

LICC MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2021 – 10:00 AM – ZOOM MEETING

Attendees:

Alison Richter, office coordinator maternal family health services WICC and family planning services

Marie Groody, School Readiness Director, Child Development, Inc.

Christine Rhoades, Service Coordinator, IU29

Samantha Weisbeck, EI Coordinator & Quality Manager, SAM Inc.

Sandi Berger, Parent Representative, Early Learning Resource Center

Melissa Mecke, Early learning Technology Support, PATTAN

Nikki Zubowicz, ELRC

Michelle Smithman, regional coordinator parent to parent Southeast Region

Dianne Plaza, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, PA Keys

Samantha Weisbeck: Things are going well currently. They are in the home full force following guidelines. Everyone is doing well with wearing masks. Referrals are back to regular numbers. Schuylkill County is going to piloting the Ages & Stages electronic version for social and emotional screenings at the end of the month.

Marie Groody: They are currently serving over 600 children in the county at 8 locations. They will be providing full services as of August 30th with 10 to 12 students in each classroom. By the end of September they will be fully enrolled with 16-18 in each classroom.

Sandi Berger: They still have a staff shortage. Some families are still not wanting services but they do have some families going out in the community doing some activities. They are trying their best to keep up with the needs of their clients even with their major staff shortage.

Samantha Weisbeck: Tele-intervention has been a platform for their services. Waiting to see if that will continue in the future. Evaluations are done virtually. Waiting to see if they can continue virtual or if it will be ending. Please reach out if you would like them to do a presentation for your program.

Diane Plaza: Representing PA key on behalf of OCDEL. They provide free resource that support children's social and emotional needs up to age 5. That includes support to centers, families and group based. They support the adults, caregivers and teachers and directors in child care centers to build strong bonds and relationships. They do not work directly with children. Support is primarily for early childhood. Parent or guardian consent is needed to be involved with a child in a child care facility. Initiative they took on is that they are piloting virtual office hours. Office hours are on first and third Friday virtually by appointment. It's a short-term problem-solving type of conversation to help providers. Can help family's partnership with caregivers also. Have recently expanded their mental health consultation staff. As of September 1st, they were given the green light to do on-site consultation services back in the field. We have flexibility for virtual also, if needed. Dianne's contact information is below. Please reach out to her with any questions.

DIANNE PLAZA, MA, LBS

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Nikki Zubowicz: She works out of the Pottsville office and also an office in Berks County. Berks has more of an outreach than Schuylkill. There is no a wait list. Funding is available and they are there to help with cost of child care. They also have help finding child care on their website even if families do not qualify for financial help. They can see certification on each provider on the website. www.findchildcare.pa.gov

Michell Smithman: They are excited that this is 25th year in PA. They are in 38 states. They are the largest parent matching program. It's been a busy year. They have a new website. www.parenttoparent.org They also have a new logo as well. They also have new printed materials and new peer supporter training. There are some great videos in the training. Please check it out. Referrals did drop off but they are coming back strong. Things are starting to fall back into place.

Alison Richter: Hazleton office is going through renovations. They are providing more WICC services. WIC is still telehealth version. Family planning services are not virtual, of course. They also rolled out new web site. www.mfhs.org. They have had a decrease in WIC referrals. Income guidelines are higher than usual so please put that out there to your families. Other program is Safe Teens program. Text any questions to number 57890. They can ask any question that has to do with just about any subject. The help line for teens is run out of Wilkes-Barre office. They have cards to hand out if anyone is interested. Please let her know.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2021 via ZOOM at 10:00 AM