

**First Steps South East  
LPCC Quarterly Meeting  
Cluster J  
August 16, 2024**

I. Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at 9:33 by Kim Fledderman.

II. Introductions and Inspirational Story

After introductions, Kim Fledderman shared an inspirational story. Kim ran into a family who was in First Steps in the past. The child has spina bifida and is getting her driver's license.

Guest Presentation: Hanger Clinic –

Laurie Clark and Brent Collier from Hanger Clinic provided information on their services in order to reduce confusion about finding pediatric orthotics and prosthetics. Many of the current Hanger locations were named something else in the past. Clinics have been merging and partnering. Locations previously named Transcend, Advanced OrthoPro (AOI), and Kenney are now Hanger Clinic. The locations have the same clinicians, just the name has changed. George Vaughn still travels to rural settings. Monthly clinics take place in Decatur County and in Bloomington. The consolidation of the businesses means that they will not act as competitors with each other and can instead be collaborators. The clinicians, services, and products cover needs from “head to toe” for orthotics and prosthetics. The dust is still settling for the mergers and organization changes in all the clinics. For some clinicians, this is the third system they've worked for in the last four years. Becky Haymond asked the presenters about the referral process – are there ways First Steps can help? Brent answered that families call the clinic and complete a visit. Then doctors sign off. In some instances, Hanger will send a request to a First Steps therapist for notes. For example, with helmets sometimes two months of therapy with a physical therapist is needed before approval from some insurances such as Anthem when the condition is torticollis. Becky suggested that a flyer from Hanger Clinic would be helpful which could be shared with families. Becky also asked about costs and if any funding help is available to families who need the items. Brent replied with an explanation that families will have no surprises about the costs as the expense is shared upfront. Items are submitted to insurance, and remaining balance is managed by the patient assistance department that offers a payment plan. Laurie will send Hanger Clinic flyer.

III. Consent Agenda Items

Missy Myers moves to approve Consent Agenda items. Molly Cleek seconds. Items approved by consensus.

IV. Financial Report

Becky explained the budget handout. The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2024, but the last reimbursements, bills, and expenses have not yet been posted. The SPOE has in fact spent all of the funds. The biggest expense in the budget year is personnel. The new budget year started July 1, 2024. The grant amount for the current year is the same amount as last year.

V. Other Business

- Cluster Oversight and System Updates
  - Provider Networks – Missy Myers with Collaborating for Kids reported the agency has brought on a new Developmental Therapist (DT) and new Developmental Therapist Communication (DTC) specialists. Michelle with Family First reported that the agency has brought on a new

Physical Therapist (PT) and a new DTC. Family First serves Hancock and Shelby counties within Cluster J.

