



MEETING SUMMARY March 22, 2013

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, March 22, 2013, at Sunny Days Early Childhood Developmental Services in Manalapan, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Warren Moore, Acting Chair, who presided.

ATTENDANCE – *Attached*

WELCOME/PRESIDER REPORT – Warren Moore, Acting Chair

Mr. Moore welcomed all attendees. At his request, *SICC members and 21 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the *January 25, 2013* meeting were approved – upon motion by Joseph Holahan, seconded by Michele Christopoulos and unanimously carried – with the notation that the list of attendees was corrected on the official attendance sheet.

SICC COMMITTEES

1. **Administrative** – Celine Fortin, Chair

The committee met this morning prior to the SICC meeting.

- A. The current SICC budget was reported to be in excellent shape. Some of the allocated funds were not spent because of unanticipated circumstances (lower consulting fee). To be determined is what meeting costs may be allocated to the budget by Children's Specialized Hospital, where meetings are usually held. Meanwhile, the **Council agreed to move \$4,000 of unexpended funds to the REICs for Early Intervention Week activities, \$1,000 to each** -- upon motion by Ms. Fortin, seconded by Dr. Holahan and unanimously carried.

The SICC Proposed Budget FY 2014 in the amount of \$36,000 (same amount as the past five years) was distributed and will be voted on at the May 17th meeting.

- B. The Governor's Appointments Office requested that *new resumes be sent for parent nominees* to the Council and outlined the website process for submission of the required information. It would be helpful if resumes were supported by the nominee's elected senator or assemblyman. Ms. Fortin will send the process information to Council members, REICs and agencies most likely to be helpful.

The Acting Chair will formalize the Council's policy for the *parent member who has not attended a meeting* since appointment by the Governor.

2. **Family Support** – Tia Dix, Michele Tyler, Patti Ciccone, Co-Chairs

While the committee did not meet this morning, members were sent the report of *REIC Family Support Activities, January-March 2013*. Ms. Dix is working with Mr. Moore to determine if SICC presentations of an informational nature could be recorded for later viewing by the public. The committee is working with REICs on Early Intervention Week activities.

3. **Service Delivery** – Warren Moore, Chair

The committee met this morning.

Autism curriculum was discussed in detail, as was the training and supervision of agencies to ensure practitioner competency. The committee has also chosen to review the previously proposed EI home concept model of agency assignment and make recommendations related to the potential implementation of the model. The Committee will be meeting on a monthly basis to engage people closer to the project and get input from everyone involved.

4. **Early Learning Challenge** – Barbara Tkach, Chair

The committee discussed the following at the early bird session today:

- A. *Help Me Grow* – The four REIC executive directors participated in the Department of Children and Families “Help Me Grow” focus group. The purpose of this initiative is to focus on the following four core components:
- (1) Child health care/physician provider outreach to support early detection and intervention.
 - (2) Community outreach to promote building networking opportunities among families and service providers, and facilitate early linkages to needed child/family support services.
 - (3) Centralized telephone access point for connecting children and their families to local services and care coordination.
 - (4) Data collection about the Help Me Grow system, including identification of gaps and barriers.
- The committee will be setting up a meeting with Sunday Gustin.
- B. The *New Jersey Council for Young Children, Infancy and Early Childhood Mental Health Committee* is in the process of obtaining a licensing agreement to participate in the Infant Mental Health Competency Endorsement through the Department of Children and Families. The committee will be setting up a meeting with the chair of this committee, Dr. Gerard Costa.
- C. The committee would like to have a presentation on the *Birth to Three Standards* once they are released.
- D. The committee was updated on the status of the *New Jersey Quality Rating and Indicator Scale (QRIS)* and the projected pilot.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator, presented the following updates on behalf of DOH:

