

Health Services Advisory Committee Minutes

January 19, 2024

Members Present: Sarah Myers, Trisha Rau, Shannon Larson, LeDora Wohler, Rhonda Edwardson, Katie Heck, Mehria Azizi

Staff Present: Carrie Whitehill, Katie Tschakert, Bailey Brantner, Kathy Vosburg, Brandon Kjelden, Kim Vance, Amy Softing, Stacey Jorgenson, Sarah Mattson, Ann Mumm

Welcome and introductions were made by those in attendance.

Carrie presented minutes from 12/14/21. Motion made to approve by LeDora Wohler and 2nd by Sarah Myers. Members approved and the motion was carried.

Carrie also presented minutes from 12/9/22 meeting. Motion made to approve by LeDora Wohler and seconded by Sarah Myers. Members approved and the motion was carried.

What is HSAC (Health Services Advisory Committee)?

Carrie went over what HSAC is and shared the new brochure we have. The purpose of Head Start and the policy along with the functions was presented. This also included what Head Start Health encompasses.

SENDCAA Head Start serves 342 children among 7 sites.

Health Guidelines:

30 days: to determine if enrolled child has a medical home, accessible healthcare, and health insurance.

45 days: Hearing and vision screening, along with growth assessment and blood pressure. Can be used off of well child as long as it is evidence based. We use the Vision Spot for vision and Puretone and OAE for hearing. Determine if a child has health needs that require health care plans.

90 days: Well child exam including hemoglobin, lead, and immunizations along with a dental exam.

Working on getting an RN to come in and do hemoglobin and lead testing on children that need them done. We have the equipment and would get immediate results. It was asked how many times a year we would need the RN to come in and it was estimated a couple of times per year but would have to go to multiple sites. Rhonda wondered about NDSCS nursing students to help with this. LeDora stated that she has found in the past that you can use RN that are in BSN program to assist an BSN RN but not LPN's.

COVID Mitigation Policy

Carrie presented the COVID -19 Mitigation Policy. She was looking for feedback from the members on what type of guidelines should be implemented at each level, especially the medium level. They have Low, Medium, and High levels.

Suggestions from members for the medium level were to heighten awareness to the families. Ledora mentioned reminding them to be aware of how they are feeling. Sarah Myers suggested posting signs, "Do you or your child exhibit any of these symptoms" and then give a list. Limit volunteers, good handwashing and even put hand sanitizer out by the front door for everyone to use as they enter the building.

Suggestions for the High level was also discussed some. Recommendations were made to go back to no parents entering the building and excluding all volunteers. Everyone wears masks. Brandon asked if it is possible to check what level we are in or how many people must be hospitalized before you hit a certain level. Carrie did not think it broke it down into numbers like that, but LeDora was going to check with a resource she had, Dr. Neumann, to see if she had any COVID determiners.

Testing for Lead in Water and Paint

Carrie shared the proposed standard update to test for lead in water and paint. This would require us to test all drinking and cooking faucets at every site. LeDora is going to talk with Grant at Public Health to see if he has any advice on this. Rhonda said they can do Batch testing at the dental school, so that might be an option for HeadStart too. It was also mentioned that the Water Treatment center must have some kind of report that we could get from them. More discussion on this in the future.

Immunizations

Carrie presented that we are required to follow the most stringent guidelines, which would be the CDC. Influenza and COVID are required when following the CDC but not ND guidelines. It was discussed on what we should do for the children that parents do not want them to receive the COVID or flu vaccines. Should we use the Delay/Decline form or the exemption form? If we use the exemption form, it will put them in a status on PIR of having all immunizations exempt. It was recommended by members that we just use the delay/decline form for families that do not want to immunize for COVID, influenza or both.

Safety Procedures

Carrie presented a list of all the Emergency procedures we have. She is working with an officer to come and work with the adults about the Active shooter policy. This is one that we do not practice with the children.

PIR Health Data

HeadStart and Early Head Start health data was presented utilizing the PIR numbers from the past 4 years. The goal is to see progress between the beginning of the school year and the end of the school year. The categories shared for health data included health insurance, medical home, dental home, and total enrollment.

Health Partnerships

Carrie reviewed our current health partnerships.

1. Sanford: Saw 12 children for Well child exams and immunizations on site at Kappel
2. FHC Dental goes to EHS and HS. They saw about 50 children at HS and 17 of those were return visits for restorative treatment. They will be coming back in the spring.
3. NDSCS Dental is used in Lisbon and Wahpeton. Lisbon was seen in September. Wahpeton was seen in November (9 children for exams and 11 fluorides).
4. Public Health is used in Lisbon. 6 Well Childs, vaccines, and leads were completed.
5. NDSU Extension: Irena will be at the Fargo and West Fargo sites for nutrition education in the classrooms. She visits each classroom once a month January-May.
6. NDSCS Nursing students will be coming just for 1 day for observation in the classrooms.
7. MSUM Nursing students will be on site for 2 visits. The first visit is to observe in the classroom, and the second is teaching a health lesson with the children.

Program Director Updates

May 2022 Closed 3 classrooms. Kappel opened with 50 slots for children. Sarah Mattson discussed that Head Start has trouble filling the part-day spots. Looking at closing Part Day classrooms and just having Full Day classrooms. This must be approved by the Office of Head Start. This is felt that it would retain staff more easily and reduce the class sizes. The Office of Head Start is in the process of updating the Performance Standards around staff wellness to improve the overall work culture and retain staff.

Community Updates

Sarah Myers: No updates

Trish Rau: WIC is still not fully funded. They are currently offering higher dollar amounts for fruits and vegetables for families. Pregnant mom numbers are down, so send any referrals to them.

Shannon Larson: Provide community screenings. Needed to add extra screenings days as they had so many referrals to screen. Currently short-staffed.

LeDora Wohler: Family Home Visits-Pregnant moms and children under the age of 2 could qualify for a free home visit. They also have an Insurance Navigator that comes from FHC every Friday to help families apply for SNAP, Medicaid, etc. They also want people to be aware that they have free COVID tests at Public Health that people can stop by and take for home testing. They believe they are to be used on ages 12 and older but were going to check.

Carrie asked about setting up the next meeting as she would like to go back to two meetings a year vs just once. She asked how available members would be if we met again in April. Members were open to that idea, and no date was set. Carrie will send a survey to determine the best date for most members.