

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  
March 8, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson, Chair  
Mary Deitz  
Debbie Kitelinger  
Margaret Kossler  
Tracey Thomas  
Elizabeth Tracy  
Erin Kinavey  
Lizette Stiehr

Community Members/Guests:

Mahala Slone  
Shannon McCarthy  
Ellen Ganley  
Melora Gaber  
Thalia Wood

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**WELCOME AND CELEBRATIONS**

***Announcements***

Tracey Thomas announced that the new special education administrator is Don Enoch.

***Upcoming Trainings***

- Early Childhood Mental Health – May 10 – 12
- PIC TIMP Training – May 31 – June 1
- Play Project – June 16 – 17.

***Date of Next Meeting***

The next scheduled teleconference is April 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The possible topic is work plan priority number four.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

***Approval of the Agenda***

Lizette Stiehr **MOVED** to approve the agenda as presented. The motion **PASSED**.

***Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes***

Lizette Stiehr **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2011 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

***Correspondence***

Teresa Holt stated that Representative Tuck introduced HB 49, Parents as Teachers.

Lizette Stiehr stated that they should also be tracking HB 154, the public pre-K initiative that DEED is asking to fund for 3 and 4 year olds.

Lizette further explained that HB 79 is a bill that would require insurance coverage for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and SB 5 is a bill that would increase Denali KidCare eligibility to 200 percent.

Tracey Thomas **MOVED** to send letters of support for Parents as Teachers, HB 49; universal pre-K, HB 154; and Denali KidCare, SB 5. The motion **PASSED**.

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

### **AILPA**

Lizette Stiehr stated that AILPA is joined in public policy with Best Beginnings, thread, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, the Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Alaska Head Start Association.

In addition to supporting the above mentioned legislation, they are discussing doing some joint advertising for the recruitment for therapeutic positions that seem to be in short supply.

Lizette stated that their next teleconference will be March 22 at 3:00.

### **DEED**

Tracey Thomas stated that Bev Ingram with ATTI is putting together a newsletter. She stated that there is some information coming from OSEP about how to use RTI, and Tracey believes that people are confused about what RTI is really about.

Tracey stated that they have a shortage of related service personnel in every district she has visited.

## **COMMITTEE MAIN TOPIC**

### **Update on ILP**

#### **Service Delivery Guidelines**

Erin Kinavey stated that Ellen Ganley and Shannon McCarthy are the contractors that are developing the service delivery guidelines for the Alaska Infant Learning Program.

Ellen Ganley stated that the service delivery guidelines are for the related services provided by the Part C office. Initially the list included autism spectrum disorders, natural environments, children referred for speech delays, early childhood mental health, young children who are hard of hearing or deaf, nutrition, assistive technology, children with complex medical needs, family service coordination, evaluation assessment, and the IFSP. Shannon McCarthy stated that they added visual impairment to the list.

Ellen stated that the idea behind the guidelines was to be a bridge between the practitioners, the infant learning teachers, and best practices in the field of early intervention. One of the real keystones to all of this is to produce guidelines that are user friendly, with one set of guidelines for service providers and one shorter version for parents.

The scope of work for the project included organizing an advisory committee and gathering materials from other states and national organizations, looking at guidelines that have been written by other states, and seeing if they can find samples from national sources as well. They also needed to Alaskanize the information in terms of things like geography and weather. They were also asked to collect stakeholder input on the guidelines.

Ellen stated that Shannon McCarthy is almost done with the first draft of the guidelines and their next step is to pull together some infant learning teachers and content experts for a two-day meeting in Anchorage on April 21 - 22 to thoroughly review the standards. The drafts will also be online for others to provide input.

Shannon McCarthy stated that this past summer she tried to gather as many of the service delivery standards from different states as she could, and then she compared the different standards. Connecticut and New York had the most comprehensive standards. She noted that the problem she ran into when comparing the different standards is that there were many circumstances where things weren't applicable to Alaska.

Teresa Holt asked Ellen Ganley to be sure to include a couple of parents from the EIC as well as Amy, Lizette and Amanda at the two-day meeting in Anchorage to review the draft.

Erin Kinavey stated that the purpose of these guidelines is to make sure that ILP providers and parents have the most current research on best practices that take into account cultural differences. Erin stated that it would be appropriate for Teresa Holt to send a link out on the EIC listserv for the online input for the draft.

Erin stated that she believes that each of these service delivery guidelines will be somewhere between 20 and 60 pages each.

### Part C Credential

Erin Kinavey stated that they are working on a Part C credential above and beyond the licensure that all of their providers are required to have. The purpose is to get people grounded in what Part C is and what the main tenants of the law are. She believes there are eight modules being developed for this credential, and paraprofessionals will probably only do a portion of them. She stated that the modules are going to be piloted by a group of coordinators or designees this spring and then they should officially roll out in June.

### Highly Qualified

Erin Kinavey reviewed with the committee members the ILP staff and students that are receiving training to become highly qualified through funding that the Council secured for ILP. In exchange for funding their tuition, the students owe ILP a service obligation. For every \$10,000 of tuition they pay, the student has a service obligation of one year to work in an ILP. Erin reviewed the specialties of the current students ILP is supporting.

Teresa Holt suggested that they may want to work with Meghan Johnson to create a map or chart that shows the pathway to an early childhood degree.

### Early Intervention Annual Report

Erin Kinavey reviewed the draft of their Early Intervention annual report, which was delivered to all committee members via e-mail.

Amy Simpson commented that the format was very aesthetically pleasing. Erin Kinavey stated that the EIC was the group that nominated Kama Gregory to be featured in the report. She suggested that EIC could continue to nominate a family for the report each year.

Other committee members commented that the format was beautiful and the personal story compelling. Amy Simpson suggested handing it out to the legislators.

Erin Kinavey pointed out that the Governor's Council is listed at the end of the report as a partner of the report. She also noted that all the OCS names don't need to be listed at the beginning of the report, but instead can be the members of the ICC.

### Cost Study/Eligibility Change

Erin Kinavey stated that the cost study is done, and what they have now is a document that is a great picture of different programs and where they spend their time. It also shows program wide how much time people spend preparing for one home visit and the costs for therapy services in rural versus urban areas. She stated that they are trying to use this cost study to change their Medicaid rates to reflect the actual cost to deliver service, including preparation time and travel time.

Erin stated that they have learned that early intervention is really expensive to deliver because of the amount of distance and travel involved. She stated that she will be meeting with Medicaid this week, and she is confident that they will have a different rate for children receiving services through Part C in this next year.

Erin stated that the Medicaid change will directly affect the pilot study that is serving children with delays of 25 to 49 percent. She believes that enhanced Medicaid rates will allow the system to change eligibility without requiring a general fund increment.

She also stated that she testified before the legislature regarding the eligibility change, and everyone seemed to agree with the need to change the percentage of delay.

Lizette Stiehr discussed what she has been seeing in the pilot program. She stated that a lot of the children are coming in referred from OCS and many of those families require less service. She stated that another interesting thing they have found is that 19 children enrolled are extended eligibility, and of those 19, three have become Part C eligible.

## **ADJOURN**

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