

**Clay County Collaborative**  
**School-Age Disabilities System Work Group Meeting Notes**

Tuesday, 10 January 2012                      10:00 – 11:20 a.m.      Family Services Center, Room 2

**In attendance:** Donna Atherton (The Arc of West Central MN), Lanette Krinsky (Parent representative), Kerry Larson (Parent representative), Jane Rawlings (Access of the Red River Valley), Meg Shulstad (Parent representative), Carolyn Strnad (Parent representative), Dawn Tommerdahl (Collaborative Coordinator)

Lanette volunteered to chair today's meeting. She welcomed the group and we did a round of introductions. Minutes from the 12/13/11 meeting were unanimously approved. (Carolyn/Meg) A discussion of school resources officers was added to the end of today's agenda.

**Updates**

- Meg:
  - Special needs committee at St. Joe's met last night. They will host another family event on March 17. A possible project will be making fleece pillows/blankets for one of the shelters. Rachel has made a new picture chart.
  - Special needs PTA will be held January 23 at 7 p.m. at the Fargo District Office. (4<sup>th</sup> Monday this month because of the holiday).
  - Autism support group meets Friday. They have open gym at TNT on Sunday.
  - Meg will suggest to PTAC that they buy books on disabilities. Other ideas:
    - Fidgety fairy tales: <http://challenge-live.arcstone.com/fidgety-fairy-tales/>
    - Basket on disabilities for teachers lounge – Dawn will find compilations of factsheets about disabilities that we made for the "Tips & Techniques" panel.
- Carolyn:
  - Attended the CTIC parent event with panel of employers and representative from voc rehab and Rural MN CEP. It works really well that it happens on the same night as the Arc dance.
  - Connections is using a person-centered assessment tool in an effort to match skills/strengths of individual with job skills. Goal is for all to be ready for competitive employment. Parents still need to be strong advocates for their children.
  - Next topic will be housing options.
- Dawn:
  - *Being the Other One* book discussion starts January 24 over the noon hour.
  - Kristen DePree will replace Lindsay Kirk in the disability unity. She will likely join this work group.
- Donna:
  - Valentine's Dance coming up February 13. \$5 tickets
  - Technology for independence workshop coming up January 26 (parents) and 27 (professionals)
  - Consortium Day at the Capitol – January 31; Arc - April; FAS Day – March 21

**FY12 work plan**

- Buddy clubs: next breakfast at the high school is tomorrow. It's the last scheduled one – the Key Club will evaluate and decide whether to continue. Meg will send out letters about

buddy club to families at Asp. They will likely meet after school as the kids have other activities going on in the morning.

- Social group: Jane has done some research on social group curriculum.
  - Target age group is jr./sr. high because friendship is more challenging for this age group.
  - Topics: phone etiquette (e.g. sending pictures over the phone), manners/hospitality (inviting guests to go first), boundaries, job-related soft skills (first impressions, personal hygiene, clean clothes, no swearing), independent living skills, self-soothing skills (like to deal with sensory overload at school – especially lunch).
  - Could be separate gender groups, middle school/high school.
  - Minimum enrollment: 4 (to practice, discuss, etc.).
  - Possible facilitators: Key/Builders Club group as practice group, MSUM special ed./psych/social work students.
  - Time: once/week for 4 weeks, take a break, have a different topic
  - End with a fun event – something to work towards – with typical peers.
- Disability Day at Robert Asp Elementary: No update at this time.
- Other activities for this year
  - Pool Party: About 40 kids/adults have signed up so far.
  - TNT: Dawn will call – try for March 24 first.
  - Bowling: Dawn will call tomorrow to see if we can schedule for February 11.

#### **Other**

- Project Search – is there a champion at Sanford? No update at this time.
- Other: Carolyn serves on the State Special Ed. Advisory Council where they are looking at kids with disabilities and involvement in the juvenile justice system. Carolyn cited a report that nationally, kids with disabilities are over-represented in the juvenile justice system. They would like feedback on the role of school resource officers. E.g. some students have behavioral intervention plans, but is there protocol for sharing these plans with the SROs. There is a national curriculum available for training school resource officers on working with kids with disabilities.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m., meeting room 2

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Tommerdahl  
Collaborative Coordinator