



MEETING SUMMARY November 21, 2008

A *regular public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, November 21, 2008, at the Medical Society of New Jersey Conference Center in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 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 *18 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.
3. The *Correspondence Summary* was accepted as attached to the agenda (and file copy of minutes).
4. The minutes of the *October 29, 2008 Executive Committee* were unanimously approved as distributed (attached to file copy of minutes). Ms. Doyle called attention to the discussed/referred Public Comments (pages 2-3).
5. The Chair met with Jaimee Gilmartin, Director of the *Governor's Appointments' Office*, on 11/5/08 to resolve several pending membership and related issues – especially filling member vacancies. Also present were former staff members with whom Ms. Doyle had previous discussions: Amber Oakley and Andrea Martinez. The Chair was given assurance that the issues discussed would be resolved shortly. Ms. Doyle continued to encourage interested persons to send their resumes to her or directly to the Governor's Appointments' Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The *minutes of two previous meetings* were unanimously approved as distributed – upon motion by Warren Moore, seconded by William Agress: September 26, 2008 (SICC early morning session) and regular public meeting.

SICC ADVISEMENT COMMITTEES

1. **Administrative** – Annette Ristoro, Chair; Michele Christopoulos, Vice Chair

Council accepted the *minutes of the committee's 11/11/08 meeting* as distributed, which dealt with the content of the NJSICC website (attached to file copy of minutes). The committee anticipates that the website will be available for SICC review at the 1/23/09 meeting. At its meeting this morning, the committee also discussed (1) new member orientation; (2) SICC 2009 budget, to be presented to Council at the 1/23/09 meeting; (3) referrals: state agency vs non-profit entities and Part C criteria. These issues will be pursued at the committee's next meeting.

2. **Service Delivery** – Denise Murray for Joyce Salzberg, Vice Chair

Ms. Murray highlighted items from the *minutes of the committee's 10/03/08 meeting* (attached to the agenda and file copy of minutes). The committee met again on October 31st, and those minutes will be mailed to the SICC. Ms. Murray commended Mary Remhoff and Carola d'Emery for their outstanding work on recommendations for state targeted evaluation practitioner personnel standards, which will be presented to the SICC at the 1/23/09 meeting.

3. **State Performance Plan** – Terry Harrison for Jill Simone, Vice Chair

Dr. Simone has previously mailed to advisement committee chairs/vice chairs, for their review and comment, *two documents* (attached to file copy of minutes): (1) table of State Performance Plan indicators, targets, etc. that are pertinent to the SICC; and (2) summary of SICC and advisement committee activities, based on meeting minutes. No one responded. Ms. Harrison requested that chairs/vice chairs respond to her no later than December 31st. Their responses are needed for the DHSS's updating the Annual Performance Report.

4. **Family Support** – Norman Rosenblum, Chair; Joseph Holahan, Vice Chair

The committee has long discussed how to increase inclusion in transition from the New Jersey Early Intervention System to a natural environment for preschool special education services. David Joye of the Office of Preschool was invited to discuss "preschool expansion and how to provide better education for children". Following his 45-minute power point presentation (attached to file copy of minutes), Mr. Joye answered questions from the audience. He alleged that New Jersey is in the forefront of preschool expansion.

LEAD AGENCY – NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

Celeste Andriot Wood, Assistant Commissioner; Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. Ms. Wood had no definitive information about this year's ('09) *Early Intervention System final budget*. NJEIS keeps the Office of Management and Budget updated on a monthly basis, but the State's fiscal crisis precludes any reliable determination of how this year's budget will be impacted. Planning for the '10 budget, typically done this time of year, has not begun. Ms. Wood will share information with the SICC as it comes to her. Meanwhile, she urged SICC to

LEAD AGENCY (continued)

continue pursuing ways to make the early intervention system as cost effective and efficient as possible.

2. Ms. Harrison elaborated on the 5-page *Family Cost Participation Collections SFY 2009*, which she distributed in advance (attached to file copy of minutes).
3. Ms. Harrison received 36 wide-ranging comments to the *EIP Home Concept* draft document, with many questions that must be pursued. It is anticipated that a final document will not be available until after the first of the year.
4. Ms. Harris reported that the *Part C Proposed Federal Regulations* are now in the Office of Management and Budget. It is reported that they are expected to be out prior to January 2009.
5. The *Steering Committee* meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2009 to review the Annual Performance Report (APR) due February 2, 2009. SICC members are automatically members of the Steering Committee, and invited to attend their meetings.
6. Ms. Harrison enumerated the many items that have been added or updated on the *NJDHSS website*.
7. Nashon Hornsby, *NJEIS Procedural Safeguards System* Coordinator, elaborated on an activity report he handed out (attached to file copy of minutes).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ms. Doyle requested guidance from the Lead Agency as to the SICC's deliberations whether New Jersey should continue to participate in the Federal Part C program, given that the issue appears to be less of a priority than it was several months earlier. Ms. Wood suggested the SICC should continue discussion and analysis of how New Jersey's Early Intervention System could be more efficient, more accountable and more cost-effective in providing quality services, while identifying the components essential to an Early Intervention System in this State regardless of ongoing Part C participation, so that the SICC may comment and provide advisement(s) whenever questions related to ongoing participation in the Federal program arise. At the 9/26/08 early bird session, specific issues were referred to advisement committees for study and comment. Determination of these issues should be made for report to the SICC at its January 23rd early bird session. Ms. Wood clarified that the advisements can be prefaced with a clear statement of non-support for "pulling out" of Part C.
2. Mr. Rosenblum urged early decision on activities for *2009 Early Intervention Week*. It was agreed that, since the REICs took the lead on the 2008 week, discussion should be held at regional meetings to determine the most effective and popular activities that could be repeated.

3. On December 6-10, Chair Doyle and Vice-Chair Murray will represent the NJSICC at the *Annual NECTAC Conference* in Washington, D.C. and report to the Council on 1/23/09.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

ADJOURNMENT – 1:20 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Agress, seconded by Ms. Christopoulos and unanimously carried.

APPROVED, AS AMENDED (minor format, not substantive, changes)
1.23.09