

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

**Early Intervention Committee**

**LOCATION**

**Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date**

**Wednesday, October 22, 2014  
10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

Karli Lopez – chair  
Angie Fraize  
Mandy Cleveland  
Heidi Haas  
Mallory Hamilton  
Amy Simpson

**Community Members:**

Sue Armstrong  
Lisa Balivet  
Cassidy Jones  
Beth Kaplan  
David Mayo-Keily  
Kim Mix  
Kathleen Yarr

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt  
Brittney Howell

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

### **Welcome from the Chair**

#### **Announcements and Good News**

Sue Armstrong announced that her daughter was selected to perform in Seussical the Musical.

### **Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes**

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

Karli Lopez amended the agenda to add a discussion under new business regarding universal pre-K, and the next meeting date has been changed to November 12<sup>th</sup>. Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

#### **Approval of Minutes – 9/10/14**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to approve the minutes as presented. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

#### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to report for this meeting.

### **Reports**

#### **Chair's Report**

Karli Lopez reported that she and Christie Reinhardt attended the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) conference in St. Louis, MO. She reported that one of the highlights was that there is a position in Illinois that is a Part C ombudsman whose job it is to review the data around Part C in their state and dive into what it really means. Karli reported that she asked the ombudsman if she would be willing to talk to the EIC via teleconference to do an overview of her findings, and she is willing to do that if this committee

is interested.

Karli Lopez further reported that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee of the Council is looking into a suggestion that there will be some changes to therapy limits for Medicaid recipients, including children, coming from the Medicaid Reform Advisory Group. She stated that there will be a meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> to provide comments on this issue. Christie Reinhardt stated that she can provide the EIC members with further information about the impact on Part C recipients if they would like to comment. Heidi Haas joined in the conversation and commented on the impact to private practice providers as well.

Heidi Haas further commented that some of the language used in the recommendations from the Medicaid Reform Advisory Group is also disturbing as it relates to suggestions that institutionalization is more cost effective than in-home care. Britteny Howell stated that she has a summary of their last meeting, and she can provide those minutes to the EIC members. She noted that the Medicaid Reform Advisory Group voted not to recommend to the Governor capping Medicaid recipients at institutional levels of care costs. Britteny further noted that the Council has not been able to formulate comments on the work of this advisory group because information is not being provided publically. Amy Simpson requested to review the entire document.

## **Partner Reports**

### **EI/ILP**

Lisa Balivet introduced Kim Mix, their new program specialist. Lisa stated that later in the meeting she will be giving a more detailed report about the SSIP, State Systemic Improvement Plan.

### **AILPA**

Amy Simpson reported that the ILP coordinators met last week. AILPA has also voted to suspend their strategic planning until they can see how the SSIP is formed and see what they need to do as a result of that process.

## **EED**

Cassidy Jones reported that the Department just held their Special Education Directors training meeting last week. During that time they also had an opportunity to meet with Part C, who was also doing training that week. They met together for an afternoon to discuss any questions or issues they had. She noted that it was really nice to have the opportunity for the two groups to meet.

Other highlights from EED include:

- Tony Buckner was hired as a program manager, and they are now fully staffed.
- 80 percent of the districts have had their monitoring reviews completed.
- They have begun their intensive reviews.

## **EDHI**

Beth Kaplan reported that she attended the CDC training for all EHDI grantees. The vision of the CDC EHDI program is to promote communication from birth to all children, and the mission for EHDI for every state and territory is to have a complete EHDI data system that will help ensure children with hearing loss achieve communication and social skills commensurate with their cognitive abilities. Beth reported that the meeting in Atlanta was about data and evaluation. She stated that their activities are to collect unduplicated and individually identifiable data through the three components of the EHDI process; screening, diagnosis, and early intervention, and to be able to report that data and demographic data on an aggregate level.

Beth Kaplan stated that one interesting topic from the meeting dealt with loss to follow up and how that's identified. She noted that they need to separate out children who are truly lost to follow up as opposed to those who are unresponsive and/or refuse services. Lisa Balivet stated that that was a similar conversation during the EI/ILP coordinators meeting last week.

## **FASD Work Group**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the FASD subcommittee met yesterday and were presented with an issue that might require a regulation change. She stated that once children are in school, the disability category for students with FASD is “other health impaired.” This diagnosis of other health impaired can only be given by a doctor, and is the only category within special education that requires this. One of the concerns is that the State has funded a new FASD diagnostic clinic, which has nurse practitioners but not a doctor, so kids coming out of this clinic with recommendations for education are not able to use that diagnosis to access this disability category.

