

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION
Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date
May 12, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Kama Gregory
Mary Deitz
Linda Borghols
Amy Simpson
Dorothy Erickson

Community Members/Guests:

Patrick Pillai

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Announcements and Good News

Teresa Holt stated that Sheila Sellers will probably not be on the EIC in the fall. Carolyn Coe will be taking her place. Carolyn is a professor at UAA that teaches both special education and early childhood.

Kama Gregory announced that her son learned to ride his tricycle. He is 4 and also climbed his first ladder unassisted on the playground.

Approval of Past Minutes

Patrick Pillai made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2010 meeting. Amy Simpson **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED** as written.

Correspondence

Resignations and Recruitment of New Members

Teresa Holt stated that Margaret Kavanaugh and Michelle McCrae are resigning from the committee. Teresa stated that if anyone has suggestions for new members, they should let her know. Amy Simpson is communicating with a parent who may be interested in serving on the committee.

Restraint and Seclusion Bill – Head Start/Pre-School

Teresa Holt stated that she received a request from Senator Murkowski's office to provide comments on the national restraint and seclusion bill, which is a bill that doesn't allow school districts to restrain or seclude children except if they are in eminent danger to themselves or others.

Review of Indicators 10, 11, 12, 13

Teresa Holt explained that indicator 10 is regarding written complaints, indicator 11 is regarding due process hearings, indicator 12 is the percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions, and indicator 13 is the

percent of mediations held.

Teresa noted that there was no data available for indicator 13 because no mediations have been held. She felt it could mean two things, that everything is going smoothly, or parents don't realize they have that option available to them.

Linda Borghols stated that whenever a parent calls Erin Kinavey with a concern, Erin always gives them the option of making it a more formal complaint. Linda agreed with Teresa that she does not know of any instances when a complaint has gone to the level of mediation.

Linda also explained that their family rights booklet is in the process of being revised and updated. Amy Simpson stated that the parents' rights are also listed on the new IFSP form.

Linda further explained that the process for making a complaint is to send it to Erin Kinavey. Erin would then begin the initial investigation and Linda wasn't sure if the process included bringing in an outside contractor to do further investigation. Linda stated that Erin takes complaints very seriously and responds to families within 24 hours.

Amy Simpson stated that parents are supposed to be informed of their rights at their annual assessments.

Update from the Council Meeting

Council Meeting Summary

Teresa Holt stated that the Council met in Fairbanks at the beginning of May for a three-day meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review what has happened over the last year, talk to the partner agencies, review committee accomplishments, and recommended priorities for the next year.

EIC Accomplishments from 2009 - 2010

Teresa stated that that the accomplishments of the EIC from last year

include:

- Followed the Governor's Performance Scholarship bill
- Recruited at the ASHA National Conference for speech therapists
- Pre-school survey and ECSPED listserv
- Early Childhood Networking Forum
- TACSEI Pyramid Model
- Reviewed the indicators
- Participated in the OSEP monitoring
- Reviewed the ILP website, Parent's Rights booklet, and the ILP brochure
- Did a formal review of the ILP APR
- Supported the AILPA teleconferences
- Sent a letter of support to the early childhood program at UAA
- Participated on the Interagency Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

New Priorities for FY 2010 – 2011

Kama Gregory stated that the following priorities were developed for the EIC for the next fiscal year:

1. Support and advocate for Infant Learning Program eligibility change from 50 percent delay to 25 percent delay
 - Review data, review cost study, OCS budget and create talking points
 - Assist the department in expanding ILP billing (Medicaid and Insurance)
 - Create advocacy plan
2. Address ILP concerns about early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing
3. Support the Stone Soup Group parent conference
4. Early childhood workforce development
 - Develop university programs/Governor's Performance Scholarship recruitment
 - Student loan forgiveness as a recruiting tool.

Teresa stated that regarding supporting and advocating for the eligibility determination change from 50 to 25 percent delay, the EIC will use a similar approach as they did with the Alaska's Kids Can't Wait campaign.

Linda Borghols added that there are three pilot sites using ARRA funds to serve children with between 25 and 49 percent delay. They will be collecting data on that group for 18 to 24 months, and then they will be able to use the data when they approach the legislature. Linda also stated that the pilot project will still be going on for the January 2011 session, so they will not have data available yet to use for advocacy.

Linda stated that she will need to clarify with Erin what their timelines are for all of the different parts that need to happen for this first priority. Teresa Holt added that it doesn't make sense for the EIC to have it as their top priority if it's not going to happen. Linda stated that she will report back to the committee at the next meeting if Erin feels this should be a high priority for the EIC.

Report from OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols stated that they have been reading proposals and they have their Procurement Evaluation Committee meeting coming up for the ILP grantees. Teresa Holt stated that Duane Mayes will represent the Council on this committee.

Report from AILPA

Amy Simpson stated that AILPA has been reorganizing. Last month they voted on new bylaws that expand the membership of the board of AILPA. She stated that they also redid some of the leadership of AILPA so that it includes each funded organization.

Amy Simpson stated that she is no longer the chair of AILPA and Lizette Stiehr is the new chair. Teresa asked the committee if she should ask Lizette to be a part of the EIC as the AILPA representative. Upon hearing no objections, Teresa stated she will invite her to be a member of the EIC.

Report from DEED

There was no representative from DEED available at the meeting.

Report from SESA

Patrick Pillai stated that they have been working on submitted grants for hearing and autism. He stated that in applying for these grants, he was really impressed with the work that the ILP folks have been doing setting up the professional development plan statewide.

Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings

Teresa Holt stated that OSEP will do a mega conference combining both Part B and Part C. It will be August 1 – 6 in Alexandria, VA. Teresa said that usually the chair, a representative from AILPA and a couple of parents attend this meeting. She also noted that the Council will be spending more for travel this year for the five-year plan, so she is not sure how many people will be able to attend the OSEP conference this year.

Teresa stated that other conferences they may want to look at attending are the Zero to 3 National Training Institute, December 9 – 11 in Phoenix, AZ and the Council for Exceptional Children, October 14 – 17 in Kansas City, MO. Debbie Kitelinger will make those recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding travel. If people are interested in attending these conferences, they need to send Teresa an e-mail.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EIC will be on June 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Teresa stated that for their face-to-face meeting in the fall, they have the choices of Valdez, Seward, Nome or Barrow. She will be contacting members of the committee for their preferences of date and location. Teresa will also start to research what early childhood programs are available in each of those communities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.