



MEETING SUMMARY November 20, 2015

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Mid-Jersey REIC, North Brunswick, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Catherine Colucci, who served as acting chair and declared a quorum present.

ATTENDANCE -- Attached

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS -- Catherine Colucci, Acting Chair

1. Ms. Colucci welcomed all attendees. At her request, SICC members and 16 public members introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.
2. Michele Safrin announced that the joint training with DOH, NJEIS on *Child Protection and Early Intervention, Working Together for Young Children* is being finalized with a "Train the Trainer" being planned for early 2016.
3. Joyce Salzberg announced that *Sunny Days* is expanding into Ulster County, New York. She also was appreciative of the effort NJEIS has made to update from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes in the data/billing systems.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the *September 25, 2015* meeting were approved as previously distributed -- upon motion by Rosemary Browne, seconded by Kimberley Peto and unanimously carried.

LEAD AGENCY -- New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. *Position Vacancies* – With the resignation of Commissioner O’Dowd, Kathleen Bennett has been named as Acting Commissioner and the Family Health Services Assistant Commissioner position is vacant with the retirement of Gloria Rodriguez. Deputy Commissioner Brito and Nashon Hornsby are overseeing the Division of Family Health Services until a new Assistant Commissioner is appointed.
2. *Procedural Safeguard Office (PSO)* -- Joe Pargola reported that, in the past two months there were 454 informal complaints which included a significant number of No Practitioner Available (NPA) and missed services; 1 formal request for administrative complaint which the family withdrew and allowed PSO to resolve. The family wanted a new evaluation and the child was re-evaluated and found eligible. Mr. Pargola also notified the Council that his last day with NJEIS is Friday, November 27, 2015. He accepted a new position at the Department of Children and Families. PSO will remain active while awaiting a replacement.

Beth Lohne will continue to work with the office of the Assistant Commissioner to address and resolve issues brought to PSO. Mr. Pargola was pleased to serve in the position for three years. He commended the staff for the work that had been accomplished in the system and conveyed his appreciation for all.

3. *Cost Participation Report* -- Sent under separate cover (attached to file).
4. *Annual Performance Review (APR)* – This is a major activity this time of year in addition to the federal December 1 child count. The Annual Part C Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 13th at Mid-Jersey REIC, to review and receive input on the Part C indicators. The APR report is due to OSEP by February 1, 2016 with the exception of Indicator 11 (State Systemic Improvement Plan) which has been extended to April 1, 2016 submission.
5. New Jersey was selected as one of eight states to participate in a Supporting *Local Data Use for Program Improvement* meeting sponsored by the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy) in San Antonio, Texas. Eighteen states had applied. NJEIS participation included Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator; Oliver Giller, Central management Office (CMO) Coordinator; Andrew Wintringham, REIC Data Manager; Cathy Golightly, SNJ Perinatal Cooperative Data Manager; and David Ackerman, Sunny Days Data Manager. This meeting was timely since it is expected that a new NJEIS web based data system will improve access and analysis of local level data. Currently there are a limited number of reports available to REICs and Service Coordination Units (SCUs) which need to be reviewed and clarification offered as to their purpose and ongoing use. Stakeholders at all levels of the NJEIS will be included to offer input into the design of a new data system when awarded by the NJ Department of Treasury.
6. *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)* program has been providing funding of the Hearing Consultant Initiative to help families of children with hearing impairments and service coordinators prepare for the IFSP. EHDI has identified a small amount of money and has agreed to support the SSIP effort by funding a provider and family workshops on the social emotional development of children with hearing impairments. Sharon Ringwalt, Early Childhood Technical Assistance has agreed to present and is currently looking at content. Two workshops, one for families and one for early intervention staff will have a limit on the number of attendees depending on the location.
7. Terry Harrison and Susan Evans met with Sunday Gustin, DCF, Gerry Costa and Kaitlin Mulcahy with Montclair State University (MSU) to discuss the continuation of the Keeping Babies in Mind (KBM) workshops and an initiative under consideration through MSU to offer a 12 credit graduate certificate in Infant Mental Health. MSU is considering a bundled package with a discounted cost. Kaitlin Mulcahy did agree to review the KBM workshop curriculum to work with NJEIS in creating a module(s) with Mercer County Community College to increase awareness and knowledge of NJEIS practitioners on social emotional development.
8. *Race To The Top* -- The Memorandum of Agree establishing an Early Learning Training Academy (ELTA) will be terminated December 31, 2015. A plan B to address early learning training ongoing is under discussion. Sustainability of ELTA has been an ongoing concern.

