



Program Report Form

Work group: School-Age Disability
Person preparing this report: Dawn Tommerdahl
Dates of Report: July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Today's Date: 11 August 2008

Factor(s) Being Addressed

- | | |
|---|---|
| √ Improve attendance/behavior in school | √ Improve functioning of children with ED or SED diagnosis |
| √ Child & family health | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in illegal activities | √ Improve permanency or family stability/family functioning |
| √ Child development | |
| √ Organization, community, systems change | √ Decrease need/demand for later intervention |
| √ Other prevention and early intervention | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experiences of abuse or neglect (improve child safety) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____ | |

PART I: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF CHILDREN SERVED

**Not all data was collected at all events! Over 100 additional children/adults attended the Halloween Party, Bowling Party, Sports Bubble event, and Parent workshop on raising children with special needs.*

Numbers year-to-date by gender (unduplicated): Data from Hawley Unity Garden, Ulen-Hitterdal stress reduction class and FM Challenger Baseball.

Male: 72 Female: 48
Total: 120

Numbers year-to-date by race (unduplicated): This data was not collected at Challenger Baseball.

Native American: 0 Asian: 0 Hispanic: 2 Black: 0 White: 59
Total: 61

Numbers year-to-date by grade level (unduplicated): This data was not collected at Challenger Baseball.

K-5: 42 6-8: 9 9-12: 10
Total: 61

ZIP codes of children/families served: These figures include the participants in the parents workshop.

56514 (Barnesville): 2	56547 (Glyndon): 1	56560 (Moorhead): 60
56525 (Comstock): 0	56549 (Hawley, Rollag) 48	56580 (Sabin): 1
56529 (Dilworth): 3	56552 (Hitterdal) 4	56585 (Ulen): 5
56536 (Felton): 0	Other: 39	

PART II: OUTCOMES

Definitions:

Goal: A specific statement about direction; what we want *clients* to attain; the change we’re working toward making

Input: Resources the organization puts in: people, money, facilities, time, technologies (knowledge, information technology, medical/therapeutic technologies)

Output: Output is about “us.” It measures the activities we engage in, for example: number of clients served, number of sessions, number of service units, etc.

Outcome: Outcome is about “them” -- the change experienced by the client.

Program / project goal	Input	Output	Outcome
Provide support for rural parents/families of school-age children with disabilities through local Community Education programs.	\$200 per district to pay for teachers, rooms, equipment and supplies for classes	2 activities were offered: 1. Stress reduction class (U-H) attended by 3 youth and 13 adults 2. Intergenerational community garden (Hawley) 58 children, 10 staff, 12 volunteers	Children are integrated into the community. Families benefit from doing activities together. Parents would feel supported by other parents/families or community agencies. Stressors decrease.
Provide opportunities for school-age children with disabilities and their siblings to practice and build their social skills.	staff/volunteers location (room or field) equipment/decorations snacks	The following activities were held this year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halloween party, held in conjunction with Arc at Heartland Industries, well-attended. ▪ Bowling party, 37 people attended despite the blizzard. ▪ Sports bubble, 6 people attended (more had signed up). ▪ Challenger baseball, 8 weeks in the summer; 60 children and 26 volunteers 	Social skills improve Self-esteem improves Stressors decrease Self-confidence improves Physical skills learned
Collaborate with local organizations to provide training to people who work with school-age children with disabilities and to provide greater opportunities for school-age children with	postage and mailing supplies mailing list staff time	“Get to Know Me” form was sent to 6 agencies and more than 200 families (with Children’s Mental Health flex forms).	Greater awareness of helpful tools to work with school-age children with disabilities. Children can participate more fully if organizations can better meet their needs.

disabilities to interact with each other and with others in the community. (“Yes, You Can” campaign: button/bookmark)			Children experience improved social skills, self-esteem, self-confidence.
Provide training for parents and professionals about disabilities.	speakers space speaker fees/stipends refreshments/lunch volunteers information about local agencies (tables/goodie bags)	Dr. Joan Blaska gave the keynote address on “Cyclical Grieving” at an all-day workshop on October 27. In addition to the keynote, there was a panel discussion during lunch and 5 breakout sessions (3 a.m., 2 p.m.) 42 people attended (including presenters).	Attendees gain knowledge and understanding of areas covered in keynote speech and breakout sessions. See “additional comments” below for more information. 3 months after: what have you done differently based on what you’ve learned at this forum? See “additional comments” below results from this survey.

Narrative:

FM Challenger Baseball: The season ran for eight weeks from June – August 4. Most evenings started with practice and then the children were divided into four teams so they could play two games simultaneously. After the games, a special, fun activity was scheduled (Dragon Train, Hawkeye, Scorch (MSUM), Thunder (NDSU), Bubble man, ice cream truck, clown, swimming party, pizza party). The children’s baseball skills improved over the course of the season – many started batting with a T and worked up to hitting a pitched ball. More than twenty volunteers (teachers, pediatric nurses, therapists, etc.) assisted. The team attended a Red Hawks game on July 15. Prior to the start of the game, each player was introduced and the team got to go down on the field and meet the Red Hawks players. Funding came from many community sources (see “Collaboration” below).

