

Access to Health & Human Services Workgroup of the
CJCC Early Intervention & Prevention Committee
July 5, 2022 at noon via Zoom

Present: Trish Chandler, Naomi Morris, Aimee Buckmaster, Kalene Engel, Chris Meyer, Amy Sixty, Andy Kranz, Katie Schild, July Gilow, Rachel Stoll

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Approve Minutes of June 7, 22 Meeting: Minutes were approved by consensus.

Discussion of Access to Health & Human Services Survey: The survey results report was just distributed, so most attendees had not yet had a chance to review it prior to the meeting. Kalene noted that many respondents requested additional trainings on HHS programs, such as the one Naomi did on the Combined Application Form. Improving communication methods was also suggested by several respondents. Workgroup members will review the survey results and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

Review of Tips for Communicating with HHS: After the June meeting, Kalene created a document incorporating the tips and suggestions for communicating with HHS that were discussed at the meeting. A draft of the tips sheet was included in the meeting packet, but will not be finalized or available for distribution until after it is reviewed and approved by Karen Sanness.

Workplan and Discussion of Next Steps: Kalene referenced the workplan that she had created when the SIM workgroups (including this one) were first created. Some of the strategies included on that workplan included additional training opportunities, reviewing the HHS website for ease of use, doing a flowchart or mapping a case as it moves through HHS and looking at how other jurisdictions do things. Additional strategies could also be identified by HHS staff or members of the workgroup once they review the survey results. Naomi offered another possible strategy—to support the efforts of social services supervisors and directors in Minnesota to get the state DHS to upgrade its software systems. The systems that are in place are archaic and do not communicate with each other. Naomi stated that this group could provide a letter of support, directed to Karen Sanness, outlining the need for improved software, especially with respect to communicating with clients. Workgroup members supported the idea so Kalene will work on drafting a letter. Marie will also advocate for this at the State Community Health Advisory Committee and Chris will bring up the issue at the Minnesota Intercounty Organization. An additional suggestion that has been advanced at the state level is to make the DHS forms simpler and more understandable.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:45 pm

Next Meeting: August 2, 2022 at noon