

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

August 18, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Debbie Kitelinger, Chair
Mary Deitz
Dorothy Erickson
Linda Borghols
Sharon Fishel / Tracey Thomas
Amy Simpson

Community Members/Guests:

Carolyn Coe
Amanda Faulkner
Margaret Kossler
Erin Schneider
Stephanie Wrightsman-Birch

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair and Introductions

Debbie Kitelinger welcomed new members and everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Dorothy Erickson **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion to approve the agenda **PASSED**.

Approval of Past Minutes

Debbie Kitelinger stated that she believed she was present at the last meeting, but was not noted in the minutes.

Dorothy Erickson **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2010 meeting with the addition of Debbie Kitelinger as present. The motion to approve the minutes as amended **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that she has not received any feedback yet from Erin Kinavey or Art Arnold on the letters the Council sent them regarding the indicators.

Follow up on Part C State Determination

Teresa stated that regarding the letter from Senator Murkowski about Part C being in the “needs assistance” category for the second year, Erin Kinavey stated that the data was from 2007/2008 and everything has been corrected since then.

Debbie Kitelinger suggested sending a follow-up letter to Senator Murkowski. Linda Borghols stated that she believes that there was some notification or communication at the federal level that went to Senator Murkowski. Teresa Holt stated that she will make sure the Council also sends a letter to Senator Murkowski.

Follow up on CEEHI and VISIT Letters/E-Mails

Teresa Holt explained that SESA was not funded for the programs for children who are deaf or hearing impaired. She stated that there was a petition signed by many parents and a response to that petition from the commissioner. Teresa and Duane Mayes also met with Erin Kinavey regarding this issue. Teresa noted that AILPA was quite concerned by this event.

Teresa read the letter from Erin Kinavey to the committee members, which in summary stated that children with low-incidence disabilities will continue to be supported on a consultation basis with additional training and supports given to IL providers around the state. They also don't anticipate a reduction in direct services with vision impairments.

Linda Borghols further clarified that there shouldn't be a change in service, and children will continue to be directly served through the ILP providers for whatever service the child and family wants. The ILP providers will now provide the services on a case-by-case basis through their own budgets.

Report from the OSEP Conference

Amy Simpson stated that there was a real focus on the evidence-based work regarding engaging parents in the education of their young children. This has become an important issue at the federal level. She stated that she also attended sessions relating to retention and noted that Alaska is not suffering many of the same issues that other states are. Amy Simpson stated that she has also prepared a written report if people would like further information.

Teresa Holt stated that she learned that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will not be passed this year, which in turn means that IDEA and Part C regulations will not be updated until the ESEA passes. She also stated that level funding has been proposed in the budget for both ILP and 619.

Teresa stated that every state has to have an early childhood advisory council and Alaska's is just beginning. Erin Kinavey will have a seat on it, but the Governor's Council will not.

Teresa commented that she attended a session regarding a telepractice ILP project in Utah that was very successful. Some of the benefits to the project included:

- Decrease in costs
- Decrease in cancellations
- Increase in services
- Enhancement to parental skills
- Decrease in staff travel
- Increased staff retention
- Parents liked not having someone in their home.

The negatives to the project were that providers had to rethink how they provide services, I-T technical aspect that they needed to help families with, Internet provider issues, and staff retraining.

Debbie Kitelinger stated that people can access OSEP conference materials by Googling 2010 OSEP Leadership Mega Conference.

Debbie commented that the speakers for the parent strand of the conference were excellent. She stated that she attended a breakout session on Applying Principles of Adult Learning to Presentations and Training, which was geared toward parent trainers.

Review of Indicator 1

Teresa Holt stated that this indicator reports on the number of children with IFSPs who receive services on their IFSPs in a timely manner. The goal for this indicator is 100%. Teresa stated that in 2007 they were at 54%, in 2008 they were at 86.5%, and Linda Borghols pointed out that for 2009 they were at 100%.

Linda further explained that the increases are as a result of identifying the problem, staff training, and tweaking the data entry system. She also stated that weather is also a huge problem in Alaska in terms of being able to provide the services in a timely manner, and they have provided documentation to OSEP regarding weather-related issues. OSEP is beginning to accept that as a reason.

Linda also stated that they are beginning to explore telepractice as an alternative for service provision.

Priorities

1. Support/advocate for ILP eligibility change from 50% delay to 25%

Linda Borghols explained that the pilot study evaluation has not been completed because it is being funded with ARRA funds that continue until through FY'11. The evaluation will be completed at the end of the funding period.

Teresa Holt explained that they are still waiting to hear if they will need to request the \$1.5 million GF increase. She stated that there are some issues with the idea of Medicaid picking up the ILP services because states are looking at ways to contain the costs of Medicaid.

2. Address ILP concerns about the early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This priority was addressed under correspondence.

3. Support the Stone Soup Group parent conference.

Teresa will follow up with Stone Soup Group to see if they have started planning the conference.

4. Early childhood workforce development.

Teresa Holt stated that the Governor's scholarship regulations were out for public comment. She noted that they were not able to give written comment but will have the opportunity to provide verbal comment to the State Board of Education meeting in September.

Teresa stated that this will be a topic at their face-to-face meeting to determine next steps.

Report from OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols stated that they are having their face-to-face coordinators meeting October 6 – 8. She stated that their grantees are all in line, and they are working with a potential grantee to get services in the Aleutian Pribilofs. They are also currently busy doing site verification visits. Linda also noted that Erin Kinavey will be back next week.

Report from AILPA

Lizette Stiehr was not available for the meeting, but in her absence, Amy Simpson answered Debbie Kitelinger's question about bylaws changes for parent representation by stating that parent representation was not discussed by AILPA during their discussion of bylaws change. Amy stated that most of the work has been restructuring and getting more engagement from ILPs in AILPA.

Report from DEED

Sharon Fishel stated that she will be transitioning into a new position within the Department starting in September. Tracey Thomas has joined their team and will be attending the EIC meetings in Sharon's place.

Teresa Holt stated that the Council provided a letter of support to the Department for the SIG grant.

Report from SESA

Teresa Holt stated that she will need to talk to Nancy Nagarkar to see what kind of involvement SESA will have with the EIC as they no longer have the two early childhood programs.

Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings

Zero to Three National Training Institute in Phoenix, December 9-11.

Teresa Holt stated that two people total are slotted to attend this conference, and it will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Next Meeting

The next teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Teresa stated that the dates for their face-to-face meeting need to change. She will send everyone an e-mail to see how many people will be able to attend a face-to-face meeting on different dates.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.