

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

**Early Intervention Committee  
Minutes**

**LOCATION**

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

**Meeting Date**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2015  
10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

Angie Fraize - chair  
Lisa Balivet  
Mandy Cleveland  
Beth Kaplan  
Erin Kinavey-Wennerstrom  
Amy Simpson  
Cassidy Jones  
Janice Braden  
Dr. Matt Hirschfeld  
Elizabeth Siddon  
Meghan Johnson  
Jimael Johnson  
Carrie Truett  
Kathleen Yarr  
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich

**Staff:**

Christie Reinhardt  
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting



evaluation for the State Plan and have access to TA to assist in identifying gaps in the current plan. She described the gap analysis as a process where you take the theory of action and rearrange it into a sequence of questions and integral patterns in order to identify gaps. Lisa commented that it was a very helpful meeting, and they received very good technical assistance. Elizabeth Siddon stated that it was a beneficial learning experience for her as a good entry into the state systems to learn where parents can be involved in the process. Lisa stated that it was invaluable to have Elizabeth in attendance, because it made them stop and think about how the process works from a parent's perspective and get feedback from Elizabeth.

Lisa Balivet reported that the next step in the process is a meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> with the technical assistance people and stakeholders to continue the work that was started in Chicago.

## **AILPA**

Amy Simpson briefly reported that AILPA has been having discussions about the new home for ILP. They sent a letter to the Council, which could be found in the meeting packet, expressing AILPA's desire to be involved in the decision-making process by which a potential new home for ILP is chosen.

## **EED**

Cassidy Jones reported that the Department is in the middle of their monitoring season and highlighted the activities related to monitoring as follows:

- Desk audit for Chugach, Lower Yukon, Cordova, Yupik.
- TA for Iditarod School District
- Monitoring done at St. Marys, Kodiak, Kenai, and Yakutat

Cassidy Jones reported that the Department held a two-day New Special Education Directors Training in Anchorage, and the feedback from the new directors specifically stated that they appreciated the opportunity to meet with other new directors and gather information on common issues. Cassidy noted that the veteran director training is scheduled for next week.

Cassidy Jones reported that the intensive funding review process will begin and continue through November and December.

Cassidy Jones reported that she and Don Enoch attended the Division of Early Childhood Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The keynote speaker was Dr. Washington, who spoke about early literacy for Afro-American children and the link to poverty and how that related to early childhood special education. Cassidy attended sessions on inclusion and outcome summary.

## **EHDI/WCFH**

Jimael Johnson reported that the WCFH has been working on their strategic planning for the Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Program. They had their first meeting last week with a good stakeholder turnout. The focus of the meeting was to look at the system of care for children with special healthcare needs through transition age and into adulthood. Jimael offered to share the planning at a future EIC meeting.

Beth Kaplan reported that EHDI revised their MOA with ILP, and now they will be able to do a match with the children they identify with a hearing loss to see how they are doing getting them into early intervention services. She commented that the preliminary data shows that the children ILP is having difficulty retaining are the same children EHDI had issues maintaining contact with.

## **AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the ad hoc committee had another fantastic meeting with a large stakeholder input. She stated that the Phase II Autism Plan is complete and will be put into a publishable form. Christie reported that one of the big ideas to come out of the meeting was the creation of an Autism Center, which would be an infrastructure or framework for coordinating screening, diagnosis, treatment, and professional development. The idea is to provide well-supervised, high-quality professional development experiences for people working with children on the spectrum.

**Dr. Matt Hirschfeld stated there is work being done on a center, not only for**

autism, but for all neurodevelopmental issues. The work involves developing a statewide plan that would focus on diagnosis and treatment and assist primary care providers with getting kids diagnosed and into appropriate treatment and assisting them with ongoing treatment. He stated that there will be more information regarding this effort in the next couple months.

Lisa Balivet reported that with regards to the DaSY Conference in Atlanta, which was focused on using data systems for stakeholder engagement, the emphasis of conference was to look at how to improve stakeholder involvement in requesting, reading, and analyzing data with a goal of how to do that. Lisa stated that they developed a format that she would like to present to the EIC for review and feedback at a future meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Early Intervention Objectives & Priorities from Council's Five Year Plan**

Christie Reinhardt reviewed the five objectives for the EIC:

1. Equitable funding and program parity.
2. Appropriate identification and intervention.
3. Expansion of inclusive early childhood learning environments with regards to inclusive childcare.
4. Expansion of inclusive early childhood learning environments with regards to inclusive preschool experiences.
5. Data match between Part B and Part C transition.

Christie Reinhardt reported that they have put together a small group to craft measurable goals and set targets in order to have a plan that can be reported on. The EIC will revisit this topic over the next two meetings.

Patrick Reinhart reported that the Council has moved telepractice out of the more restrictive domain of the EIC and has created a Telepractice Ad Hoc Committee. He stated that although early intervention is very important to the work, this committee will go beyond that looking at coordination between medical and educational needs for telepractice standards and information sharing. He stated that the ad hoc committee has not met yet, but they expect to schedule a meeting in the next month.

Lisa Balivet recommended that the Governor's Council and EI/ILP meet and do a brief crosswalk between their Five-Year Plans to try to identify any duplicate efforts and areas where they can combine their resources towards common goals.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion of New Home for ILP**

Christie Reinhardt reported that there has a lot of discussion about finding a new home for ILP that might be a better fit philosophically, programmatically, and financially than the Office of Children's Services. The program has been there for a number of years, but now a change is being proposed. There had been a proposal made to Public Health about it coming back under the auspices of Public Health, and that was not warmly received. It did not seem to be a good fit with Public Health right now, and they graciously declined. There has been discussion with three other potential agencies: Senior & Disability Services, Behavioral Health, and the Department of Education.

Patrick Reinhart joined the meeting to speak about the process of moving ILP to a new home and the responsibilities of the Governor's Council. He stated that first there has to be a proposal by the various agencies regarding the move to their domain including the components of a move, budget considerations, and potential space and staffing. That information will then be brought back to the ICC and the EIC for review, and then the Governor's Council will make a recommendation to the state. Patrick Reinhart stated that the Governor's Council recommended slowing the process down, as there doesn't appear to be a need for speed, and proceed thoroughly and thoughtfully.

### **Community Forums**

Christie Reinhardt reported that the community forums the Governor's Council is holding to gather input into the State Plan are going very well. There has been a lot of participation from ILP providers and parents in the communities they have already visited: Sitka, Ketchikan, Cordova, and Fairbanks.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE**

### **October 21 – 23, 2015**

Community Forums  
Kotzebue and Bethel

### **October 30, 2015**

Early Childhood Economic Summit  
Dena'ina Center

### **November 5 – 8, 2015**

Alaska Association of School Boards  
Anchorage Hilton  
(Governor's Council presents on suspension and expulsion rates)

### **November 7 – 8, 2015**

All Alaska Pediatric Partnership Annual Symposium  
Girdwood  
(A2P2.org)

### **December 3, 2015**

State Board of Education Meeting  
Anchorage  
(Written testimony on other health impairment definition is due by October 30<sup>th</sup>)

## **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Early Intervention Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ADJOURNMENT**

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Dr. Matt Herschfeld. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.