

MEETING SUMMARY

March 18, 2016

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, March 18, 2016, at Sunny Days Early Childhood Development Services in Manalapan, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Joyce Salzberg, who filled in for Catherine Colucci, Acting Chair, and declared a quorum present.

ATTENDANCE -- Attached

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Joyce Salzberg, Chair Pro Tem

Ms. Salzberg welcomed attendees. At her request, *SICC members and 15 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention. (Ms. Colucci arrived at this time and presided over the remaining portion of the meeting.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The *minutes of the January 22, 2016*, meeting were approved as previously distributed -- upon motion by Joseph Holahan, seconded by Kim Peto and unanimously carried.

LEAD AGENCY -- New Jersey Department of Health (DOH)

Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator, presented the following information on behalf of the Lead Agency:

1. **Procedural Safeguard Report (PSO)** -- So far this year, there have been 3,188 issues brought to the attention of the PSO, including informal requests for compensatory services, missed services, disruption of services and other informal requests for assistance by families and early intervention practitioners. Barbara Massey King will be assisting the PSO with implementation of the revised *NJEIS-08: No Provider/Practitioner Available (NPA)* procedure. In accordance with the revised procedure, Service Coordination Units (SCU) will be contacting PSO directly for matters related to NPA and Disruption of Service. The role of REIC is to minimize the occurrence of NPA and disruptions, including assisting the PSO in the resolution of these matters.

(NJEIS-09) -- Early Intervention Provider Assignment policy has also been updated to include a standardized “Notice of Children in Need of Service” (formerly the Broadcast List) -- creating a consistent format throughout the State. In accordance with the policies, all Early Intervention Provider Agencies are expected to communicate the actual start date of services (not anticipated date) to the SCU within required timelines. It is anticipated that the new process will be effective in expediting the assignment and initiation of early intervention (EI) services to children and families.

New PSO Coordinator – No update.

2. **Family Cost Participation Report** -- The report was emailed to members in advance of the meeting. It is expected that \$6.5 million in cost share fees will be collected by June 30, 2016. There are no major changes in the number of families approaching suspension at this time.
3. **December 1, 2015 Child Count** -- Data due to Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) by April 1st has already been submitted. The annual December 1 Count is the federally required “Single Point in Time” count of active children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP’s). The New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) report was reviewed with the SICC members. In summary, there were 12,491 children in NJEIS with an active IFSP on Dec 1, 2015. This represents a growth rate of 9.45% (1,078) compared with 2014 (11,413). The information will be placed on the

DOH/NJEIS website at:

http://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/eis/documents/system_data/table1_childcount_report.pdf

4. **SFY 2016 State Budget Update** -- The Governor's proposed budget recognizes the need for additional NJEIS funding because of growth and continues to include language that, if additional funds are necessary, can be appropriated for the same purpose, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The current SFY '15 budget was appropriated at \$94,517,000 and, if needed, has a supplemental appropriation of \$2,766,000 approved. The SFY '16 proposed budget is \$97,283,000. Bi-weekly check runs for EIP payments are averaging \$5.2 million. The current forecast for SFY '17 EIP biweekly payments is \$134,000,000. There is no proposed SFY 2017 rate increase for EI agencies. The Department of Health budget hearings are scheduled for April 18th and 19th.
5. **Federal Budget/Application Update** -- The NJ Part C FFY '16 (SFY 2017) funding is \$11,541,565, which is a \$391,855 increase over the FFY '15 funding of \$11,149,710.
6. **NJEIS Statewide Conference** -- NJEIS is offering a statewide conference entitled "Strengthening Social Emotional Development: Partnering with Families in Early Intervention" to approximately 350 NJEIS practitioners at no cost. Dr. Carol Trivette and Katy McCullough from Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) are presenting. Agencies will be given a specific number of registrations as determined by DOH. The conference will be held at Crowne Plaza in Monroe. The SICC Acting Chair has been invited to attend.
7. **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Update** -- Susan Evans provided an update on Phase II of the SSIP. The updated plan will be submitted to OSEP on or before April 1, 2016.

SICC COMMITTEES

1. **Service Delivery** – Joyce Salzberg, Chair, reported on the progress of the committee in developing a System Framework for EIP competencies modeled after the System Framework for Part C and 619 established through the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA).
2. **Family Support** -- Rosemary Browne and Patti Ciccone, Co-Chairs, shared the status of "Measuring Child and Family Outcomes" flyer. The hope is that, through the sharing of information with families on the importance of gathering developmental information as children transition out of early intervention, the number of exit evaluations using the Battelle Developmental Inventory will increase child outcome reporting and data completeness. Family Support Coordinators from REIC's, two to three per region, participated in a survey and webinar to gather feedback on the survey. Information has been shared with the committee, which will submit final recommendations to DOH.
3. **Early Learning Challenge** – No report. Chair Barbara Tkach was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict with another council
4. **Administrative** -- Chanell McDevitt presented the draft SICC budget for SFY '17. The SICC will be asked to vote on the FY '17 budget during the next meeting on May 20, 2016

REIC UPDATE

REIC's are confirming SFY '16 Early Intervention Week activities. A list of activities will be distributed to the SICC as soon as it is finalized. Early Intervention Week will take place May 15 through 22. SICC members are encouraged to participate.

OLD BUSINESS -- There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Member Retreat July 22, 2016* -- Most likely the focus will be on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Members were encouraged to suggest other topics/issues they would like addressed

during the retreat. Is there any way to make the retreat livelier? Send suggestions to Acting Chair Catherine Colucci.

2. Danielle Anderson Thomas announced that *New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (NJCAP)* is hosting an international conference in Atlantic City on April 14, 2016. The website has registration materials. A \$60 registration fee includes breakfast and lunch.
3. Ms. Colucci shared information regarding her *efforts with Rutgers* to conduct an Inter-Professional Conference on Early Intervention. A committee may be necessary at some point to work on this topic.
4. *Update on New Members* -- NJEIS is still working with the appointments' person at DOH to secure additional members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *David Holmes with the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD)* reported on the Early Intervention Providers Association (EIPA) meeting discussion about the proposed exit BDI procedures.
2. *Martin Reynolds of Innovative Interventions* asked if new agencies were going to be accepted to assist with overflow exit BDI's. Innovative Interventions would like to be considered if the need should occur.

ADJOURNMENT -- 12:15

Upon motion by Rachel Badalamenti, seconded by Dr. Holahan and unanimously carried.

NOTE: Following the meeting, Ms. Thomas gave a presentation on *Homeless Children/Families and Integration Into School*.

APPROVED
9.23.16

Next meeting -- May 20, 2016
Sunny Days Early Childhood Development Services
300 Corporate Center Drive, Manalapan, New Jersey