Hawley Unity Garden (HUG): In February 2008 a group attended a Blandin Leadership Retreat. Individuals from that group came away with the challenge to pilot a community garden project in Hawley. We wanted to take the H –Health, W- Wellness, E- Enrichment in HAWLEY and bring the A-Adults & Y – Youth in HAWLEY together to go GREEN and work together to build an awesome fruit, vegetable & flower garden that could be enjoyed by the community for years to come. Merle & Loree Jegtvig were generous in allowing us to utilize a vacant lot they own across from the Hawley Elementary School. Mark Altenburg approached the Hawley Jaycees for financial support and they so generously gave \$500. Brett Dahl approached the Hawley Lions as well and they were generous in giving \$500 too. Paula Boucher has made a request to the Hawley WOT and will be making requests to the Firemen’s Relief Association, Hawley Community Club, and Hawley PTO for additional support to sustain the garden. Bill Gotteborg connected with the Dawn Tommerdahl to see if this garden project would be a good fit for the Collaborative’s School –Age Disability work group. We are hoping the project will provide for stress reduction for parents as well as children, senior citizens and other community members that are willing and able to take the time to work in and enjoy the garden we created this summer with your support. The children learned about caring for fragile plants donated from Moen Lake Greenhouse, Blossoms Floral, Greenleaf and purchased from FM Farmer’s Market as the garden plot was prepared via “no till gardening” method. Each day the children and staff at Fun in the

Sun would water and prune the plants as they waited to be planted in the garden plot. Landscape Fabric was laid down in the 48'x48' area with garden staples then the other layers were meticulously applied. Top soil, 10 sheet layers of wet newspaper, compost mature, dried grass clippings and brown mulch made up the layers of the "no till garden" that is suppose to be much more earth-friendly and environmentally sound. REACH Volunteers, & Fun in the Staff children and staff then proceeded to plant the plants. Tomatoes, Peppers, & Herbs are the primary plants donated this year so if all goes well we hope to have a SALSA party this fall. Marigold Flowers were planted to form a large sun in the center of the garden along with the words 'FUN IN THE SUN' in recognition of the Fun in the Sun children that worked to create this awesome garden that we hope to expand and improve upon in the years to come as well as bring people, young and old together for conversation and fellowship. The area was fenced with a gate with two large rocks at the entrance that were bonuses when the garden received the donated dirt from Aggregate Industries. Petunia flowers were planted around the rocks and Flowers in Roll was placed along the perimeter of the fence to help beautify the area as well as a garden sundial placed in the center and a couple bright cheery sun decorations place on the gate to welcome new comers to the garden. We are very excited to get this project off the ground in Hawley and want to extend a huge thanks to the Collaborative for helping financially support it.

Stress Reduction class (Ulen-Hitterdal): The Community Education Board decided to offer an evening Stress Reduction class to area residents. It was felt that this class could help reduce levels of anxiety and stress in attending parents and students, thereby improving the mental health of attendees. Suzanne Kirk, Fargo, a psychologist who focuses her work in the area of stress reduction, was contacted to conduct the class. Class was held on March 27, 2008 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

PART III: COLLABORATION

Work group members include several parents and professionals representing the following Collaborative partners: Access of the Red River Valley, The Arc of West Central Minnesota, Clay County Public Health, Clay County Social Services, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Schools, Lake Agassiz Special Education Cooperative, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, and Moorhead Area Public Schools including Moorhead Community Education. Work group members regularly update the group on community activities that they or the organizations they represent are involved in.

In addition, the work group has initiated the following discussions with community partners:

- Starting a PTAC for parents of children in special education with Moorhead Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council. As a result of these discussions, parent-advisors will be more visible at their schools so that other parents can bring recommendations or concerns to the PAC through them and they will also have a standing agenda item on the regular PTAC agendas.
- Working with K-Kids and other Kiwanis-based school clubs to start buddy club programs at Moorhead schools. It is our hope that having a buddy at school will make it easier for children with special needs to get involved and stay involved at school and in community activities. These discussions will continue into FY09.
- The work group also provided feedback to IEIC (Interagency Early Intervention Committee) on possible trainings for families of children with special needs – specifically as the children transition to school and perhaps lose supportive services as they age.