1. DOH is waiting for the Governor to release the full *SFY 2014 budget* detail. Early intervention is expected to receive the same level of funding as last year, with budget language provision for additional funding, if needed.
2. On the Federal side, a continuing *resolution for FFY 2012 funding* was approved through September 2013. Federal funding for Part C will remain the same, with a 5% reduction for sequestration. Ms. Harrison distributed an Estimated FY 2013 IDEA Part C Allocations with 5.0% Reduction from FY 2012 Enacted Level (attached to file copy). New Jersey's allocation is \$11,033,409 with \$551,671 5% reduction – or \$10,481,736. *Medicaid funding* continues to increase.
3. The Department of Health is working with Treasury to award the Central Management Office (CMO) *RFP*. The outcome of the project should be known shortly. Everyone will be informed as soon as the information is available.
4. Federal Projects: Two new Federal Projects have been announced: (a) The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (*ECTA Center*,) which replaces *NECTAC* and (2) *The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy)*, which replaces the *Data Accountability Center*. New Jersey (Part C and Part B) is one of 6 state applications selected as a partner state to develop a service system framework for high-quality, effective and efficient early childhood and early intervention service systems. The components and quality indicators within the service system framework will be defined to support the implementation of effective practices at the local level.
5. Distributed/discussed was the *December 1, 2012 Federal Child Count-EIS report* (attached to file copy). This point in time child count is down 4.7% from December 1, 2012 (10,066 versus 10,570). Several factors are likely impacting on the decrease, including a declining birth rate and birth-to-three census population and Superstorm Sandy, which delayed evaluations and initial IFSP meetings in November 2012.
6. *Family Cost Participation Report* was not emailed prior to the meeting, but will be emailed to members.
7. The *NJEIS Code of Conduct* has been reviewed through DOH and will be distributed to everyone in the system within the next few weeks. Current practitioners will need to review and sign-off on an Acknowledgement of Receipt which must be placed in personnel files. New practitioners will be required to submit the acknowledgement as a component of the enrollment process through the CMO..
8. *2013 IDEA Leadership Conference* will be held July 29-31, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Members were encouraged to review the agenda on the website. Those with interest in attending should contact Acting Chair Moore.
9. Introduced was Joseph Pargola, *Procedural Safeguards Coordinator* since 1/28/13, who distributed/discussed the *Procedural Safeguards Activity report* (attached to file copy).

REIC UPDATE

REIC executive directors will be meeting on March 25th to finalize their *Early Intervention Week plans/activities*, which will be listed on the website and given wide distribution throughout the State via printed flyers. Council members with access to relevant data bases (i.e., Head Start, child care centers, et al) will also distribute the programs.

Cynthia Newman distributed (1) Mid Jersey CARES flyer for EI Week and (2) booklet "A Call to Action on Behalf of Maltreated Infants and Toddlers" by Children's Defense Fund and Zero-to-Three. She stated that young children in her region appeared to be moved among multi foster homes, alleging that research indicates these moves disrupt bonding and negatively impact brain development. Tracking will be started in her region.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary discussion of the *July 19th SICC members' retreat* requested feedback from committees and members, who were asked to email agenda ideas to Acting Chair Moore or Terrie Goeke. Mr. Moore suggested time to discuss the expansion of concepts of the EI Home Concept. The retreat agenda will be formalized at the May 17th SICC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *K. David Holmes*, representing ABCD/EIPA ... (a) expressed appreciation for participating as a member of the Service Delivery Committee; suggested other participants; (b) discussed Live Broadcast piloted in counties be expanded statewide; (c) supported those expressing frustration that the new IFSP forms greatly increased paper processing and needed better cooperation between practitioners and coordinators; received significant complaints.
2. *Ann Breakey of Archway* ... Cited great frustration with the overwhelming paper work created by the new IFSP forms.
3. *Jennifer Halper of Disability Rights New Jersey* ... Asked when revised State Rules would be rolled out. Ms. Harrison reported that the rules were under review by legal and no timeline could be provided as to when the rules will move to the Office of Administrative Law.
4. *Michelle Jansen of Morris County SCHS* ... Found the "extra 12 pages daunting" as the result of a new Family Directed Assessment (FDA) tool; problems with training, etc. Ms. Harrison cited the many opportunities for training that were offered, including webinars; the positive feedback regarding the new FDA form; that agencies may not have done their training; that the form was still undergoing revision, looking to improve and finalize based on feedback received through the trainings. She stated that the new web based data system in RFP review would reduce paper burden.
5. *Donna Castellano of CPNJ* ... Asked if the electronic system could accommodate billing information. Ms. Harrison said it could.

ADJOURNMENT – 12:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Ms. Tyler, seconded by Dr.Holahan and unanimously carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for *Friday, May17, 2013, at Children's Specialized Hospital* in New Brunswick.

APPROVED

9.27.13