- Training Opportunities – The Heart to Heart Conference is coming up on September 26<sup>th</sup>. It is no cost conference presented by Indiana Family to Family. The target audience for the conference sessions are families, but professionals are also welcome. The conference format is virtual/on-line. Registration and more information is at <https://www.inf2f.org/heart-to-heart-conference.html>
- Statistics – Referrals, Evaluations, and Initial IFSP count handouts for 2024 were reviewed.
  - Referrals – The referral trends are steady and on track to be similar to 2023. The county breakdown shows some counties higher and some lower.
  - Evaluations – We are averaging 186 evaluations per month. While in-person evaluations can be arranged, virtual evaluations mean for less travel and quicker scheduling so that therapy services can get started quicker.
  - Initial IFSPs – The monthly average number of Initial IFSPs for 2024 is trending higher than in 2023.
  - All data - The reports provided are all currently tabulated by hand by local SPOE staff. At some point the EI Hub system should be able to provide the numbers, but the reporting is not functional yet.
- Staffing Update – Cristina Cardona Piris has been hired as Service Coordinator to serve Spanish speaking families in several counties. Kelsey Balzano has been hired as Service Coordinator to serve in Dearborn County. Two Service Coordinator growth positions have been posted for Madison County in Cluster H.
- EI Hub – There is nothing new. State staff have continued to work with PCG on clean-up. With EI Hub version releases, there are some gains and some set-backs. Kim Fledderman with Developmental Services voiced that the service start dates are no longer viewable by Service Coordinators. Becky shared that she has mentioned to the state team that that feature was very helpful and can we please have it back. Missy Myers with Collaborating for Kids states a current issue that providers need to start to enter a visit before they can see the authorization, so providers don't know of the date the authorization is starting until taking that action.
- Old Business
  - Indiana Early Intervention Conference – The conference had good state-wide attendance with over 500 attending in person plus more attending virtually. Many SPOE staff attended, and several were involved in planning and as presenters. The conference planning committee is already thinking about next year's conference, and you can sign-up to join the planning committee.
  - Transition MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) Process 2024 – All LEA agreements are updated. Several Special Education Co-ops were dissolving. Anytime that there are LEA changes, the agreements can be updated. The SPOE will offer to meet in person with each LEA to review the transition activities Memorandum of Understanding. Several meetings were held in the spring and early summer with some in person and some via Zoom. Several LEA partners said the partnership was working fine and did not feel the need to meet before signing the current agreement.
  - Federal Monitoring of State First Steps Program – Federal monitors from the Office of Special Education Planning (OSEP) will be in Indiana for a visit this coming Monday Aug 19-21. Once the review is complete, it is anticipated that the state First Steps office may change some processes or policies as a result of the review.
- New Business
  - No new business.

## V. Announcements and Updates

- Rosa Dirado with Volunteers in Medicine shared that her organization completes child development assessments for the small children staying with their parents who are living at

Volunteers in Medicine for residential treatment for substance use disorder. They use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as the screening tool. The staff complete a referral to First Steps for children missing their milestones.

- Maria Ucan with PBS (Positive Behavior Supports) shared that her organization has openings for ABA therapy. Her organization does in-home services and has bilingual Spanish-speaking staff. The services are for children with an autism diagnosis to address behavioral and/or developmental milestone goals. A question was asked if PBS has diagnostic services. Maria replied that no, the child needs to get a diagnosis first.
- The next regularly scheduled LPCC Meeting for Cluster J is Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

VI. Adjournment

Thank you to everyone for coming. Meeting adjourned at 10:34.

Attendees:

Abbi Brooks	Building Blocks Child Care Resource and Referral
Anne Dolan	First Steps South East, LPCC Coordinator
Amy Marine	CASY Child Care Resource and Referral
Becky Haymond	First Steps South East, Program Director
Brent Collier	Hanger Clinic
Cristina Cardona Piris	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Christy Hales	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Deb Miller	Accord Therapy
Elaine Studdard	Pediplay, Inc.
Jana Bartels	Indiana Hands and Voices
Janell Foley	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator Trainer
Jessica Wagers	A Step Ahead Pediatric Therapy
Jill Turner	Kings Daughters Hospital
Josh Okain	Positive Behavior Supports
Kelsey Balzano	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Kim Fledderman	Developmental Services, Inc.
Kristin Kouka	Family First
Laurie Clarke	Hanger Clinic
Lindsay Devers	Indiana Family to Family
Maggie Matthews	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Maria Ucan	Positive Behavior Supports
Marissa Horvath	Kort Kids
Michelle Dills	Family First
Michelle King-Shelly	Family First
Mikayla Cougill	First Steps South East, Anderson Office Manager
Missy Myers	Collaborating For Kids
Molly Cleek	Kids Only, Inc.
Rebecca Scholl	Go Baby Go of South Central Indiana
Rachel Klutzer	Monroe County Schools
Rosa Dirado	Volunteers of America
Sarah Bishop	First Steps South East, Columbus Office Manager
Shannon O'Leary	Positive Behavior Supports
Whitney Austin	First Steps South East, SPOE Supervisor