

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 14, 2012
10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Amy Simpson, Chair
Mary Deitz
Sharon Miranda
Karli Lopez
Lizette Stiehr
Diana Marsh
Debbie Kitelinger

Community Members/Guests:

Geri Benshoof
Mandy Cleveland
Christine Inglet
Sue Armstrong
Linda Borgohls

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Jennifer Jones
Sheryl Cobb

Prepared by:

It is just a big old mess. The ceiling and emotion is that of uncertainty and doom and gloom.

The good news is that there were 3 days of meetings that had wonderful sessions with breakouts. Amy is writing up a summary of those. One was using videos and using mini movies using still photography and voice overs where families can tell their stories. She thought that would be great for the Council to use. Parents can tell their stories and show their legislatures. When you only have 2 minutes to testify, it is nerve wracking and this could be an option. They also used technology to do training. Amy thought we could use videos to do parent rights training. Amy asked if we could write a mini-grant to try to get software to do something on that line. Teresa added that we could do these for each of the target areas. She was also impressed with the multiple avenues to share information. Jennifer added that they have added information on their website.

Amy said there was a lot of focus on data, on accountability. The state ILP world is in an uproar concerning collecting funds, concerning billing private insurance. She said that there was a notion that they need parent consent to bill all payers, whether that is public insurance, meaning Medicaid or private insurance that the state needs to implement policies and procedures around getting that permission to bill. That was kind of an unexpected consequence of the regs coming out. That was really not anticipated at all by anyone and it just kind of showed up. It's kind of got the state ILP world kind of in an uproar about collecting funds and does this regulation make it more difficult for states and programs to bill private insurance. That I think will just have to play out over time.

Lizette asked about a new modified form that has parents sign consent for billing. She asked if that sufficiently covers it. She wanted to know if there was something in addition to that. Amy said no, she felt that the controversy has more to do with how the states are defining the really difficult notion that families can refuse even Medicaid. They can refuse to have ILPs. She feels that what they are having difficulty with is that it kind of contradicts earlier statements that Part C must be Payer of last resort and we are funding Part C using a variety of sources. She thinks that at the administrative levels there are some philosophical challenges to that part of the changes that is contradictory to other parts of the same regulations.

Amy said that in the state of Alaska there is a form that gives us permission to bill public and private insurers and families can revoke that at any time. At PIC, we have been using it for 2 or 3 months and have not had any family refuse to give us permission. Lizette said that they have had the same experience. Amy felt that it was at the administrative level that the problems might exist.

Midwest Academy Plan

Teresa gave the overview of what a Midwest Academy is.

Organizational considerations. People who have a foot in the game and are going to do something. (Examples are the Council, AILPA, AMHTA, Key Coalition & Stone Soup Group).

Potential Allies – People who are supportive of our goal.

Potential Opponents – Conservative Legislatures, Unfunded federal mandates, Competing interests asking for similar funding.

Targets – people we are going to meet with. Governor's office, AMHTA, Commissioners, Legislature,

Tactics – Things in addition to meeting with targets. Develop talking points. Also, to get a branding, possibly Your Choice, My Future. Establish a Facebook page. Get the Trust on board.

If we got this money, what would we do? Improve outcomes for kids? Would they have jobs rather than being in the justice system? Would it make a significant difference to children and their families? Would it decrease the necessity for special education? Change the trajectory of a child's life? Create savings in special ed, create jobs? Create staff Capacity? The state would meet its requirements?

We need to determine who would contact potential allies. Amy said that she can talk with CASA, The Children's Trust, Nurse Family Partnerships. It was mentioned that Lori Thomas worked with Best Beginnings. Alaska Early Childhood Council contact is Amanda Faulker, Mental Health Provider Assn, the Council can do. Foster Family Assn, Teresa can do. Volunteers of

