

January 14, 2021

## **Early Childhood Tracking Program**

### **Spirit Lake Dakota Tribe**

#### **Monthly Report for December 2020**

Submitted by Beverly Graywater, Director

Listed below are the program activities that are compiled as a brief overview for the month:

- Immunizations were scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. (mainly Tuesdays & Thursdays). Health Track Clinics were December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Due to Covid-19 the program continues to practice strict safety pre-cautions. NP Cheryl continues to provide quality services during Wednesday Clinics.
- RNs work hard in contacting and getting families to come in. There were 79 scheduled Immunizations with 36 (46%) completed. No show was 40 (51%), and Rescheduled 3 (3%). The Clinics scheduled 38 children with 19 (50%) showed, No show 13 (34%), Rescheduled 0 (0%) and Cancel 6 (16%).
- The Education Coordinator and two teachers continue to work with parents in serving forty-three special needs children in Home Base. There was no face-to-face contact with children this month. The education staff made one major contact to each of their homes to deliver each child an Educational Christmas Gift and a PWNA supply gift bag. Education staff continue to collaborate with Four Winds Special Needs Program.
- On-going from past months, Covid-19 Precautions executed by the tribe is in effect where our workers are considered hazard workers who are implementing all safety precautions. The education staff are teleworking, texting, and emailing from home as much as they can, but do have to come in one full day per week to assist with children/parents coming in for immunizations and clinic, obtaining ASQs from them. The Lifestream Data system we use, is such where all staff have protected access to all children's files from their home. All contacts and progress are documented in the data system. The two RNs have been working three days of the week, Tuesday-Wednesday. On Mondays and Fridays they telework from home scheduling appointments, updating data, family status, re-schedule appointments-mailed cards, Health Track referrals for later dates and assisting Tribal Social Services. Education staff post educational activities on face book. Many parents are found on face book to communicate with and share educational activities. Each staff member is a positive support for parents.
- On-going, nursing continues to work with Allyson or staff at TSS to assist with weekly weight checks on referred newborns. It's critical these newborns thrive, their weight gain is key to their health and educational development, on-going from last month.
- On-going the Education Staff continue to do ASQs (Ages and Stages Questionnaires) over the phone with parents/guardians because of no contact with children at this time. The ASQs were done with much more thought and concern from the parents, this was positive. Keep in mind there are some parents/children we track closer than others. December is the starting month for our new year Child Count. This month the staff completed a total of 66 ASQs on children ages one (1) through five years (5) and 0 Brigances (due to **no** physical contacts with children).

- The Education Coordinator continues to recruit “Child Find” new born babies from Altru hospital by phone to the mothers. There were 9 newborns recruited out of a total of 21 infants/toddlers below the age of one this month.
- On-going, transportation /maintenance by Ermen Brown, Jr in providing transportation to families as RNs increased Immunization days to meet the needs of the families being served.
- Ermen has reorganized and completed the waiting area as the weather is cold and families were unable to complete the paperwork prior to their appointment. The large waiting area is divided into two small waiting areas. The teacher’s area is also divided with clear temporary walls for safety. Covid-19 has thrown many challenges in how to make our work areas safe. The tribe provided Covid-19 funding so it was no cost to our program.
- On-going Car Seat Program with Nicole and Ermen coordinating the contacts/training.
- The director continues to meet, coordinate and collect weekly work plans from each staff.
- HIPPA Training was attended and completed by Amy, Liz, Nellie and Ermen.
- The director coordinates all financial activities with the tribal finance department and the human resource department on a continuous basis.
- RN Amy worked in completing the Maternal Health Grant which focused on acquiring educational and cultural language materials for promotion of nutrition to our families.
- RN Amy has kept on top of ordering all medical supplies making sure we don’t run short.
- RN Amy scheduled Nutrition Certified LaNae from SL Health Clinic to meet with parents the first Wednesday of each month on nutrition importance to their child/ren.
- Last month the director requested a total of 100 Children’s Christmas Stockings from PWNA, Rapid City, SD. These were given out in December to children of families who came in and/or are in compliance with their children in the program
- The RNs and Teachers work hard in referrals and appointments for parents needing to take their child to other health and educational specialists.
- The director coordinates all financial activities with the tribal finance department and the human resource department on a continuous basis.
- The entire staff continue to be a strong working team that has continued to give services to our families. The staff works well in coordinating with all agencies relating to children. The agencies involved this month are Ann Carlson Intervention, Lake Region Special Education, Four Winds Special Education, Tribal Social Services, Spirit Lake Health Clinic, Food Distribution, ND Dept of Health- Immunization, Tribal Health and WIC. The program collects data that reflects the work being done for our families.

Note: The RNs work so hard in scheduling children in for immunizations and clinics but our percentage rate for “no shows” is challenging, but we must keep trying and trying. All staff have been very responsible in providing health and educational services to families during this difficult time due to Covid-19.