



MEETING SUMMARY January 24, 2014

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, January 24, 2014, at Children's Specialized Hospital, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Céline Fortin, who presided and declared a quorum present. (Acting Chair Warren Moore was unable to attend.)

ATTENDANCE – *Attached*

WELCOME/PRESIDER REPORT – Céline Fortin

1. Ms. Fortin welcomed all attendees. At her request, *SICC members and 9 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.
2. Ms. Fortin announced that *Connie Gordon, service provider representative*, submitted her resignation from the Council to Governor Christie, effective 1/7/14.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the *November 22, 2013 meeting* were unanimously approved – upon motion by Michele Christopoulos, seconded by Rachel Badalamenti and carried.

SICC COMMITTEES

1. **Administrative** – Céline Fortin, Chair

No early bird meeting was held because of traffic issues. The committee is focusing on filling the current *SICC vacancies (see Old Business)*.

2. **Family Support** – Michele Tyler and Patti Ciccone, Co-Chairs

Minutes of the committee's *1/17/14 meeting* were emailed in advance (attached to file). The next meeting will discuss: priorities 1 (pediatrician outreach), 9 (consistent message to families), and 10 (develop family engagement strategies). The Web meeting has been indefinitely postponed. It was suggested that speaker notes from special presentations made during regular SICC meetings are added to

the SICC webpage. The committee agreed that a follow-up letter to physicians is the most effective way to insure that pediatricians are aware of the results of eligibility evaluations. The SFY 2014 Early Intervention Week is May 12-16.

3. **Service Delivery** – Joyce Salzberg, Chair

Minutes of two meetings were distributed: 12/19/13 and 1/23/14 (attached to file). The committee is looking at components which may result in a redesign of the early intervention system: finance, competencies, technology, supervision/training, policies and procedures, history of the agency. These components have been narrowed down and will be discussed in greater detail at future meetings.

LEAD AGENCY REPORT – Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. The draft summary of *the Race to the Top* (RTTT) application was distributed (attached to file). New Jersey was 1 of 6 grant recipients. Activities included in the grant focus on quality improvement for childcare, prenatal to age 8 -- access to high quality early learning and childcare to low income families is a primary goal of the grant; program standards and practices; tiered quality rating improvement system (QRIP). The grant activities cross state level departments and programs, with focus on improving quality and resources to families with young children.

Goals include the establishment of a self-sustaining early learning academy at the University/Community college level and Central intake hubs for the 6 remaining counties who currently do not have intake hubs. The NJ Council for Young Children has reorganized to align with the activities and goals of the RTTT. The SICC Chair has been invited to participate in a "recognition event" for the Race to the Top award on February 24, 2014.

2. SICC members were reminded of the necessity of their completing and submitting promptly to the Department of Health the 3 required documents for the *Code of Ethics* training for all boards and councils with appointments for the state.
3. *Family Cost Participation (FCP) Reports* were reviewed (attached to file). FCP Revenue projections are down, but have been offset by Medicaid recovery
4. Joe Pargola presented the *Procedural Safeguards Status Report* (attached to file), which included information on formal complaints, informal complaints, no practitioner available, PSO staffing and training. The PSO web-based training modules are close to release.
5. The *Federal Budget* was passed with \$438 million for Part C, restoring most, but not all, of the early intervention sequestration cuts from last year. Preschool, Part B did not receive restoration of sequestration. Part D, Parent Training and Information Center (PTI), has had sequestration restored; provides funding for SPAN. The Part C funding allocation for the state is unknown but may have a slight increase.

6. Ms. Harrison shared a PowerPoint presentation describing the *Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP) process and the draft of current APR/SPP report due February 1st*. This submission will complete the last phase of current APR/SPP process. Changes to the SPP/APR process have been proposed by OSEP. Public comment has been completed, but a second required public comment period should be released as early as mid-February.

Changes include the addition of a new #11 indicator requiring a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). There is concern that the reporting year is over halfway complete and a final document is not in place. Proposed indicators were shared with the SICC.

The *FFY 2013 Annual Performance Report* 62-page draft was reviewed, giving Council members the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback throughout the presentation.

Upon motion by Ms. Badalamenti, seconded by Annette Ristoro and unanimously carried --- the **Council voted to accept and certify the APR developed by DOH for submission to OSEP. Therefore, the SICC will not be submitting a separate APR to OSEP.**

OLD BUSINESS

The Council discussed the following *current member vacancies*: Legislative, Head Start, Service Provider and Parents 3/4. (Ms. Ristoro will not be eligible to remain in a parent membership category when her child reaches age thirteen in a few months.) Ms. Harrison has a new appointments' contact at DOH. Nominees are needed, and a chair opening is available. Ms. Fortin will update and redistribute the SICC member recruitment flyer. The REIC's will continue to publicize vacancies through family email lists. They will also publicize with SCUs and EIPs at regional meetings. Dr. Holahan proposed an article in the pediatricians' newsletter. Ms. Harrison will send the flyer to all EIPs and SCUs. Applications can be submitted online through the Governor's Office. Ms. Fortin volunteered to assist families with completing the application process.

NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT -- 1:10

Upon motion by Kimberley Peto, seconded by Michele Christopoulos and unanimously carried.

APPROVED
3.28.14