Presentations at NLGC Gatherings!

In keeping with NLGC’s purpose, to provide eligible children with disabilities and their families with a coordinated, multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, intervention services system that is locally centered and community based, the committee has scheduled a presentation for NLGC meetings.

The following is a highlight of the presentations given through this year:

9/15/2021 Kunfda Frendea and Stephanie Upton gave a presentation on the Family Friendly Jail Initiative.

This initiative came about because 67% of students in Carlton County say they had incarcerated parents, and 100% of the mothers surveyed reported some sort of parenting class. First the Family Friendly Jail Initiative allows for a more family friendly environment for children to visit their incarcerated parents. Only one child per visit allowed about 25 minutes per child. During these visits, devises are not allowed so the parents need to communicate with the child during the visit. After 3 visits the incarcerated parent gets a memorabilia bag to give to each child after 5 visits they receive a book about parenting from prison. These visits have helped motivate parents and siblings to be better parents to their children. When a inmate comes in they are given a survey that asks if they have any children, if they are pregnant, what school their children attend, how much time they spend with their children, and if there are other caregiver involved. Nicole and Stephanie are working on having inmates connect with schools to get this program as quick as possible so the school will be aware of why a student might be having behavioral issues.

11/7/2021 Presentations: Heidi Deweist, Northwoods Technical College; Hospitality Foundation Services

- General Program Resources:
  - Hospitality Foundation Website: www.northwoods.edu/services/hospitality
  - Hospitality Foundation Programs:
    - Enrollment and registration:
      - www.northwoods.edu/services/hospitality/registration
    - Hospitality Foundation Dining Services:
      - www.northwoods.edu/services/hospitality/dining-services
    - Hospitality Foundation Programs:
      - www.northwoods.edu/services/hospitality/programs
- Presentation Information:
  - www.northwoods.edu/services/hospitality/presentations
  - www.northwoods.edu/services/hospitality/programs
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube!

The Northern Lights Interagency Public Awareness Committee

The committee put together the Annual Report for the second consecutive year. It highlights the fantastic work our region makes possible by the partnerships with our schools, local sector, and agency partners. We also utilize social media to publicize the work of the Northern Lights Interagency Council.

This year we sent notes and window decals to every business partner that works with our based training coordination and students who worked during the upcoming school year for Levi. This is Levi's first year Program Success:

Work Based Learning

Congratulations Levi, keep going and work hard on your career path!

2022 Annual Report

A Year of Highs and Lows

By Dena Hagen:
Director of Special Education

I’m so proud of all the special education staff that I work with as they are completing the 2021-22 school year. Everyone from teachers to paraprofessionals, administrators and office professionals have been through a ton of challenges the past 26 months and there have certainly been highs and lows.

In the “low” category, I think back to the struggles of schools throughout different posts of this school year when there were updates of COVID-19 cases. Many hailed January and February of this year as being the most challenging months in the past, which was a reminder that what we do is critical. It’s also important to realize that whether or not we could sustain the “in-person model” of learning. This year has also been one of “all hands on deck” and certainly exhausting for teachers, who covered each other’s classes because there were (are) very few substitutes working anywhere. Many principals were teaching classes as well and even the superintendent was driving bus and ran made to keep students in school. I’ve heard the word that’s been spoken so often and many might be tired of it! It was unprecedented.

However, when I think back to the “highs”, there are certainly some silver linings for all of us as we have been through. Staff across our member districts have transformed some of their work into what I’m calling a “hybrid model” of teaching. A team or group can now gather virtually completely or some members can still attend in-person while others join in through the screen from afar. This change is certainly allowing more flexibility to the Northern Lights cooperative staff, who travel across our 6,000 sq. mi. service area to serve. We can travel to more of the needs of our districts, whereas in the past, we wouldn’t have been able to.

Fortunately, the emergency of the pandemic has really hindered our ability to travel, however we continue to have extremely important work to do. Many, many students with disabilities were impacted by the interruption in typical learning over the past two years. Although this is truly bad, we’re also continuing to see a rise in mental health needs and for those of us that work in special education, it’s no secret that students learn in a variety of individualized ways. Now is the time to seize the opportunity to teach students differently and make an impact for the most successful. Our important work of serving students with disabilities continues.

As I close, I want to reiterate that you can help your local school district! If you’re interested or even our office and we’ll get you connected with the right people.

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Work Based Learning Program Success

With students from Barnum and Two Harbors High Schools made blankets and delivered them to the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Home staff and appreciations were shared. Nine blankets were delivered. American Legion Auxiliary Post 71 graciously donated three hundred dollars toward the purchase of the materials used to make the blankets. It was a collaborative effort between, American Legion Auxiliary, Tina Olson and Dave LeBlanc.

Secondary Transition Booklet

A Guide to Preparing You and Your Child For Life After High School

For parents/guardians of preschool and school-age children and their families.

This book is to provide a comprehensive resource and local direct service information about community resources and transitional support services that help a person develop and maintain essential living job skills and maintaining employment in the community.

Robert F. Pierce Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

196 Chester Park Hall, 31 West College St, Duluth, MN • 218-726-5300

Robert F. Pierce Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic offers comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and therapy services to individuals with communication disorders and differences.

Udac

Northern Lights Interagency Council

156 Chester Park Hall, 31 West College St, Duluth, MN • 218-726-5300

Udac provides comprehensive assessment, and referral services to individuals with communication disorders and differences.

Nortwoods Technical College-

Hospitality Foundation Program

Northern Lights Interagency Council (NLIC)

Second Annual Report

The primary purpose of this book is to provide a comprehensive resource and local direct service information about community resources and transitional support services that help a person develop and maintain essential living job skills and maintaining employment in the community.

Trillium Works, Inc.

Duluth, MN • 218-722-6309

Trillium Works, Inc. is a licensed employment services and community-based day supports provider. We provide support for adults who are seeking competitive employment including assistance learning job skills and maintaining employment in the community. We also provide individualized, community-based training and support services that help persons to develop and maintain personal and work-related skills. Trillium Works is in a process that helps people can move to work with all individuals that qualify for a waiver through their counties including the Developmental Disabilities (DD), Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) or Brain Injury (BI) Waivers. We also do extensive work for individuals who are working with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) and State Services for the Blind (SSB).

IEIC and WBL students from Barnum High Schools making the blankets.