## **Old Business**

### **Discussion of the Survey of ILP Providers on Procedural Safeguards**

Brittney Howell reported that she was able to complete telephone interviews with 15 of the 17 ILP coordinators she was provided telephone numbers for. A few of the preliminary findings from the survey are as follows:

- Overall, agency staff are concerned that parents do not understand their rights but are unsure of what they should be doing differently.
- Almost every agency told them that parents were bored, asked the providers to stop, and wouldn't take the booklet.

The following recommendations were developed based on the responses from the ILP coordinators:

1. All agencies recommended that the State ILP office produce a summarizing document for ILP staff to cover with parents that is more family friendly and takes into account the different reading and comprehension levels of families.
2. State ILP office communicates best practices to agencies on a regular basis with a training video for staff to see an ideal family interaction about parental rights and procedural safeguards.

3. State ILP office provides an online training module for staff that covers the history of parental rights, procedural safeguards, and past abuses to provide context for the importance of this material for families.
4. Culturally-appropriate videos for parents and caregivers that shows families expressing their rights and talking about how procedural safeguards are important to them.

Lisa Balivet commented that this has been a concern at the State office as well, but the rights booklet unfortunately needs to stay as it is. It was reviewed by national consultants and contains the information in language they are required to use. She stated that one of the ideas they had was that this booklet could be just for the providers, and the State office could do more training on that for the providers. The State office could then prepare a more family-friendly document that the ILP staff can go over with and distribute to families. Lisa also noted that she and her staff have also discussed developing a video that was Alaska specific that demonstrates providers meeting with parents and having the parents talk about what is important to them and their rights. Lisa expressed her appreciation for the report and welcomes additional feedback.

## **New Business**

### **Discussion of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

Lisa Balivet stated the SSIP is a new results-driven accountability system, and she noted that there was a stakeholder meeting held last week. The first day of the meeting they addressed the leads of the different components of the strategic plan, and then next day they spent with stakeholders looking at the data, discussing issues, and focused on children's social emotional development.

The purpose of the SSIP is to increase the EI program's capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for eligible children and their families. The leadership team stakeholders include the Governor's Council, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Head Start, Thread, Stone Soup, EHDI, AKAIMH,

UAA Training Academy, Autism Task Force, and LEND.

Lisa Balivet stated that the phases of this plan include:

1. Analysis of the data and infrastructure.
2. Infrastructure development and how to change or support that infrastructure, support statewide evidence-based practice, and then design and evaluation.
3. Implementation and completing the evaluation and having a stakeholder evaluation review.

Lisa Balivet reviewed childhood outcomes for committee members:

1. Of those infants and toddlers who entered or exited early intervention below age expectations, the percent who substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they turned 3 years of age or exited the program.
2. The percent of infants and toddlers who were functioning within age expectation by the time they turned 3 years or age or exited the program.

Lisa stated that their qualitative data suggests that assessment tools and OSEP categories are not sensitive enough to identify delays in social emotional skills, and providers are not as comfortable telling parents if their child has a delay in this area as they are in reporting delays in other areas; therefore, the figures for social emotional skills may be inflated, and Alaska ILP may be missing the opportunity to support children's development in this area.

Lisa Balivet stated that she will e-mail her report and other resources to committee members for further review.

## **Universal Pre-K**

Karli Lopez stated that she attended several town hall meetings over the last few weeks, a couple of them with Senator Begich. She stated that she asked Senator Begich about universal pre-K, and he brought up the interesting point that if they are going to talk about education being a life-long thing, they need to start looking at programs such as EI/ILP and Head

Start falling under the Department of Education and not the Department of Health and Social Services. Senator Begich noted that in order for pre-K to become a reality, these programs no longer should be considered social programs but rather the educational programs that they are.

Karli Lopez further noted that at a recent stakeholder meeting, there was a discussion about the stigma associated with enrolling a child in ILP when it falls under the Office of Children's Services.

Amy Simpson stated that although this is something she has often thought about, they need to be thoughtful about such a shift because the education system is a huge system, and they don't want infant learning to get lost in that system. She also suggested that getting more information about what other states are doing might be useful to look at. Karli Lopez stated that she will get additional information.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

#### **October 29, 2014**

State Board of Education Audio/Video Conference

#### **November 6 - 9, 2014**

Alaska Association of School Boards Conference  
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### **Good of the Order and Adjournment**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.