



## MEETING SUMMARY January 23, 2009

A *regular public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, January 23, 2009, at the Medical Society of New Jersey Conference Center in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Katherine Doyle, Chair, who presided and declared a quorum present.

**ATTENDANCE** – Attached

### WELCOME/CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Ms. Doyle reviewed the *SICC protocol regarding public comment*, printed on the SICCC agenda made available to the public.
2. Ms. Doyle gave an update on the SICCC's efforts this past year -- collectively and through its advisement committees -- to *review various aspects of the Early Intervention System* and discuss how it can become more efficient, more accountable, more cost-effective without compromising the quality of services. The Council met in closed session earlier this morning to continue those efforts in seeking "advisements" to the Lead Agency from the various committees.
3. At Ms. Doyle's request, SICCC members and *29 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.
4. Two SICCC members with many years of dedicated service have *submitted resignations*:
  - *Jill Simone, M.D.* (Medicaid representative), whose work promotion would limit her time for SICCC activities.
  - *Carolyn Lane* (Head Start representative), who is retiring from Head Start and pursuing family needs.
5. Chair Doyle made the following *advisement committee appointments*:
  - Warren Moore, Chair of the State Performance Plan Committee
  - Steve Weiss, Chair of the Service Deliver Committee
6. The minutes of the *January 5, 2009 Executive Committee* were unanimously accepted as distributed in advance (attached to file copy of minutes).

7. Upon pursuing appointments with the *Governor's Appointments' Office*, the Chair was informed in mid-January that Director Jamie Gilmartin was moved from her position to work directly in the Governor's Office. While still overseeing the Appointments Office, Ms. Doyle has reached out to Assistant Director of Appointments Amber Oakley in ongoing efforts to resolve outstanding issues with affecting appointments and legal questions with regard to Federal and State Executive Orders.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The *minutes of the November 23, 2008 meeting* were unanimously approved as distributed in advance, as amended (as attached to the agenda) – upon motion by Chanell McDevitt, seconded by William Agress and carried.

## SICC ADVISEMENT COMMITTEES

### 1. **Service Delivery** – Steve Weiss, Chair/ Joyce Salzberg, Vice Chair

Ms. Salzberg presented an *overview of the committee's work* during the past year (attached).

### 2. **State Performance Plan** – Warren Moore, Chair

As a new chair (2 weeks), Mr. Moore has not yet had a meeting. However, his committee will be studying – and making recommendation(s) to the Council – on the summary prepared by former Chair Simone, which supplies details of the *Medicaid Waiver* raised at several SICC meetings; its issues and the reasons for the decision not to go forward with such a waiver; information on various programs available to families who may need assistance and health care coverage (previously distributed to all SICC members and attached to file copy of minutes).

In an effort to economize, Mr. Moore offered, without charge – except for a \$4.00 parking garage fee -- the facilities of UMDNJ in New Brunswick for *SICC meetings*, including lunch. Mr. Moore made a formal motion, seconded by Carola d'Emery: ***That the SICC hold future meetings at the UMDNJ facility in New Brunswick, without charge.*** Discussion elicited the concern that, because Mr. Moore is CEO of Children's Specialized Hospital and sits on the SICC as a "provider" representative, the possibility existed of a perceived conflict of interest. **The motion was lost on a vote of 9 (no) to 5 (yes).**

### 3. **Family Support** – Norman Rosenblum, Chair/Joseph Holahan, Vice Chair

The committee is still looking into *natural environment* vs center-based services; *transition* from early intervention to preschool special education services and how to facilitate more children being included.

4. **Administrative** – Annette Ristoro, Chair/Michele Christopoulos

The Chair and Vice-Chair reported on the committee's January 15, 2009 meeting (attached), which offered the following **advisements to the Lead Agency**:

- **That the current budget request regarding family cost share (\$6 Million) be maintained for fiscal 2010** -- upon motion by Ms. Ristoro, seconded by Ms. Christopoulos and carried (Ms. Wood abstained).
- **That the cost share formula for families not be increased in the fiscal 2010 budget** -- upon motion by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Ms. Murray and carried (Ms. Wood abstained).

**The Council approved** – upon motion by Ms. Christopoulos, seconded by Mr. Agress and carried – **a revised SICC Budget FY 2009 to reflect a transfer of \$2,000 from Program Printing to Committee Work** (attached to file copy of minutes). This transfer is to accommodate \$1,000 to each REIC in support of activities related to Early Intervention Week (third week in May).

