

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

April 10, 2012  
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson, Chair  
Mary Deitz  
Meredith Jaecks  
Diana Marsh  
Lizette Stiehr

Community Members/Guests:

Carla Abild  
Sue Armstrong  
Sharon Bohjanen  
Mandy Cleveland  
Melora Gaber  
Beth Kaplan  
Beth Snyder

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Jeannette Rice, Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 10:03 a.m.**

**Roll Call**

## **READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION**

Amy Simpson recited the Council's mission statement, customized for the Early Intervention Committee: Creating change that improves the lives of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

## **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

### ***Announcements or Good News***

Teresa Holt noted that the autism insurance bill is having a hearing in the HSS committee today.

### ***Upcoming Trainings/Meetings and follow up***

Amy Simpson reminded committee members that the next overall Council meeting will be in Girdwood May 1st through 3rd. Teresa Holt explained that at this meeting, the Council hears the recommended priorities from all the partners and committees and decides what the Council will work on in the coming year. Public testimony will be heard on Tuesday, May 1st.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### ***Approval of the Agenda***

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

### ***Approval of past minutes***

Diana Marsh **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the past three meetings. The motion **PASSED**.

### ***Correspondence***

Teresa Holt reported that most of the recent correspondence has consisted

of letters in support of various legislation, but nothing specifically related to early intervention.

## **ANNUAL REVIEW OF WORK PLAN AND 5-YEAR PLAN GOALS**

Amy Simpson led a review of the work plan. The committee discussed the five goals and the ongoing duties listed in the plan, going over the activities under each goal, what has been done, and what to keep or change for next year. The six parts of the plan are outlined below with outcomes of the discussion summarized.

### **REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN**

#### **1. Eligibility Change: Advocate for an expansion in eligibility for ILP services to all Alaskan children with a 25% delay or greater.**

The pilot project on expanding eligibility using ARRA funds has released a report, which Amy will send out to committee members. Lizette Stiehr commented that the agency she works for, Focus, was one of the three pilot sites, and that many of the additional children enrolled were CAPTA referrals who would have automatically been Part C eligible if the \$3 million increment had gone through. After some discussion, the committee decided to leave the wording of the goal as simply “expand early learning program eligibility” and to specify who would be eligible, including CAPTA referrals and other vulnerable populations, in the activities section where the pilot project data is reported.

Goal No. 1 will be carried over into the work plan for 2014.

#### **2. Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Address concerns about early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.**

Amy Simpson commented that reviewing best practices has been an ongoing activity, and that Stone Soup Group has implemented a parent support group and a resource navigator for newly diagnosed parents. ILP has trained at least a few people statewide to become highly qualified, and has completed state standards for services for deaf and hard of hearing. Beth Kaplan noted that through the EHDI program, children are being referred earlier to ILP. Beth also stated that EHDI is

currently involved in a year-long quality improvement program, and has been working with ANMC on protocols for children who live in various places with different services available.

Goal No. 2 is ongoing and will remain on the work plan.

**3. Advocacy: Advocate for an EIFA chapter in Alaska.**

Amy Simpson reported that she and Teresa filled out the paperwork a couple of weeks ago to have the EIC and Stone Soup Group become organizational members of EIFA, so Goal No. 3 is done and will be removed from the work plan.

**4. Parent training: Support Stone Soup Group to host an annual parent conference.**

Stone Soup Group is planning a parent conference this fall as the school year begins, so the EIC just needs to follow up with this goal .

**5. Workforce development: Increase early childhood qualified workforce and increase ILP staff recruitment and retention.**

Amy Simpson reported that she has made a proposal to allow ILP to use some of their funding to offer a stipend to make student loan payments for workers who stay in early intervention. The committee also discussed possible ways of using telepractice to assist in developing a highly qualified workforce.

This goal will remain on the work plan.

**6. ICC Duties Ongoing**

The Early Intervention Committee is up to date with its ongoing duties.

**EIC PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR**

Teresa Holt pointed out that doing an advocacy plan for increased funding is a huge goal, so they might want to limit the total goals to two or three if that is going to be one of them. Amy Simpson remarked that with Goals 1, 2 and 5 above plus providing comment on the new regulations to be released soon, the EIC will have a very full plate.

Teresa Holt summed up the four priorities that the EIC will recommend to the Council in May:

1. Advocate for expansion of ILP program eligibility.
2. Advocate for support and expansion of highly qualified early childhood workforce, including retention and recruitment.
3. Review and provide comment on state regulation change.
4. Ongoing duties.

Teresa Holt explained that the activities under each goal will be figured out after the work plan priorities are reviewed and returned by the full Council. Committee members will decide at the May meeting on a date and time for a face-to-face meeting to plan the activities.

## **PARTNER REPORTS**

### ***AILPA***

Lizette Stiehr stated that the AILPA report that Amy Simpson is forwarding to EIC members shows that the three pilot sites for expanded ILP eligibility had a 20 to 30 percent increase in enrollment. Lizette recalled that 80 percent of the kids enrolled with a 25 percent delay exited the program with at least two if not three of the child outcome goals at typical development. Lizette remarked that a lot of these kids were CAPTA referrals, which is why AILPA's primary goal for the next year is going to be the \$3 million increment centered around the CAPTA requirement.

Lizette Stiehr also noted that the AILPA conference last month spent quite a bit of time meeting with the Alaska Speech-Language-Hearing Association about telepractice, and currently there is only one speech language therapist in Alaska that is billing for distance services.

### ***EED***

Meredith Jaecks reported that she was fortunate to go to Florida last week for the TACSEI training and is still learning more about 619 programs and how they are being implemented across the state.

