

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
January 11, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson, Chair
Mary Deitz
Heidi Haas
Sam Jordan
Linda Borghols
Debbie Kitelinger
Dorothy Erickson
Margaret Kossler
Patrick Pillai

Community Members/Guests:

Diana Marsh
Elizabeth Tracy
Stephanie Wrightsman-Birch
Beth Kaplan
Sydney Abernathy
A'lise Hazemeister

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME AND CELEBRATIONS

Announcements

Committee members introduced themselves.

Upcoming Trainings

- Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children - February 3 – 5, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage.
- Head Start Director's Conference – February 8 – 10, Juneau.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is February 8, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Election of Four New Voting Members

Teresa Holt stated that Margaret Kossler has been appointed to the Council and automatically becomes a voting member. Elizabeth Tracy, Diana Marsh and Debbie Kitelinger volunteered to become voting members.

Heidi Haas **MOVED** to approve Debbie Kitelinger, Diana Marsh and Elizabeth Tracy as voting members. The motion **PASSED**.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Amy Simpson noted a typo in the minutes from the October 26 – 28, 2010 meeting in the section titled "About Norton Sound ILP Program". The last sentence uses the word Real when it should be spelled Reel.

Mary Deitz **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the October 26 – 28, 2010 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Heidi Haas **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2010 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Elizabeth Tracy corrected the minutes from the December 14, 2010 meeting by noting that her last name was misspelled Tracey.

Diana Marsh **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2010 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that they completed their APR review for the Infant Learning Programs and sent comments and signed the certification.

Amy Simpson announced that Maggie Ferry passed away on December 26th. She requested that the Council send a letter to her family thanking her for her service and expressing their condolences.

PARTNER REPORTS

OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols thanked the Council for reviewing the APR in a timely manner.

She stated that they are gearing up for the AAIEYC. On February 2, 2011 they are having their face-to-face meeting with their program coordinators.

Linda also noted that there is a lot going on with professional development, and they have several staff who are working towards degrees and/or endorsements.

Linda Borghols stated that a couple of months ago, there was a request by the Council to use the Stoplight format to be able to review data. She stated that it's not possible because the data is live data and is always changing. She stated that it's not the best document to use right now.

Linda stated that they are going to start evaluating their pilot projects for the extended eligibility. Hopefully in the next six months they will have a

good report that will give some valuable data.

AILPA

Lizette Stiehr was not available to provide a report from AILPA.

DEED

Teresa Holt stated that the Department of Education is currently staffed at two of the four positions.

SESA

Patrick Pillai was unavailable during partner reports.

COMMITTEE MAIN TOPIC

Goal 2: Early Intervention Services for Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

Amy Simpson stated that today is the beginning of the conversation to understand the dynamics of serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing within the state. She noted that there many organizations and departments involved in this process.

1. Review parent survey of deaf/hard of hearing families

Teresa Holt stated that she talked to Erin Kinavey about the ILP survey that goes out to families each year, and asked that they make a specific effort to separate those families that are receiving ILP for vision and hearing to see if families are happy with the services they are getting.

Linda Borghols stated that the ILP survey will be going out the first part of March, and they should have the results back in June.

Teresa stated that she will follow up with Erin Kinavey to be sure that she is still willing to do that. She noted that in June or August they should review those results with the State ILP.

2. Assist in the creation of a deaf mentor program for ILP

families.

Teresa Holt suggested that a couple of EIC members attend the next Deaf Education Board meeting and help them figure out a way to accomplish this. Amy Simpson volunteered, and Linda Borghols stated that she usually represents ILP on the Deaf Education Board.

Beth Kaplan explained Hands & Voices, which is a national organization that is inclusive of all opportunities for children and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing. Linda Borghols stated that there is some curriculum associated with this movement.

Amy Simpson stated they will put a target date for June to get information.

3. *Support local ILP to create deaf and hard of hearing expertise.*

- a. Increase deaf and hard of hearing expertise at PIC.***
- b. Ongoing deaf and hard of hearing training for ILP providers.***

Amy Simpson stated that at PIC, they don't currently have a deaf educator on staff, but they have six speech/language pathologists on staff. She also noted that one staff member is being credentialed in the Professional Preparation for Cochlear Implant.

Amy also noted that Mandy Morgan is doing some consulting work around the state to help support other ILPs who have children who are deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in their program. Linda Borghols noted that there is a capacity to keep Mandy very busy.

Teresa Holt suggested asking AILPA members about what kinds of trainings providers would like around deaf and hard of hearing. Amy Simpson felt that this would be a worthwhile survey. She suggested having a three or four question survey as part of Mandy Morgan's training at the AAEYC.

Linda Borghols noted that they need to address the issue of school-aged children who are not coming through the Early Intervention, Part C process. She feels that what they need to do is help families to identify

the children, and then they need to build capacity within Early Intervention to be able to serve these families.

Diana Marsh stated that one problem she sees is equipment failure in the villages. She stated that she would be interested in pursuing this and talking to people to see what they can do. Beth Kaplan suggested locating the equipment in the clinics so it's not being bounced around as much.

Beth Kaplan provided some statistics regarding some preliminary data regarding children born in 2009 who did not pass their newborn hearing screening. She also explained that they are about to implement a new section of the EHDI database that will have a direct link between the audiologist and ILP so the State will be able to track those referrals from the EHDI database.

Teresa Holt stated that this resolves their issues under work plan Goal 2, number 5. Amy Simpson added that she thinks they still have work to do in educating audiologists so they understand the process and what services Part C can provide to families.

Amy suggested making a brochure that talks about the elements of Part C. Stephanie Wrightsman-Birch and Beth Kaplan suggested brochures and letters designed for children and parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Debbie Kitelinger cautioned that if the Council does this for one disability group, they need to do it for all disability groups. Amy Simpson suggested a generic brochure with a letter to a parent of a hearing impaired child.

Margaret Kossler stressed that it is important for families to learn that ILP is a place that they can go that will help them coordinate their services. It can be very overwhelming for a new parent, and it's helpful to know that there is a place out there that can provide coordination of services and can help families find a way to pay for all the services.

6. *Research solutions to EHDI/ILP data sharing.*

Beth Kaplan stated that the automated referral is pretty new, but they are working on it.

7. *Ensuring EHD/ILP systems provide all options to families at specific intervention points.*

Teresa Holt stated that she needs to research what is happening to get a clearer picture. She will put a target date of June for herself on the work plan.

ADJOURN

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