

State Interagency Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Coupeville Recreation Hall
901 N. Alexander Street
Coupeville, WA 98249



Attendance:

Members

Kylee Allen, Parent
René Denman, Service Provider
Wendy Galloway, Office of the Insurance Commissioner
Janet George, Department of Services for the Blind
Lisa Greenwald, Service Provider
Margaret Gunshows, Tribal Representative
James Harvey for (Stacy Bushaw) Health Care Authority
Maria Nardella, CSHCN, Department of Health
Suzanne Quigley, Service Provider
Sugely Sanchez, Parent
Janet Spybrook, Personnel Preparation
Greg Williamson, DEL, Lead Agency

Members Unable to Attend

Val Arnold, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Magan Cromar, County Human Services
Anna Frangomeni, Parent
Wendy Galloway, Office of the Insurance Commissioner
Amy Kocher, Parent
Darci Ladwig, Parent
Jena Lavik, Parent
Dr. Diane Liebe, Service Provider
Kevin Quigley, DSHS
Rep. David Sawyer, Legislative

Others Attending

Sharon Bell – Toddler Learning Center
Sara Burch-Wilhelm – Toddler Learning Center
Jana Burk – Opportunity Council
Bill Cheaqui – Oak Harbor Lions Club
Kerianne Christie – FLIC/CDHL
Mike Etzell – Island County
Anna Gibson - Sherwood
Wendy Harris – King County DD
Janet Heverling – Toddler Learning Center, Board of Directors

Debora Huney – Bellingham Public Schools
Tonia Johnson – Oak Harbor School District
Nelly Mbajah, DSHS - Children's Administration
Kate McVay – Mother Mentors
Janie Nelson-Achodor – Concerned Citizens
Gina Peterschmidt – Oak Harbor School District
Angie Shultzaberger – Toddler Learning Center
Sheri Smith – Skagit Island Head Start
DeEtte Snyder – WA State School for the Blind
Erin Stuart - Parent
Fabiola Tercero – Parent, FLIC
Marc Tercero - Parent
Jennifer Thies - Boyer Children's Clinic
Alex Tomei - Aptitude
Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson – FLIC, Parent to Parent
Bexx Windecker-Nelson – PYC/ICC
Jaemee Witmer – Toddler Learning Center
Sabirna Zeise – SW Children's Center

ESIT Program Staff Who Participated

Karen Walker, Program Administrator
Debi Donelan, Program Consultant
Debbie Jackson, Program Specialist

BUSINESS MEETING

I. Introductions/Announcements

Chair Maryanne Barnes called the meeting to order.

Ms. Barnes led introductions of the new Council members and audience present. New members spoke briefly about the area they represent. Members of the Whidbey Island community were present and gave a brief introduction as to their role in the early intervention system for Island County.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the July 23, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to accept the October 22, 2014 agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

Motion: A motion was made to accept the proposed 2015 SICC meeting schedule. The motion was seconded and passed.

II. Conversations with Families

Four parents from Island County shared their stories and experiences while participating in early intervention in Island County. Fabiola and Mark Tercero, Kylee Allen and Erin Stuart were the panelist's for this year's Conversations with Families.

III. Innovative Programs

Nina Auerbach, Executive Director of the Washington Association for Infant Mental Health (WA-AIMH) was unable to attend. Wendy Harris from King County Developmental Disabilities Division/King County LLA gave a brief overview of the Infant Mental Health (IMH) endorsement that will be available through the WA-AIMH beginning in 2015.

Highlights:

- 4 levels of endorsement will be available
- Early intervention and other providers can earn an endorsement from WA-AIMH
- Competency based system
- For more information about the endorsement www.wa-aimh.org

Nancy Ashley- Representing Child Welfare Early Learning Project – Children's Home Society

The purpose of the project is to encourage changes in policy and practice at the state, regional and local levels, so that child welfare and dependency court staff understand the importance of and the process for routinely utilizing evidence-based early learning and development service for all children prenatal to age five.

Highlights:

- 40-60% of children in the child welfare system would likely qualify for early intervention
- Children's Home Society has created a searchable data base that is available to child welfare staff and dependency court staff. This data base will provide information about 158 programs/service offered by 46 providers
- Snohomish County is in the process of replicating the current process happening in King County with Children's Administration.

Nelly Mbajah – Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Program and Practice Improvement – DSHS Children's Administration

Highlights:

- Children's Administration will be developing training for their case managers, CHET (Child Health and Education Tracking) screeners and foster parents to learn what typical child development is and what red flags for developmental concerns are.
- The Family Assessment Response (FAR) system is working, children and families are benefitting from the program.
- Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET) is the screening process for children that enter into the CW system.

