

Winona Navigator Network
A Workgroup of the CJCC Early Intervention & Prevention Committee
Google Meet
11/14/23

Introductions: Chris Dalke, Ann McLaughlin, Bill Moe, Baihley Bartz, Veronica, Sara Taha, Gwen Lynch, Susan Henry, Chris Meyer,

Attendance: Summary of Workgroup context and purpose:

A Sequential Intercept Map (SIM) Workshop was held in March 2021 which identified criminal justice system gaps for persons with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. The Navigator Network and six other workgroups were formed to address some of these gaps. This workgroup reports to the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Committee which reports to the CJCC Main Council. The purpose of the Navigator Network is to bring together people who assist others in “navigating” services or supports so that they can share experiences and information and serve as a resource and support to each other.

Guest Speaker: Tara and Gwen Childcare Aware Wayfinders and Families First

All programs are newly funded as of 2021-2022

Childcare Aware: branch off of DHS

2021 newly appropriated funds were passed to support family childcare and center based programs. Childcare Aware has an office at Families First in Rochester MN. There are lots of different initiatives going in the childcare lane to get childcare programs started and growing. One goal is to increase access to childcare statewide. Strategy includes targeted outreach and recruitments by building partnerships in communities to understand what community needs are. There is a focus on communities with the lowest access to give resources and tools and also if providers want to grow and need technical support. They encourage programs to start by providing business support and knowledge as well as licensing, day to day operations and access to supportive programs. All work done by Childcare Aware is for licensed childcare facilities.

Winona needs an additional 211 childcare spots to fill the childcare needs in the city. Winona is a higher need city in the region.

Families First:

Sara: Legal non-licensed work

Family, Friend and Neighbor childcare. Any family member like grandparents, aunties or older siblings or friend or neighbor providing childcare in the home without institutional support. Families first supports these caregivers to ensure that they have access to those resources. There are many reasons that a family might choose this kind of care including: low access to services, work shifts that do not line up with daycare providers’ schedule, cultural reasons or other reasons. Program helps train caregivers in health and safety, kindergarten readiness, and other supportive training to ensure that caregivers are providing the best care that they can.

Caregivers get toys and books as well as vital material support. Caregivers may not be able to find this resource so the word needs to be spread about this service for informal caregivers. Caring for children can be difficult and there are supports in this program for mental health for caregivers as they provide care. Have a mental health specialist who provides caregiver with one-on-one support

Provides education on resources and ensures that caregivers have the support they need to provide safe, legal care and have support to become licensed if they would like to pursue that.

Organizational Announcements:

- Safe Dates event with Advocacy Center went well! Had about 3-5 students per session, there are plans to do the events again next spring with new curriculum, more information to come!
- Winona Health Clinic will be closed on Black Friday- ED, hospital and urgent care will be open.