



MEETING SUMMARY September 14, 2012

A regular *public meeting* of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council was held on Friday, September 14, 2012, at Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Warren Moore, Acting Chair, who presided.

ATTENDANCE – *Attached*

WELCOME/PRESIDER REPORT – Warren Moore, Acting Chair

Mr. Moore welcomed all attendees and announced that *Terrie Goeke* was recovering from an injury and wished a speedy recovery and return to the Council.

At his request, *SICC members and public members* introduced themselves and identified their connection with early intervention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the *May 18, 2012* meeting were approved as distributed – upon motion by Kim Peto, seconded by Connie Gordon and unanimously carried.

SICC COMMITTEES

Following are reports of SICC committees.

1. **Administrative** – Chanell McDevitt for Celine Fortin, Chair

The *SICC budget* reviewed for SFY 2013 remains the same. The committee will have updated information at next SICC meeting.

2. **Family Support** – Tia Dix, Co-Chair

The committee will share new information during *next SICC meeting*.

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

The NJ Council for Young Children (NJCYC) reviewed feedback received on the *New Jersey Birth to Three Infant Toddler Standards*. The standards are representative of all children, including children with disabilities. Implementation plans for dissemination of this document are in committee for consideration. This includes recommendations from public comment to ensure children with disabilities are represented in the vignettes. The SICC

Early Learning Challenge Committee will review the document and make recommendations to the Part B & C lead agencies on dissemination.

Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) is still in committee with the NJCYC. QRIS pilots include: (1) Camden County testing validity and reliability of the tool; (2) NJCYC is looking at the implementation in Somerset and Middlesex Counties.

4. **Service Delivery** – Warren Moore, Chair

The committee will be *meeting at least once and possibly twice* prior to the November SICC meeting and will present an update. Patty Carlisimo and David Holmes have been invited to join the committee. The committee is still looking for another representative.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Terry Harrison, Part C Coordinator, reported for the Lead Agency

1. *Department of Health name change*: Effective July 1, 2012, the Department of Health and Senior Services became the Department of Health (DOH). Senior Services has been transferred to the Department of Human Services.
2. *NJEIS Part C Annual Performance Report*: OSEP issued a Meets Requirement Determination for New Jersey's FFY 2010 (July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011) Part C Annual Performance.
3. DOH has already begun process to submit *next year's APR*. Targeting stakeholder workgroup meeting for January 8, 2013. Please save the date. All SICC members are invited and encouraged to attend and participate.
4. *The Federal Data Accountability Center (DAC) project* is ending, and the 618 annual child count/data reporting will be submitted through an electronic reporting process that has been in place for Part B data. The data required for Part C remains the same, but the process will change.
5. *NJEIS was one of 3 states (Florida and Guam) nationally that have received full approval for the FFY 2012 Application* effective July 1, 2012. NJEIS chose to submit a state plan that contains the required policy and procedures needed to comply with new/updated federal Part C regulation changes that went into effect on July 1, 2012. NJEIS state staff have been informed that NJ's submission will be used as a model for state reviews. States that did not receive full approval received conditional improvement and must comply no later than June 30, 2013.
6. Following the application approval in early July, *two (2) ninety (90) minute webinars were provided to review the updated policies, procedures and paperwork*. Another webinar will be offered in early October and to offer additional information on transition, including opt-out information and notice/referral to school districts. DOH is close to having a report accessible to Service Coordination Units which will list children that must be referred to school districts. NJEIS is working to clean up opt-out and school district information in the data system before releasing notification/referral to the Department of Education and Local school districts
7. A new *Family Information Assessment Form and IFSP form* are currently under development by NJEIS with the assistance of a stakeholder workgroup.

