



MEETING SUMMARY March 28, 2014

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, March 28, 2014, at Sunny Days EIP, Manalapan, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Joyce Salzberg, who presided and declared a quorum present. (Acting Chair Warren Moore was unable to attend.)

ATTENDANCE –*Attached*

WELCOME/PRESIDER REPORT – Joyce Salzberg

Ms. Salzberg welcomed all attendees. At her request, *SICC members and 18 public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the *January 24, 2014 meeting* were unanimously approved as distributed – upon motion by Michele Christopoulos, seconded by Catherine Coluccii and carried.

SICC COMMITTEES

1. **Administrative** – There was no report.
2. **Family Support** – Michele Tyler and Patti Cicconi, Co-Chairs

The committee met earlier this morning and discussed ideas for Early Intervention Week: (1) Set up an Early Intervention table at Rock N' Roll and other events as appropriate for SICC/REIC parents to provide information to families regarding the SICC; (2) ask an SICC parent to develop a written parent story to share as a recruitment tool.

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

Ms. Salzberg reported on the 3/4/14 meeting (attached to file). The committee is working on developing a competitive RFP for EIP provider agencies and is reviewing the System Framework being developed by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance national project. Looking at using the framework components and elements for the RFP, the following components have been identified for inclusion in the RFP:

finance, governance/leadership, quality standards, data systems and personnel. Governance and finance were discussed within the committee. The next meeting will focus on quality standards (April 24th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Sunny Days).

4. **Early Learning Challenge** – Barbara Tkach, Chair

The committee has taken on the function of looking at activity in the greater early childhood community related to the early learning challenge. Now that New Jersey has received the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTTT) grant, reorganization and re-adjustments are occurring. Projects related to RTTT were discussed with a focus on how early intervention fits into the new initiatives. The committee now has a better understanding of what projects are linked to early intervention and projects early intervention would like to become involved with. RTTT is a birth to 8 years' initiative. Several implementation committees have already been established. Early intervention is starting to build up participation in each committee. Request was made to invite the RTTT executive director to attend/present at the next SICCC meeting. Members may have the opportunity to join committees. The committee is looking at the modules from the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learning (CSEFEL). Early Intervention may pick out sections of the Pyramid modules and not adopt the total package. The committee will also look at work that Colorado has begun on social emotional development.

LEAD AGENCY REPORT – Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator

1. *Race to the Top (RTTT)*... The Department is in process of working on revision/updates to the scope of work. A new RTTT director under the Department of Education, as the lead agency, has been working with the Departments of Children & Families, Human Services and Health. The Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner signed off on slight changes. DOH is working on cross agency agreements; Ms. Harrison is working with an inter-departmental group, which has strong connections across the department. Commissioners are meeting quarterly.
2. *Federal Part C Application* ... Announcement of public comment has been published. Comments are due by April 8th. There has been a \$395,000 increase to the New Jersey Part C budget. The Part C funds are distributed based on based on census. DOH has regained some of the funding reduced last year through sequestration. Questions on budget should be addressed to Ms. Harrison. The Part C funds support the state & regional infrastructure, required IDEA system components such as procedural safeguards, personnel development, child find, SICCC, and management information Funds that remain available are directed to partially

support service coordination (\$2.5 million). Questions are often received on restricted/indirect cost rate allocation specific to Part C. As rules get finalized, next year the application may include changes in policies and procedures.

3. *Family Cost Participation ...* Reports were reviewed (attached to file). Revenue projections have been down, but they have been offset by Medicaid. The \$6 million target may not be achieved because families are slipping below the 300% of poverty level and, therefore, are not eligible for a cost share. However, Medicaid reimbursements have increased (\$32 million).
4. *State Budget Update ...* The proposed NJEIS budget is level-funded including an appropriation of \$300,000 for MIS. There was no cost of living adjustments included in the proposed budget. If additional funds are needed to meet entitlements, there is a process included in the budget language to accommodate and expedite a request for additional funding. The DOH Budget hearings are scheduled for the Assembly on April 14th and the Senate on May 6th.
5. *December Federal Child Count ...* Discussed was the December 1, 2013 count, birth trend data and cumulative IFSP data, average check run data. There's been an increase of 7.38% of children with active IFSPs on December 1 (point in time data). Last year drop was most likely due to impact of Sandy. State budget planning generally starts in August. Data plays an important role in budget development. As birth rate declines, there may be the assumption that the number of families participating in early intervention will also decline which is not supported by the data when considering the number of referrals, evaluations and point in time child count. The average number of services per month is 8.2-8.5 (approximately 2 hours per week).
6. *Ineligibility...* There is concern about the high ineligibility rate of 28%. Percentage of children referred and the eligibility reviewed by referral source showed that Physician eligibility rate is about 70-75% compared to community organizations such as childcare which have lower eligibility rates.
7. *State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Update ...* Ms. Harrison distributed updated information related to Federal guidance. New Jersey has decided to continue with the results topic of social emotional development as its area for improvement. SICC participation is sought in the development of the plan. Susan Evans is conducting observations of BDI's to get a sense of evaluator fidelity. The BDI may be supplemented with the Ages & Stages Questionnaire-Social Emotional screen (ASQSE). DOH needs to identify a stakeholder group, and proposes that the SICC retreat agenda be focused on the SSIP. The stakeholder group, which will be facilitated by Sharon Walsh, will need other members with expertise in addition to the SICC.
8. *Procedural Safeguards ...* Coordinator Joe Pargola distributed/discussed the Procedural Safeguards Status Report.

REIC UPDATE

A presentation on *Early Intervention Practice Model* was made by Jennifer Blanchette McConnell, MJREIC and Catherine Wagner, NREIC (attached).

OLD BUSINESS - There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed was the July 25th *member retreat*.

1. **It was unanimously agreed that SSIP will be an agenda item** – upon motion by Kimberley Peto, seconded by Joseph Holahan and carried.

In discussing how best to prepare for this retreat agenda item:

- It was recommended reading the document Ms. Harrison distributed.
- Ms. Harrison will send a link for additional relevant documents.
- Indicator 11 of the SSIP-outcome related to early childhood social emotional development.
- Fidelity aspect of the implementation of the BDI will be discussed.
- Members may want to review information about the implementation of the BDI, child social emotional development.
- Potential strategy of creating a crosswalk of the early learning standards was suggested.
- SICC members would like a copy of the BDI in advance of the retreat.

2. *Early Intervention Week*, May 11-17, will continue its focus on early literacy. A new topic of nutrition will be pursued.

3. Members were urged to *email Terrie Goeke any additional ideas for the retreat agenda*.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Newman, Director, Mid-Jersey REIC ... Commented that secondary tools are often used in evaluation; strategies are often offered.

ADJOURNMENT -- 1:06

Upon motion by Dr. Holahan, seconded by Ms. Colucci and unanimously carried.

APPROVED

5.16.14