IV. Public Comment

No comments or questions

V. Agency Reports

Agency reports, when available, are included in handouts within the Council packets.

Department of Early Learning, Greg Williamson, Assistant Director Partnerships and Collaboration

Highlights:

- DEL is currently working on re-vamping their Parent Advisory Group (PAG) and looking at how other parent leadership groups within DEL's programs, such as FLIC, can inform and strengthen the parent voice within DEL.
- The Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) is DEL's advising body for all of the programs that sit in DEL. Karen sits on this committee as the ESIT representative. ELAC would like to strengthen their relationship with the SICCC and look at how DEL can better address the needs of young children with disabilities.
- Several members of the SICCC expressed an interest in learning more about ELAC's work and adding it to the agenda as an update for the SICCC.
- Greg gave a brief overview of the work of the Partnerships and Collaboration team, including the work being done with "Results Washington" and how ESIT and early learning programs are identified.

DSHS Children's Administration, Nelly Mbajah, Early Childhood Development Program Manager, Program and Practice Improvement

Highlights:

- Children's Administration (CA) will be developing training for their case managers, CHET screeners and foster parents to learn what typical child development is and what red flags for developmental concerns are.
- CHET has started using a "trauma too" for screening children age seven and up and are looking into a similar tool for children six and under.
- The Family Assessment Response (FAR) system is working, children and families are benefitting from the program.

Department of Services for the Blind, Janet George

Highlights:

- DeEtte Snyder, M.Ed., the new State Coordinator of Early Support for Blind/Visually Impaired Infants and Toddlers, was introduced to the Council. She is one of two staff serving the entire state. She will be meeting with Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS) staff and working with other state coordinators. DeEtte reports that the field of the visually impaired has historically been underserved in our state. At this time we don't really know how many children in Washington are visually impaired. She will be providing supports to children and families with sensory disabilities due to blindness and continuing to learn about the vision services that are available in Washington. She will also be consulting with and providing technical assistance to providers that serve children birth to three.
- DSB continues to provide consultations to B-3 families with vision impaired children on both sides of the state.

- DBS would like to work more closely with early intervention providers to be able to connect families with appropriate services.
- DBS will be providing training on how to identify vision loss along with support and services available for identified children birth to three.

Department of Health, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Maria Nardella

Highlights:

- Proposed State Funding Reductions. DOH responded to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) request for a 15% reduction in state funding. With so few programs funded by state dollars at DOH, the proposal included total elimination of funding for the Neurodevelopmental Centers (NDC's) and the Maxillofacial Review Boards.
- Great LINC'S (Links to Integrate and Coordinate Care) for CYSHCN Grant Award. This three year grant began in September 2014 and will run for three years, with \$300,000 of federal funds available each year. A large part will focus on increasing capacity with WithinReach and their Family Health Hotline to link families with CYSHCN to statewide services and resources.
- Health Insurance and the Next Enrollment Period. The next enrollment will begin November 15th. WithinReach staff will continue to serve as certified In-Person Assisters/Navigators, and assist families enrolling in Medicaid and other qualified plans.
- Potential New Licensure of Behavior Analysts in Washington. In May 2014 Representative Eileen Cody, Chair of the House Health Care and Wellness Committee, asked DOH to conduct a sunrise review of a proposal to license behavior analysts as a new and distinct profession. As a result, DOH now recommends licensure for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts. However, DOH is proposing a number of changes to the original legislation. The draft Behavior Analysts Sunrise Review is now available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/2000/BehavAnalyst.pdf>. The deadline for comments on the draft has passed. The next step will be for DOH to complete the final review and present it to the 2015 state legislature.
- UW Research n Early Autism Detection and Intervention (READ) Lab. They are recruiting parents of children with autism between 18 and 60 months of age to participate in an online module that teaches parent how to improve everyday routines.
- UW LEND is planning a conference for pediatricians and other primary care providers who serve children with autism. The conference will be held at the Seattle Children's Wright Auditorium on Saturday October 10, 2015. For more information contact Kate Orville at orville@uw.edu or (206)-685-1279.
- Great MINDS Grant update. The federal Great Minds grant has come to an end, but some work continues to progress to ensure that all children in WA have access to high quality, comprehensive, family-centered medical homes that include regular developmental screening. Contact for more information Sherry Trout 360-236-3523. SherryLynn.Trout@doh.wa.gov
- Respite Services. The WA Aging and Long-Term Support Administration in DSHS was recently chosen for a *Building Long-Term Sustainability in State Lifespan Respite Program* three year grant. \$357,000 was awarded to Lifespan Respite Washington (LRW). Families can apply for a voucher worth up to \$1,000 to provide respite for caregiver and family members as long as they are not receiving respite services from any other program. For more information contact www.lifespanrespitewa.org or Hilarie Hauptman at hilarie.hauptman@dshs.wa.gov