9. *State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP)* -- Ms. Harrison shared an updated PowerPoint with information gathered from team visits to three SCUs related to exit evaluations using the Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI) and data completeness. A data completeness score is determined by OSEP as the percent of children exiting in the reporting period that are included in the child outcomes data (Indicator 3). For FFY 13 (SFY 14), NJEIS percent was 22.83%. Under discussion is a plan to improving data completeness by increasing the number of exit BDIs using targeted evaluation teams (TETs) identified to conduct the exit evaluations. The plan would start by identifying currently approved back-up TETS and informal back-up teams that have been assisting with completing evaluations. Discussions include the need for additional training and materials to support additional evaluators. Susan Evans is hosting a focus group on December 15th for Targeted Evaluation Team (TET) practitioners to focus on BDI fidelity and training. Thirty states are currently using the BDI.
10. Ms. Harrison and Mr. Pargola attended a meeting with the *Early Intervention Provider Association of ABCD*. They discussed the need to address the capacity issues of the TETS; look at back-up teams to see if they would like to become exit teams; increase the workforce so that practitioners (i.e. teachers, nurses and child development specialists) other than discipline specific therapists are conducting exit evaluations. This is intended to address direct service shortages that require licensed discipline specific therapists. An estimated 27,301 initial, annual and exit evaluations occur annually. Statewide teams consist of 260 therapists and 80 non-therapists. If back-up teams are given the responsibility of conducting the exit evaluations, they will still back up initial/annual evaluations and assessments. There is need to increase the exits by 5,000 to 7,000 a year. Florida may have a training on which New Jersey can build. The SFY 2015 (FFY 2014) number of children exiting NJEIS is 11,496. Preliminary data shows that 3,729 have an exit BDI for a 32% completion rate, up 10% from last year and short of the goal of 34%. Clean-up continues to find additional children with exit BDIs.

SSIP stakeholders have been generous in their offer and participation in SSIP workgroups. Deidre Krok from Family Link is looking into CEU's to develop a manual for how to offer CEU's for trainings. The plan is to provide a statewide conference during the 2016 Early Intervention Week for practitioners/service coordinators to talk about Division for Early Childhood (DEC) recommended practices.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Administrative Committee** -- Chanell McDevitt and Susan Marcario, Co-Chairs

January 15, 2016 is the deadline for members to submit an updated bio. Appreciation was expressed to those who have already done so.

2. **Early Learning Challenge** -- No report

3. **Family Support** -- Rosemary Browne and Patti Ciccone, Co-Chairs

Ms. Browne distributed a draft flyer to share with families related to Measuring Child and Family Outcomes in New Jersey and requested feedback from parents. It is anticipated that the flyer will be finalized by the end of the year and translated into Spanish. Comments should be sent to Ms. Browne and/or Ms. Ciccone.

The Department of Health's appointments' contact person has changed. Ms. Harrison has transferred all documentation to the new person.

4. Service Delivery -- Joyce Salzberg, Chair

The committee generally meets once a month and did meet in October and November (minutes distributed/attached to file). The committee has been working on a local system framework for a future Request for Proposals (RFP) to service provider agencies to be an early intervention provider. Five of six competencies have been framed. The last remaining competency is data, for which high standards will be set. The next meeting is December 29th.

OLD BUSINESS -- There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Members were reminded that, beginning January 2016, SICCC meetings will be held at Sunny Days Early Childhood Developmental Services, 300 Corporate Center Drive, Manalapan, New Jersey. The schedule of meeting dates was previously distributed and is listed on the web with directions to location.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *David Holmes of ABCD* ... Thanked Ms. Harrison and Mr. Pargola for attending a recent ABC meeting. He voiced concerns related to improving communication across agencies specific to exit BDI's. He also advocated moving forward with the data system RFP.
2. *Mary Remhoff of VNA* ... Said that a dedicated point person to focus and communicate with the TET regarding annuals, assessments and exit BDI's has helped her SCUs. She appreciated the opportunity to participate in the focus discussion on exit BDI's with the monitoring team. Ms. Remhoff said the SCU's are utilizing new computers to make an IFSP meeting more fluid, and indicated it would be helpful if more laptops were at the meeting where everyone could work in unison. She is investigating collating software and would be interested in participating in any related workgroups. Ms. Remhoff has become involved in Race to the Top, County Council for Young Children (which parallels the role of SICCC). Every county has a Council with 50% parent representation and web based calendars. Ms. Remhoff is ensuring that parents of children with special needs are on the Councils to promote/learn about communities; great avenue for inclusion. Its mission is to raise the capacity of the community to meet the needs of young families. Ms. Remhoff offered to have someone speak at the next meeting on "County Councils for Young Children".

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Ms. McDevitt, seconded by Michele Christopoulos and unanimously carried.

APPROVED 1.22.16