



MEETING SUMMARY May 17, 2013

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, May 17, 2013, at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Warren Moore, Acting Chair, who presided and reported that *a quorum was not present*. No actions could be taken, so the meeting proceeded as informational.

ATTENDANCE – *Attached*

WELCOME/PRESIDER REPORT – Warren Moore, Acting Chair

Mr. Moore welcomed all attendees. At his request, *SICC members and 24 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 22, 2013 meeting were mailed in advance and will be presented for action at the next regular meeting.

SICC COMMITTEES

1. **Administrative** – No vote could be taken on the draft *2014 budget* that was emailed in advance.
2. **Family Support** – Tia Dix, Patti Ciccone, Co-Chairs

The committee met this morning and discussed engaging families with the *SICC webinar*: its costs, locations; and other systems and formats consistent with easy public accessibility. They will continue to pursue these areas until they have enough information to make formal recommendation(s) to the Council.

Also discussed was the importance of continuing to reach out to pediatricians for timely referrals to early intervention and ways to promote this need. REICs are coordinating with SPAN to develop EI videos, collaborating with First Signs and Help Me Grow.

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

The committee met this morning, during which *Joyce Salzberg agreed to take over as Chair*. The committee would like to meet more frequently, and time constraints make this impossible for Mr. Moore.

The committee will continue to get feedback/input from the field on projects they are pursuing: autism curriculum, training and supervision of agencies to ensure practitioner competency, EI home concept model.

4. Early Learning Challenge

Michele Christopoulos presented a progress report submitted by Barbara Tkach of a committee meeting held on April 12th, when they met with Sandy Gustin to learn more about the *Help Me Grow* initiative. REIC Directors have participated in the stakeholder group and are also serving on their ongoing committees.

The committee would like to make a presentation on the *Birth to Three Standards*, which have been released and were posted on the New Jersey Department of Education's website. The links to the New Jersey Birth to Three Early Learning Standards and the Commissioner's endorsement letter are below:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/standards/birth/standards.pdf>

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/standards/birth/letter.pdf>

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

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

1. The *Governor's proposed 2014 budget* continues to support language that additional funding as may be necessary for the *Early Intervention System* will be appropriated subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of budget and Accounting..
2. The *final Part C allocation* (federal funding) was reduced from the FFY 2012 award of \$10,815,217 to a FFY 2013 allocation of \$10,454,448 (\$360,769 reduction). The final FFY 2013 allocation includes an adjustment for New Jersey census and a 5.21% sequestration reduction. The reduction was applied against funding budgeted for service coordination and will be covered with state and Medicaid funding. *Medicaid funding* continues to do well, bringing in over \$31 million dollars annually.
3. The DOH bid for the *Central Management Office (CMO) RFP* failed: 4 proposals submitted; 3 disqualified; 1 requested changes to requirements, which resulted in the bid failing. The Department will work with Treasury to put the bid out again.
4. *Annual County Performance Reports* were emailed to the providers' agencies for review on May 6, 2013 and are now available for public review. Of the 21 counties reported: 12 met requirements; 6 needed assistance; 2 needed intervention; 1 needed substantial intervention. The agency needing substantial intervention is no longer contracted to provide service coordination
5. AHS notified the Department of the agency's decision not to renew their service coordination *grant for Morris County SFY 2014*, but have agreed to extend for six months to provide a smooth transition to Dawn Center. Dawn Center currently provides service coordination for Sussex County.
6. *NJEIS Code of Conduct* has been processed with everyone currently in the system. It has been added as a requirement to EI enrollment.
7. Distributed in advance (attached to file copy) and discussed was *Family Cost Participation Report 5/6/13*: (a) revenue by statement date, (b) suspensions by month delinquent letter generated, (c) exits by month child exited EI, (d) exits by month child exited EI with FPL. Family cost participation revenue is projected at \$6 million. Questioned was the reliability of data accurately reporting the number of families leaving the system because of cost, even though there are checks and balances within the system for ensuring that data is reliable. Ms. Harrison stated that anecdotal information is difficult to respond to and that more specifics would be needed.

8. *2013 IDEA Leadership Conference* will be held July 29-31, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Attendance can be funded for two Council members. Those with interest in attending should email Terrie Goeke. Final decision will be made by Acting Chair Moore.
9. Members were informed of a one-hour *SAP/ICC webinar* on "Content and Committee Structure and Operations" to be held that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. (May 17).
10. Joseph Pargola, *Procedural Safeguards Coordinator*, distributed/discussed the Procedural Safeguards Status Report (attached to file copy), covering activities since the last SICC meeting: (a) formal complaints, (b) investigations, (c) informal complaints, (d) training. In response to a question raised at the March 22nd SICC meeting, Mr. Pargola reported that 640 complaints were received in the current fiscal year compared to 400 informal complaints from the same period last year. Increase is thought to be due to change in reporting procedures. This information will be shared as a regular component of the PSO report to the SICC.

REIC UPDATE

Cynthia Newman distributed materials and presented in behalf of the REICs. She thanked the SICC for their support of EI week. Many activities have already taken place in the communities and in local libraries. The annual Children's Specialized Hospital event is scheduled for May 18th. The Walk and Roll activity will be a pizza garden.

OLD BUSINESS

Acting Chair Moore announced that he and other members had conflicts that would preclude their attendance at the July 19th retreat. He offered as alternative Friday, July 12th. Because of a lack of quorum, retreat items will be dealt with via email in accordance with SICC policy.

NOTE: Acting Chair Moore left the meeting and turned it over to Ms. Christopolous to preside.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *Dan Keating of ABCD/EIPA ...* Raised concerns that: (a) families may be underreporting the reason for discontinuing NJEIS related to cost share; (b) surplus funding from EI should be used to restore previous cuts in funding to NJEIS; and (c) requested more transparency in the EIS decision-making, citing recent change for two agencies from service vendor to comprehensive status in Essex County and announcement of the change for the Morris County Service Coordination Unit. Ms. Harrison outlined the process followed and data supplied to the Essex County providers, which reinforced evidence of DOH transparency and decision-making in upgrading the two agencies based on performance data.
2. *K. David Holmes, representing ABCD/EIPA ...* Reiterated some of above and voiced concern that the DOH did not wait for the Service Delivery Committee to make decisions related to change in vendor status and identification of a new Morris SCU. Also stated that there are providers who seem to want the Live Broadcast piloted in some counties to expand.

ADJOURNMENT – 12:00 noon

APPROVED

9.27.13