**LEAD AGENCY – NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**

Celeste Andriot Wood, Assistant Commissioner; Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. Ms. Wood reported that the *State fiscal '09 budget* has a \$2 billion shortfall. The Governor's \$812 million in spending reductions included an \$11 million in "savings" from the NJEIS. These were funds rolled forward from SFY 2008 into SFY 2009. The SFY 2009 funds are forecasted to be sufficient to cover expenses through the remainder of SFY 2009. The outlook for SFY 2010 is concerning and is not expected to have any roll forward.

A House FY 2009 Economic Recovery Bill includes an additional amount of funding for Special Education for carrying out section 611 and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The bill provides language "that \$600,000,000 shall be available for Part C of the IDEA, of which \$300,000,000 shall become available on July 1, 2009, and remain available through September 30, 2010; and \$300,000,000 shall become available on July 1, 2010, and remain available through September 30, 2011." Ms. Wood also reported that, while she has no idea what the final budget will be, she is hopeful that the proposed stimulus package may avoid the need to consider an increase in the family cost share, or pulling out of Part C for SFY 2010. However, it is important to continue discussions and develop recommendations on how the Early Intervention System can be more efficient, more accountable and more cost effective in providing quality services.

2. Ms. Wood reported on former *Procedural Safeguards Coordinator* Nashon Hornsby's transfer to the Governor's policy office. It is expected that his replacement will be on board by the next SICC meeting. By acclamation, **the Council voted to send a letter to Mr. Hornsby, congratulating him on this promotion; expressing appreciation for his efforts, energy and enthusiasm on behalf of the Council as well as New Jersey's families and children with disabilities.**

3. Ms. Wood touched briefly on a pending *RFA for service coordination*; institution of new efficiencies; change in roles and responsibilities; ability of consent form with access to tax records; looking at possibilities of combined services; streamline case management.
4. Ms. Harrison reviewed the *Family Cost Participation Collections SFY 2009-01-21* (supplied in advance and attached to file copy of minutes): revenue by statement date, suspensions by month the delinquent letter generated, exists by month the child exited early intervention, by month the child exited early intervention with FPL.
5. Ms. Harrison reviewed in detail a draft of the *New Jersey Early Intervention Part C Annual Performance Report (Birth to Three), Federal Fiscal Year 2007-2008* – focusing on Indicators 1 through 14 (71 pages, distributed and attached to file copy of minutes). Ms. Harrison reported positive feedback from the New Jersey’s Federal contact about the overall report. It is the SICC’s responsibility either to submit its own annual report to the Federal Government and Governor or to provide certification with the Lead Agency’s APR. By unanimous acclamation, **the Council authorized SICC Chair Doyle to sign the official document, which certified SICC approval of the report** (attached to file copy of minutes).

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the *2009 SICC retreat* will be an agenda items at the February 25<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee telephone conference. Ms. Christopoulos will investigate low/no cost locations. Mr. Moore offered his facility as a meeting site without charge.
2. Ms. Doyle and Ms. Murray gave brief reports on their December attendance at the *NECTAC/OSEP Conference in Washington, D. C.* and
  - commented on the value of their attendance and the inspiration it generated, citing New Jersey as one of the more progressive SICC states;
  - were especially impressed with a documentary film, “The Including Sam Project”, and agreed that opportunities should be explored for its viewing by the SICC and other related groups in New Jersey;
  - made reference to New Jersey’s Parent Training Information Center (PIT) and the importance of pursuing this entity; Lauren Agoratus to pursue with Family Voices advocacy, and Malia Corde.Further discussion, including implementation of these activities, was referred to the Executive Committee for its February 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.
3. Report on the *Princeton Conference* was deferred until the 5/22/09 SICC meeting.

## REIC UPDATE

Distributed was the *Lead Family Support Coordinator, First Quarter Report, FY 2009* of the four REICs (attached to file copy of minutes). Chair Doyle complimented the REIC Directors on their activities as reflected in the comprehensive reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. *Lowell Arye of ABCD/Early Intervention Providers Association (EIPA) ...*(1) Urged SICC to look at the Medicaid Waiver; offered his “considerable” expertise on behalf of this issue, requesting that SICC share its information with him. (2) Requested the SICC pursue the amendments to the NJEIS Rules (NJAC 8:17) on which SICC submitted comments in 2007. (3) Expressed excitement about the proposed stimulus package. (4) Urged SICC to look at the Providers’ compensation which, he alleged, is overdue for an increase.

2. *Jennifer Halper of Disabled Rights New Jersey ...* Urged the SICC to have the State move ahead with the NJEIS Rules (see above).

3. *Pam Schachter of UMDNJ ...* Requested that the SICC make available to the public documents and attachments on SICC agendas, so those in attendance at public meetings can follow the discussions.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 1:35 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Agress, seconded by Ms. d’Emery and unanimously carried.

**APPROVED**

**3.27.09**