

External Program Review Committee (EPRC) minutes

Date of meeting: September 3, 2020

DSD liaison: Stacie Enders, Linda Wolford and Ari Dionisopoulos

Type: Whole committee

Location: Remote only due to the COVID-19 health pandemic

Attendees: Dan Baker, Kim Frost, Tatiana Kerestesh, Jodi Greenstein, Laura Daire, Lindsay Nash, Mary Piggott, Melanie Eidsmoe, Mike Boston, Stacy Danov, Susie Haben, Stephanie Schaefer, Liz Harri

Not present: Danielle Bishop

Agenda items

Public comments

There were no public comments during the meeting.

Vote

Those in favor of approving the August 2020 meeting minutes:

- Dan Baker: yes
- Stacy Danov: yes
- Mary Piggott: yes
- Liz Harri: yes
- Susie Haben: yes
- Tatiana Kerestesh: yes
- Laura Daire: yes
- Kim Frost: yes
- Jodi Greenstein: yes
- Stephanie Schaefer: yes
- Mike Boston: yes
- Lindsay Nash: abstain
- Melanie Eidsmoe: yes

Updates shared

- The first DHS presentation on intervention services was conducted online in August. Roughly 400 people attended the training, primarily case managers. The presentation covered what each of the services are for, when to recognize the need for intervention services, how to assess the quality of services and related resources. The team that provided the presentation is now working on sharing the same information with service providers, college students and others who might be interested in becoming

intervention service providers, and will announce training opportunities as soon as they have some dates set.

- DHS has reviewed applications for innovation grants related to the workforce shortage, and they have started contacting award recipients. There will be an announcement coming out fairly soon about who won the competitive contracts.
- The committee reviewed the workplan that is attached to the agenda for this meeting.
- Correction: Liz Harri turned the ~~Positive Support Transition Plan Quality Checklist~~ subcommittee checklist into an excel spreadsheet, with drop down menus, and placed it in the EPRC folder so other members can use it.
- Both subcommittees provided updates.

Annual training

The committee reviewed best practices for protecting private information in email chains with providers.

Discussion

- The committee discussed Covid-19 and the [Positive Supports Rule, Minn. R. 9544](#).
 - For some people, overall they have not been significantly impacted by the virus, but they are getting bored and getting into altercations with their peers.
 - A [resource sheet](#) was shared that provides helpful information for people who plan on doing remote education for their children this year.
 - Day programs are starting to open again but with reduced participants and shorter days. Some programs are seeing zero behaviors at the day programs and more frequent behaviors at the homes. Not all people are willing to come back to day programs because they are concerned they will get sick.
 - The Minnesota Legislature used coronavirus relief funds to create retention grants for certain providers, to help them with the costs of business interruptions due to Covid-19 closures. More information can be found on this [eList announcement](#).
- Stacie might be out on the 21st so Tatiana will take notes during the meeting if that happens. Otherwise Ari will take notes when she is here, but she will be out on the 21st as well.
- What is going well? What should we change? What have we learned?
 - Everyone is trying really hard. Covid-19 has been tough for everyone.