8. The contract with *Mercer County Community College* was finalized to support webinars and a Learning Management System (LMS). Webinars will be a primary mode of communicating new and updated information from NJEIS to the REICs, EIP's and SCU's. The LMS will track trainings, attendance to required and optional training/webinars and provide a record of professional development continuing education hours.
9. *Telepractice* has become an area of interest. NJEIS is collaborating with the Early Hearing Detection and Identification (EHDI) program to implement a new initiative through Family Link REIC. Two hourly part time hearing consultants have been contracted to be available to assist families of children with hearing loss referred to the NJEIS. The consultants will be providing resources and information to families and help prepare the family and service coordinator for the IFSP meeting. Additionally, new referral procedures are expected to improve communication between the audiological community and NJEIS.
10. *Virtual early intervention services* will be piloted in collaboration with Sunny Days to address "no provider available" shortages in Atlantic and Camden Counties. NJEIS practitioners will be using Go To Meeting technology to communicate and provide direct EI services to the family. Sunny Days developed 8 training modules to insure that practitioners are appropriately trained. NJEIS may consider expanding if pilot is successful. Model of service may be used to address areas of state where practitioner shortages are occurring. The SICC was offered the opportunity to invite Sunny Days to present the project to the SICC.
11. Distributed/discussed were *Family Cost Participation Reports for SFY 2012* (attached to file copy): (a) revenue by statement date, (b) suspensions by month delinquent letter generated, (c) by month child exited EI, (d) by month child exited EI with FPL. Records indicate that the system is stable; that there is no increase in families dropping out because of cost. The SFY 2012 Family Cost Revenue hit the 6 million dollar mark. A change to the parent's explanation of benefits and billing to identify and adjust a family co-pay on any date of service where a claim was successfully submitted/paid by Medicaid.
12. Alvina Seto, *Procedural Safeguards* Coordinator, distributed/commented on several aspects of the activity report since the Council's last meeting (attached to file copy): 88 informal complaints have been received by the PSO to date for the State fiscal year 2013. There have been 10 Procedural Safeguards trainings held statewide from May 2012 to August 2012. A total of 190 participants attended the trainings. The draft of the NJEIS updated rules has been sent to Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance for their review.

UPDATE FROM REICS

REIC Family Support Coordinators did a presentation on 2012 Early Intervention Week. A recommendation was made that the presentation should also be made to the Early Learning Council.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ms. Harrison arranged for the *SICC to participate in a webinar describing the role of the SICC*. If anyone missed the presentation, the handouts and webinar will be available.

2. Mr. Warren requested that *Patti Ciccone* review the effectiveness of the offsite satellite meeting locations and report back to the Council.
3. The tentative SICCC meeting calendar was presented. The Council asked the member to review the tentative dates and be prepared to discuss during the November meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. *David Holmes of ABCD* ... Expressed thanks to the Council for allowing his participation on the Service Delivery system. Mr. Holmes also inquired about:
 - Any updates on the Autism curriculum approvals. Ms. Harrison will present an update to the Council during the November meeting.
 - An update on the data system RFP. Ms. Harrison reported that Treasury is working on a September/October release.
 - If there has been any impact on the new annual evaluation/BDI-2 procedures. Ms. Harrison stated that it is too early to review data or make any conclusions.
2. *Michelle Jansen, Morris County Service Coordinator* ... Thanked the REICs for their wonderful early intervention week events. Ms. Jansen created several posters to illustrate the paperwork that is required to a typical IFSP annual review; 10 places which require parent signature and concerns about the documents being available in other languages. Ms. Harrison responded that (a) 9 forms have been translated into Spanish and will be available shortly; (b) the IFSP forms are currently under review and that many of the procedures are required by OSEP. She stated that she is always interested in hearing the comments, but that many requirements are placed upon the EI system by OSEP. Paper work is also important to document the process, conversation and decisions made by the IFSP. This documentation is vital for resolving PSO complaints and issues.
3. *Michelle Accardi, Speech and Language Pathologist with Quality Care Group* ... Presented concerns related to families reducing their early intervention services due to family cost participation (FCP). She also questioned the implementation of conducting an annual BDI, implying that the cost could be used to eliminate FCP.

ADJOURNMENT – 12:10 p.m.

Upon motion by Joseph Holahan, seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously carried.

APPROVED

11.30.12

With notation that Joyce Salzberg's name was inadvertently left off list of attendees at the meeting.