

Forest Warren Local Interagency Coordinating Council

285 Hospital Drive

Warren, PA 16365

Minutes

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

10-12 pm – Via ZOOM

IN ATTENDANCE: Elise Strickland, Families First Program Coordinator Early Head Start – Parent as Teachers; Alison Carlson, Director Parent as Teachers; Shelle Tubbs, Head Start; Beverly Ruhlman, Perinatal Supervisor; Mary Hall EISC FWHS; Carrie Salapek, IU5 Supervisor; Tammi Shippee, ID/EI Director; Michelle Reily ELRC-2 Coach; Ben O’Neill, EISC FWHS; Angela Sutton, EI Coordinator; Rebecca Keate, AmbitCare Representative; Shelly Schoedel, 3-5 EISC at IU5; Casie Lucas-Szumigala, SLP outreach Coordinator of Western PA School of Deaf Children’s Center at Edinboro University.

INTRODUCTIONS: Angela welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Carrie Salapek and Michell Reily approved the minutes.

REBECCA KEATE, AMBITCARE REPRESENTATIVE: Rebecca introduced herself. She works for AmbitCare which is a patient services arm of a company called Ambit. Their services are free. They work with patients or loved ones to help find out what may be causing symptoms of seizures or developmental delays. They provide free services to help caregivers to understand issues that may be happening with their child. They want to focus on reducing time for diagnosing the issue that is happening. They help work with people who may have a diagnosis and need further care. They work with families, should they need to get specialized care. Family’s planning to find out if the disease is genetic, if it could be inherited or not inherited. They provide information on how access to the community can possibly help link families with other children who may have the same disease and be a support system. They provide access to many types of resources for families. They provide access to free genetic counseling for families. The benefit to this is they would be able to explain what type of tests may be needed. They can help interpret the results and what they mean. The appointments can all be virtual and so there is no travel time. There is no long referral process, it is a quiz on the website and they will connect with a genetic counselor. Who is eligible to qualify? If you have a child under the age of 7 and the child has had 1 seizure and there isn’t a known cause for it, you qualify for free genetic counseling. If a child is over the age of 8 and has had 2 or more seizures and are experiencing some sort of developmental delay or intellectual disability you are eligible for genetic counseling.

ELSIE STRICKLAND, PROGRAM COORDINATOR FAMILIES FIRST EARLY HEADSTART PARENT AS TEACHERS: Elise introduced herself. They have been in Titusville for 11 years. In the beginning they were servicing Crawford, Venango and Forest Counties. They expanded into Warren County. They have had several referrals for Warren County. Their program is an in home based parenting and early education program. During the home visit parents are expected to meet with the home visitor and do an activity with their child. They will reach for the developmental milestones. They have a nurse on staff to make sure the child is getting their vaccines and going to all doctor appointments. They do hearing and vision screening that the pediatrician uses. They do the screening yearly. They do social interactions twice a month. They

do a family play groups, which is for anyone enrolled in the program. They are an hour long. They Early Head Start plan is an income-based program. They serve prenatal up to 3 years. The Parent as Teachers program is not income based it is available to anyone. Their programs are completely voluntary, so if a family starts a program they can stop anytime they want to.

OLD BUSINESS: Carrie Salapek shared that they are still overwhelmed with referrals.

NEW BUSINESS: Casie Lucas-Szumigala, SLP outreach coordinator of Western PA School of Deaf Children's Center shared that on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> they are holding a Family Learning Meeting. They are going to have a speaker in the morning. It is a free event for parents and families. No little ones can attend the event this year. Angela shared that the family survey for resources has started. Angela did not have the current percentage rate at this time, but she stated it is going well. STATS for referrals. December had 10 referrals, January had 9, February had 12 and March already have 7. Beverly Ruhlman, Perinatal shared that July 1<sup>st</sup> they will be transitioning from perinatal to the Parent as Teachers program in Warren County. Angela spoke about the updated Annual State Application Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which was emailed out to everyone to review or submit any questions. Michelle Reily shared that they are looking for ELRC-2 Pediatric First Aid instructors in the area.

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting to be announced.