

**Navigator Network Workgroup of the
CJCC Early Intervention & Prevention Committee
February 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: Rachel Stoll, Kalene Engel, Tim Parker, Lisa Bork, Kevin Estenson, Bill Moe, Jen Quarberg, Andrea Pierson, Marissa Gerke, Andrea Onstad, Michaela Daley, Tyler Kinney, Rebecca Lundeen, Katie Rommes, Loice Odoul, Kelly Wooden, Amanda Rodriguez, Brooke Stueve, Anne McLaughlin, Kelly Stellflug, Alyssa Passehl, Mckenzie Mach

Minutes by: Kalene Engel

Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves.

Presentation on Partners in Excellence (PI): Lisa Bork and Kevin Estenson provided an overview of Partners in Excellence.

For a powerpoint and recording on PIE, see the Partners in Excellence folder on the Navigator Network Google Drive:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sgL5G1BnSmz01jnrpjTGAf9dpFxuSZxT?usp=sharing.](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sgL5G1BnSmz01jnrpjTGAf9dpFxuSZxT?usp=sharing)

Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- PIE is an autism therapy center focused on children from age 18 months to 7 years old. Created in 2001 by Deb Thomas, it has expanded to five full centers, the closest of which are located in Winona and La Crosse.
- To be eligible for the program, a child must have a diagnostic or psychological assessment with a diagnosis of autism or other related developmental delay.
- PIE uses a treatment model based on applied behavior analysis, using positive reinforcement to modify human behavior and motivate kids to want to use positive skills.
- Children receive 1:1 therapy with a behavior therapist to start and gradually transition to larger groups.
- Children attend 8 hours per day, Monday through Friday with a variety of types of therapy sessions throughout the day.
- When dealing with challenging behaviors, they focus on the “why” and try to provide the child with tools to address those needs. They do not use consequences, time outs or physical restraint.
- Parents/caregivers are encouraged to be involved in their child’s care through regular communication, meetings, observations, individualized trainings and group outings.
- The range of stay is 1-4 years, but can be as little as 9 months and as much as 7 years.
- Early referrals and applications are encouraged because there is typically a wait list. Although there is physical space available to have more children, finding additional staff is a challenge.
- Since PIE services are a medical service, most insurances (other than Tri-Care) cover the cost.

Organizational Announcements:

- There is a WRAP+ training on Civil Commitment on February 15th, and a second ACES training in March. A Poverty Institute is being planned for October.
- Starting March 31st, the state will be requiring people on Medical Assistance to complete renewal forms. (Because of the pandemic, completing renewals has not been required for a few years; people were simple auto=renewed). Although people will not be penalized for failing to report changes that occurred during the period where renewals were not required, if a person is no longer eligible for MA, they lose coverage. Because of the need to renew, it is important for recipients to make sure Winona County has the correct address. Incarcerated persons who are “pending disposition” will be eligible to maintain coverage if they meet other eligibility requirements.

Meeting adjourned: 2:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2023; Speaker: Hiawatha Hall representative. Future presentations include Student Success Coaches from Winona Area Public Schools and Hope for Homes.