



MEETING SUMMARY March 27, 2015

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, March 27, 2015, at Mid-Jersey SICC, North Brunswick, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 by Catherine Colucci, who served as acting chair.

ATTENDANCE -- *Attached*

WELCOME -- Catherine Colucci, Acting Chair

Ms. Colucci welcomed all attendees. At her request, *SICC members and 11 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the *January 23, 2015* meeting were approved as distributed -- upon motion by Kim Peto, seconded by Rosemary Browne and unanimously carried

LEAD AGENCY -- **New Jersey Department of Health**

Gloria Rodriguez, Assistant Commissioner, and Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. *SFY 2016 State Budget* - The Governor's FY 2016 Budget has proposed a \$3,414,000 increase for NJEIS. These funds are proposed to cover growth and do not include a cost of living increase.
2. *Federal Budget/Application* - The application went out for public comment. The formula based upon census will provide an additional \$300,000 in federal funding. Federal funding supports the state and regional infrastructure, Part C system components and service coordination. The President has recommended additional funding for early intervention in the FFY 2016 budget proposal.
3. *The Central Management Office RFP* has been posted (contract number 16-x23577). The question period has just ended. Bids are scheduled to be in on April 20th with anticipation of having a new contract in July.
4. *Annual Ethics Training For Special State Officers* -- As outlined at the January 23rd meeting, this training is required for all SICC members. A hard copy was distributed at the previous meeting and re-distributed by email (attached to file). Members were urged to send their completed document to Ms. Harrison as soon as possible.

5. *Family Cost Participation* -- These reports were discussed -- emailed in advance (attached to file). The State is on target for collecting \$6 million in revenue.
6. *Procedural Safeguards Report* -- Coordinator Joseph Pergola discussed the report distributed (attached to file). Since the last meeting, 1 formal complaint for compensatory service was withdrawn; 536 information complaints include compensatory, missed, services, disruptions and requests for assistance from families and the system.
7. *December 1 Child Count* -- December 1 child count was submitted to OSEP by the February 1, 2015 deadline and was distributed (attached to file). Overall system growth is 5.59%.
8. *Annual Performance Report (APR)* was submitted through the new electronic "Grad360" OSEP sponsored platform.
9. Information related to an SICCC webinar was shared with the Council.
10. *State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)* -- Susan Evans presented the most current update to the draft plan, which is due April 1, 2015 (attached to file). The SSIP will not be included as part of state determinations
11. *July 24th Member Retreat* -- Council discussed the potential of focusing on the SSIP as the agenda for the retreat. The Department of Health (DOH) will present a plan for the retreat at the May meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Administrative** -- Susan Marcario
The proposed 2015-2016 SICCC budget will be presented at the May 29th SICCC meeting.
2. **Early Learning Challenge** -- No report
3. **Family Support** -- Rosemary Browne and Patti Ciccone
The Department of Health (DOH) has provided data for the Regional Early Intervention Collaboratives (REICs) to complete telephone interviews with families. The calls are scheduled for completion at the end of the month. Many families are providing very positive feedback on their experience in early intervention (EI). The families participating in the interviews exited EI over 6 months ago; many do not recall details of the process.
4. **Service Delivery** -- David Holmes, committee member, presented a brief update on the March 16th meeting. Chair Joyce Salzberg submitted minutes of this meeting, which were emailed to the committee (attached to file).

OLD BUSINESS -- There was none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Michele Safrin discussed new policies/forms and trainings implemented by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CPP) to address the referral of children connected to CPP to early intervention. Future initiatives to focus on working with the courts to write appropriately worded court orders. Information was shared with 5,000 caseworkers. Educational liaisons will be the point people to work with the caseworkers regarding the new policies.
2. Barbara Tkach announced the issuance of an updated special education code. Chapter 14 was revised and is now on the Department of Education (DOE) website. DOE now has 3 preschool consultants.
3. Ms. Colucci reported as the SICCC Personnel Preparation Representative. Kean University has just launched the opening of their occupational therapy clinic. The clinic will service people of all ages, including young children. Rutgers held a meeting with Gerry Costa to discuss infant mental health.

REIC

Patti Ciccone distributed a flyer announcing some activities already planned for the upcoming Early Intervention Week in May (attached to file).

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *David Holmes, representing Early Intervention Provider Association (EIPA)*, shared information related to a proposed bill potentially increasing the number of early intervention provider agencies.
2. *Donna Castellano, of CPNJ*, shared her concerns about the proposed bill which does not relate increasing programs to existing No Provider/Practitioner Available (NPA) situations.

ADJOURNMENT -- 12:18 p.m.

Upon motion by Chanell McDevitt, seconded by Joseph Holahan and unanimously carried.

APPROVED
5.29.15