has changed to Connecting families of children and adults with disabilities and special needs throughout their journey. They do deal with infants throughout their adult years. She shared the new logo. Their purpose is to help parents never feel like they are alone. They provide emotional support for families in need of help. They do match parents for over 830 conditions. They have multiple languages that they can provide to families. They have a Bilingual Regional Coordinator named Georgina. She is fluent in Spanish and English. A global view is that they deal with Physical Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health, Foster Care, Mental Disabilities, Adoption system process of children with special needs and Educational needs. They are not an advocacy agency if a parent contacts them they are referred to the PEAL system. It is the statewide training center for parents and they have different staff which can help with the advocacy side. She stated if a parent has an issue and wishes to speak to another parent they are able to match them with a parent who has had a similar issue. If there isn’t a match they will go to outside resources to help match the parent. This is also for professionals who are working with families who are having troubles. That professional could refer the family to the Parent to Parent program. She showed a info graphic of how matches are made. Which is in their new outreach folder. She gave instructions about what the process is when a referral is made. They take the Authorization to Release Information Form via fax or email.

Once the referral is made, they then contact the family and go over the demographics that are on the referral form. They get information about their child and what specifically the parents are seeking support for. They then check for a Peer Support match. Once they find a Peer Support match they call to see if they are available, and if so she gives to them the information about the parent. They only share phone and email with the match. They do 100% follow up. They contact the parent to verify that the Peer Supporter has contacted them and they are happy with the support. If the parent is not happy they search for another match. She gave information of what a Peer Supporter is and does which is also in the outreach folder. She spoke about how to become a Peer Supporter which is in the welcome packet. She indicated that due to COVID their numbers had dropped. She said they did 681 matches of those 493 were birth to 5 years, 280 were virtual outreach and recruited 87 new Peer Supporters.

Angela Sutton introduced and welcomed Kelli Davis who is with the Titusville Regional Literacy Council. Kelli Davis gave a brief introduction of their program. She is the Executive Director of Titusville Regional Literacy Council but they are not strictly for Titusville, they are regional. The main office is located in Titusville. They serve Crawford and Venango County. They also are in the Forest Area Schools so they are also in Tionesta and Marienville. She will attend the December LICC meeting to give more information.

UPDATES: Carrie Salapek – IU5 did not have many updates. They have had a lot of change in staff. She is working on making more connections and getting word out that services are out there both birth – 3 and Early Intervention.

Angela Sutton updated on the Early Intervention Program. They are currently working with the coaching motto. There is a new therapist working on the coaching training modules. They have also linked with surrounding counties, Venango, Crawford and Clarion to be able have a joint provider meeting about how to really bring out coaching. She spoke of the child outreach. She spoke of packets sent to childcare, doctors and local hospitals in Warren County and Forest County. She spoke of referrals. May was 7, June was 13, July was 14 and August was 11. They are working on getting the word out about our services.

Kelli Davis gave a little information about what her agency does. They work with adults and families with educational needs. They help to get adults with their diplomas. They are affiliated with 3 area school districts. Forest, Titusville and Penn Crest. They provide services for the adults to be able to reach their goal to get a diploma.

Judy Campbell showed website for Parent to Parent.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned and next meeting is December 21st, 2021 via ZOOM at 10:00 AM.