VI. Committee Updates

Family Leadership and Involvement Committee (FLIC), Sugely Sanchez

Highlights:

- Debi Donelan, Program Consultant for ESIT, provided an update about the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) process and a brief overview of the COS rating process and how it has informed the state about the overall SSIP decision to look at social emotional outcomes for the children ESIT serves.
- Met with the families that would be participating in the SICCC Conversations with Families.
- Provided a lunch reception for families that are receiving services in Island County in order to connect and share experiences.

Data Committee, Needs Chair

Highlights:

- No meeting held.
- The committee continues to seek a new committee Chair (must be an SICCC member). Nominations for a Data Committee Chair are being accepted. Please contact the SICCC Chair if you are willing to be considered.

Funding Committee/Stakeholder Group, Karen Walker

Highlights:

- The committee/stakeholder group met September in Othello, WA and was facilitated by Greg Abel.
- The committee/stakeholder group has been meeting to recommend revisions to the ESIT funding formula. They have been working on recommending a revised methodology for allocating the Part C federal funds ESIT allocates to LLAs each year.

Personnel and Training, Janet Spybrook

Highlights:

- The committee did not meet last month there are no new updates to report

Public Policy Committee, Needs Chair

Highlights:

- Cecile Lindquist has been working with Darci Ladwig, a parent representative on the SICCC and FLIC, and will be resuming committee meetings in the next quarter.

VII. ESIT Update

Karen Walker and ESIT staff provided updates.

Highlights:

- The focus of our federal monitoring has shifted to a new accountability framework, the State

Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The SSIP requires states to identify a measurable result that will improve child and family outcomes. ESIT and a statewide leadership team, with input from stakeholders, developed a State Identified Measurable Result (SiMR) of improving children's social-emotional skills. ESIT is in the process of conducting root cause analysis looking at local programs and infrastructure.

- Some of the services ESIT provides statewide, must be provided at "public expense" and some services are subject to "family cost participation". The services that must be provided at public expense are those services and functions that must occur prior to the provision of services. These services are: implementing child find, service coordination services, evaluation and assessment to determine eligibility, development, review and evaluation of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and sharing parents' rights and procedural safeguards. The services subject to family cost participation are those services that can be paid for through public or private insurance. See ESIT's Systems of Payments and Fee's policy at: http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/esit/docs/20_PaymentsFeesGuide.pdf
- Since 2006, ESIT has experienced about a 35% growth in the identification and participation of children needing early intervention services. However, federal funding has grown by only 12%. DEL/ESIT is requesting \$4,000,000 for the biennium 2015-2107 for regional client services contracts. These additional funds will enable children and their families to gain access to necessary direct services. For more information go to: <http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/communications/docs/2014PLN8.pdf>
- The ESIT program was "*determined to meet requirements*" of Part C, IDEA in correspondence from the U.S. Department of Education on June 23, 2014.
- The School Based Health Care Services (SBHS) for children in special education programs will begin reimbursing school districts for Part C early intervention services (birth through 2) health care related services. HCA submitted a state plan amendment to the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS approved the amendment on August 28, 2014 with retroactive date of July 1, 2013.
- At the July 2014 SICC meeting Rep Sawyer requested that ESIT staff look at the paper work requirements for Part C services in Washington. In response to this request, ESIT has outlined the federal required paperwork and various funding source required paperwork. IDEA, Part C requires that parents provide informed consent throughout their participation in early intervention. Discussing and obtaining parent written consent does require time, effort and patience on the part of families and providers. Finding paperwork efficiencies will be a program goal. It is suggested that a systems level approach be explored for a "universal" type enrollment. If a child qualified for early intervention and other state programs, they would be automatically enrolled in all programs they qualify for. It is noted that the Developmental Disability Administration has aligned their eligibility criteria to align with children participating in early intervention.

VIII. Public Comment

No comments or questions

IX. Emerging Issues/Other Topics

January: APR

February meeting focus: Legislative

No further recommendations for presentations to the Council in February.

Meeting adjourned.

Next SICC Meeting Dates:
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 Tumwater, WA
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a working lunch