Finally,

- Lakes Country Service Cooperative made a \$100 contribution toward lunch expenses at the Cyclical Grieving workshop. The Collaborative's Parent Involvement Committee paid Dr. Blaska's speaker fee and hotel. The Collaborative paid stipends of \$35 to parents who asked for them to cover childcare or other expenses.
- the work group contributed to the silent auction at CTIC adult prom fundraiser,
- the work group had a table at an Inclusion Ministry event (network rally),
- the work group tries to co-sponsor activities with other community organizations to broaden the scope of kids to play with. An example of this is the Halloween party that was held in conjunction with the Arc. Bowling and Sports Bubble activities were open to all family members.

Collaboration on funded projects (from project reports)

FM Challenger Baseball: Funding was provided by Gate City Bank, Bremer Bank, State Bank, Pediatric Therapy Partners, Walmart, Hornbacher's, Scheel's (gave discount on equipment), and Clay County Collaborative. A couple of companies also contributed items for the kids (Rubik's cubes, water bottles).

Hawley Unity Garden (HUG): Hawley Schools has been in collaboration with REACH (Rural Enrichment And Counseling Headquarters. Inc.) on the garden project from the beginning with the FUN IN THE SUN Daycare Staff, Children and REACH Volunteers working together to establish a garden site that is envisioned to bring unity and beauty to the Hawley community for years to come. There also has been collaboration with area service organization such as the Hawley Jaycees and Hawley Lions that have come on board with financial support of \$500 each. There is hope that the Hawley WOT, Firemen's Relief Association, Hawley Community Club, and Hawley will also be able to provide financial and/or volunteer support as we expand and grow the garden.

Stress Reduction class (Ulen-Hitterdal): Stress Reduction was organized by Ulen-Hitterdal Community Educaiton with support form Ulen-Hitterdal School.

PART IV: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional comments from **Dr. Joan Blaska** workshop to illustrate what participants learned:

- Wonderful, easy to relate to many of the issues she has experienced, helpful.
- Informative, helpful – loved the humor – Joan provided a great base from which to start
- It made perfect sense to me about cyclical grieving. It will never go away but it will....

And about the breakout sessions and panel:

- Information was an eye-opener for one parent and a confirmation for the rest of us as to just how much power a parent really has.
- Very good. Lots of useful info. Nobody tells you the “etiquette” with PCAs in your home when they start. This was very good info.
- Very interesting and nice to know that the school is concerned about the families handling issues.
- Good. Small, but very diverse crowd – there is so much info to cover, it is difficult to cover something useful to each person’s situation. It is very good to tell people where to start and that was done.
- I thought it was very nice to learn how others have dealt with their difficulties with their special needs children.

Several months after the presentation participants were sent a follow-up survey. Some of their comments appear below:

Key piece of information, key idea or key tool you learned from Dr. Blaska:

- I liked how she stressed the fact that you need to work with your child's school or therapy staff and not against them thinking that they are all about making their bottom line instead of helping your child. I've always been skeptical of the school system and how it's looking out for their interests instead of what's best for your child.
- You will always have periods of grief

How have you used that information:

- I have come to realize that it is the truth (that you will always have periods of grief) and when it hits it’s easier to deal with.
- I reach out to my son’s therapist and teachers better.
- The concept of “cyclical grieving” now has a name. I can share that concept with others.

Other reflections about the day:

- It was very well planned and those who attended could readily relate to each other.

Other Information of Note

The number of involved parent representatives on this work group is by far the highest of any in the Collaborative.

Copies of newspaper articles attached:

- FM Challenger baseball (late summer 2007)
- Stress reduction class at Ulen (March 2008)

PART V: Financial Report

CATEGORY	AMOUNT OF LCTS FUNDS REQUESTED	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL EXPENDED
Family Support through Community Ed. (\$200/rural district)	\$800		Space for stress class and community garden	\$400.00 <i>Hawley:</i> \$200.00 <i>Ulen-Hitterdal:</i> \$200.00
Activities for Children Baseball: \$300 Zoo: \$350 Other: \$300	\$950		Heartland for space for Halloween party, prizes for children attending donated. Bowling: bowling alley Baseball: visits by Bubbleman, Dragon Train, Thunder, etc. Volunteer time for all of these events.	\$598.91 <i>Halloween:</i> \$45.05 <i>Bowling:</i> \$83.99 <i>Sports Bubble:</i> \$117.36 <i>Baseball:</i> \$352.51
“Yes, You Can” campaign	\$500			\$0
Training for Parents & Professionals	\$500	Lakes Country Service Coop contributed \$100 to the Dr. Blaska workshop; \$360 in registration fees	Panelists, presenters of breakout sessions, scholarships for parents who asked for them	\$785.72 <i>income</i> -460.00 \$325.72
Miscellaneous o Transportation o Graphic design o Other (copying)	\$250 \$50 \$200			\$332.73 <i>Postage:</i> \$2.73 <i>CTIC Fundraiser:</i> \$50.00 <i>Advertising baseball in KidSource:</i> \$280.00
total	\$3250			\$1657.36

Carry over into FY09: \$1592.64