

**Navigator Network Workgroup of the
CJCC Early Intervention & Prevention Committee
December 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: Rachel Stoll, Kalene Engel, Kelly Wooden, Kaitlynn Aufderhar, Bill Moe, Loice Odoul, Amanda Rodriguez, Ejahn Eryilmaz, Marissa Gerke, Andrea Pierson, Veronica Carbajal Martinez, Brooke Stueve, Katie Krommes, Rebecca Lundeen

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Presentation on Advocacy Center of Winona: Veronica Carbajal Martinez provided an overview of the services provided by Women’s Advocacy Center of Winona.

For a powerpoint, brochure, recording and referral form on ACW, see the Advocacy Center of Winona on the Navigator Network Google Drive:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sgL5G1BnSmz01jnrpjTGAf9dpF XuSZxT?usp=sharing.](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sgL5G1BnSmz01jnrpjTGAf9dpF XuSZxT?usp=sharing)

Key takeaways from the presentation are as follows:

- The name was changed to Advocacy Center of Winona to better reflect the scope of the services—which is not just for women. Despite the name change, the services provided have remained consistent.
- The main services provided include the following:
 - Crisis advocacy and support, including a crisis line with empathetic listening for survivors
 - Emergency shelter and relocation, including offers of hotel vouchers, connection to family and support networks and possibly even a longer term stay in an apartment available to ACW clients through a master lease
 - Free support group network for individuals who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking
 - Legal advocacy and justice assistance including coordination with prosecution and courts and attendance at hearings and with obtaining orders for protection
 - Accompaniment and intervention to appointments with medical professionals, landlords or law enforcement
 - Funding for items such as rent, gas, emergency housing supplies, transportation, safety planning, lock changes, door stops, window alarms and tasers.
 - There is an advocate and advocacy office on the campus of Winona State.
 - Veronica is a bilingual advocate—the agency’s first.
- Advocates are mandated state reports
- To get people motivated to contact ACW, its best to help them find the internal motivation to do so. Sometimes they just need to be ready to get the support they need.
- ACW does warm handoffs and will help the client reach out to other service providers
- When ACW calls, it is from a private number.

- The number of people they are helping is trending upwards due to their inclusivity in helping men and women. A report will be released on December 15th with more information about numbers served.
- They are only able to help one “side” if both people in a relationship reach out to them.
- Reception to the bilingual advocate has been very positive; Veronica has already helped 5-7 people in the short time that she has been there.
- ACW offers unpaid internships. Interns are required to undergo a 40 hour training.

Organizational Announcements:

- Open enrollment is going on for private MNSURE plans and ends on December 15th. Open enrollment is extended to January 15th for coverage which starts February 1st. Clients eligible for MA or MN Care are not subject to open enrollment time limits.
- WRAP+ will now pay for the \$680 driver’s license reinstatement fee for eligible participants.
- The HUB was awarded a health equity grant which needs to be spent by the end of May. The grant will include a very close partnership with Project FINE to increase the Community Connectors ability to work with immigrants and refugees. This may pay for translation of the WRAP+ brochure. An internship with a paid stipend of \$2,500 will be offered as part of the grant.
- Healthy Families is a new program being administered by FCC. Pregnant women and mothers with a child 3 months or younger who are stressed can enroll in the program. Once enrolled, a person can receive services until the child is 5 years old. Clients will be accepted starting January 1st. The program can help with transportation to medical or other important appointments. Referrals can be made by contacting Andrea at FCC or through the website. Healthy Families will be the presenter in January.

Meeting adjourned: 2:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2023 at 2pm; Health Families