



## MEETING SUMMARY September 26, 2008

A *regular public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, September 26, 2008, at the Medical Society of New Jersey Conference Center in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Katherine Doyle, Chair, who presided and declared a quorum present.

**ATTENDANCE** – Attached

### WELCOME/CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Ms. Doyle reviewed the *SICC protocol regarding public comment*, printed on the SICC agenda made available to the public.
2. At Ms. Doyle's request, SICC members and *30 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.
3. Ms. Doyle read a letter from parent member *Rachelle Milstein*, who resigned from the Council because "various personal and professional obligations do not allow sufficient time to devote to this worthy cause" (attached to file copy of minutes).
4. The minutes of the *August 20, 2008 Executive Committee* were unanimously approved as distributed (attached to file copy of minutes).
5. The Chair is awaiting a firm meeting date with the *Governor's Appointments' Office* to resolve several pending membership issues – especially filling member vacancies. Ms. Doyle encouraged interested persons to seek the support of their legislators in filing their resumes with the Governor's Appointments' Office.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The *minutes of two previous meetings* were unanimously approved – as distributed:

1. May 30, 2008 – motion by William Agress, seconded by Warren Moore
2. July 25, 2008 -- motion by Joseph Holahan, seconded by Carolyn Lane

## **SICC ADVISEMENT COMMITTEES**

### **1. Family Support** – Norman Rosenblum, Chair

The committee will focus efforts on *transition to preschool* and how to increase inclusion in transition from the New Jersey Early Intervention System to a natural environment for Preschool Special Education Services. If the November agenda is compatible, the committee chair will have a speaker for a *presentation about preschool expansion* and how to provide better education for children.

### **2. Service Delivery** – Joyce Salsberg, Vice Chair

Ms. Salzberg reviewed committee *minutes from meetings held on July 29, 2008 and September 5, 2008* (attached to file copy of minutes).

### **3. Administrative** – Katherine Doyle, Chair pro tem

While the committee had no formal meeting, members were reminded that the *SICC Website* is up and running, and awaiting input of relevant data.

### **4. State Performance Plan** – Jill Simone, Vice Chair

The committee is *up to date on all its tasks* and had no formal report.

## **LEAD AGENCY – NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**

Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. *Family Cost Participation* – Discussed were charts (emailed previously and attached to file copy of minutes) which reflected:

- FCP revenue by statement date
- FC suspensions by month delinquent letter generated
- Exits due to FCP by month child exited EI
- Exits due to FCP by month child exited EI with FPL

2. *EIP Home Concept* – A draft document was reviewed with the SICCC Service Delivery Advisement Committee and REIC Directors. The draft was reworked as a result of comments, and is under review before being distributed for comments from the SICCC and NJEIS provider agencies. It is expected to be released in October.

3. *Part C Proposed Federal Regulations* – As of a late August national meeting, the news from the Federal Office of Special Education Office was optimistic that regulations would be finalized by the end of the year. This becomes questionable as time moves closer to the election. There is no news that the Regulations have been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget.

4. The *Steering Committee* meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2009 to review the Annual Performance Report (APR) due February 2, 2009. Ms. Harrison will notify SICC members of the time and place. Chair Doyle reiterated that SICC members are automatically members of the Steering Committee, and urged that they attend their meetings. Ms. Harrison requested that the SICC advisement committees review and provide an update on APR activities by the November 21, 2008 SICC meeting. A draft of the APR will be forwarded in December in preparation for the January meeting.

5. *NJEIS Procedural Safeguards System* – Nashon Hornsby, Coordinator, elaborated on a report emailed previously (attached to file copy of minutes).

## REIC UPDATES

The REICs distributed a detailed (1) *Regional Family Activities Report on 2008 Early Intervention Week* and (2) *NJEIS Regional Family Support Activity Report 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008* (both attached to file copy of minutes). They reported on the various successful Early Intervention Week programs, supported with a brief slide presentation by the Regional Family Support Coordinators. The Council commended the REICs on their extraordinary efforts, and expressed appreciation that they are already working on plans for 2009 Early Intervention Week.

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

SICC Chair Doyle reported briefly on the *earlier morning session*, in which the Council followed up on issues from the July 25<sup>th</sup> SICC retreat. As reported previously, the retreat focused on the Early Intervention System – how it could become more efficient, more accountable, more cost-effective while not sacrificing the quality of services. The Council members agreed that meeting in closed session allowed them greater flexibility to address serious, complex issues in a limited amount of time.

Since New Jersey law requires that four (4) meetings be open to the public, the **Council voted** – on motion by Mr. Agress, seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously carried – **that the July 24, 2009 meeting (usually the SICC retreat month) be a closed session.** *Council will meet in early morning session – with no committee meetings – at the January 23, 2009 meeting.* The regular public session will be held 11:00 a.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *Lowell Arye of ABC/EIPA* – Urged the SICC to (a) address long-term financing of the Early Intervention System, focusing on private health insurance and Medicaid waivers; (b) recommend to the Lead Agency that the REICs be included in the final NJEIS regulations.

2. *Mona Lisa Adamo of St. Joseph's Children's Hospital* – Commended Mr. Agress for his efforts in the legislative proclamation of an annual Early Intervention Week in New Jersey.

3. SICC Chair Doyle called attention to the lack of *representation of service coordination* on the Council. In the interest of balance and diversity, she urged interested service coordinators to submit their resumes to the Governor's Appointments Office. Ms. Harrison offered the support of her office in also processing them through the Department's Appointment Office..

**ADJOURNMENT** – 12:35 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Warren, seconded by Ms. d'Emery and unanimously carried.

***APPROVED***

***11.21.08***