

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

Early Intervention Committee Minutes

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room, 3601 C Street, Anchorage

Teleconference

Meeting Date

May 11, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Angie Fraize – Chair
Mandy Cleveland
Sandra Dehart-Mayor
Amy Simpson
Cassidy Jones

Community Members/Guests:

Janice Braden
Annette Callies
Maureen Harwood
Melora Gaber
Anji Gallanos
Jimael Johnson
Kim Mix
Elizabeth Siddon
Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt
Patrick Reinhart

Guests:

Christy McMurren, Tracy Spartz-Campbell

Minutes Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL

Announcements and Good News

Amy Simpson stated that PIC has completed two of the five ILP videos, and they are on parental rights and procedural safeguards. The videos have been posted to the ILP website. The remaining three videos will be on confidentiality and conflict resolution. They will be out within a month and will also be posted to the ILP website.

Amy announced that PIC is also doing a handful of videos for ILP staff involving evaluation and assessment, IFSP development, child outcome ratings, transition, and system of payment. These videos should all be done by the end of June.

Amy Simpson encouraged members of the EIC to share these videos on social media.

Christie Reinhardt announced that school is almost out, and her son made it through his freshman year.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No committee members had any conflicts of interest to declare at this time.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

A quorum was not convened, and the agenda could not be approved.

Approval of Minutes – April 2016

A quorum was not convened, and the approval of minutes was tabled.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report on at this time.

Reports

Chair's Report

Angie Fraize stated that other than the full Council meeting going well last week, she has no additional items to report.

Partner Reports

EI/ILP

No one was present from EI/ILP to give a report at this meeting.

AILPA

Christie Reinhardt stated that AILPA has not had a meeting, and there was no one available at this meeting to report for AILPA.

EED

Cassidy Jones reported the following activities of the Department of Education and Early Development:

- Participate in various GCDSE meetings.
- Supporting the Governor's office regarding a constituent concern regarding deaf education.
- State Improvement Grant (SIG) teleconferences.
- Small States Consortium meeting TAESE/Task-12 through NASDSE.
- VI-B/619 federal grant application package submitted.
- EED staff participated in the State Vocational Rehabilitation meeting.
- Distributed a self-evaluation to all state correctional facilities.
- Changes were made to the GMS to meet OSEP fiscal audit findings.
- Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) was submitted to OSEP.
- NTACT meetings – technical assistance support specific to the SSIP.
- Dyslexia issues raised and not gaining any traction likely due to state finances.

- FY16 monitoring is completed. The FY17 schedule is posted on the state special education homepage:

- AK Gateway
- Craig
- NW Arctic
- Nome
- Tanana
- Nenana
- Mt. Edgecumbe
- Anchorage
- Yukon Flats
- Hoonah
- Valdez
- Hydaburg
- Aleutian Region
- Klawock
- Mat-Su
- Fairbanks

Technical assistance districts added at this time include:

- Chatham
- Iditarod
- Lower Yukon

EED Projects include:

- Updating handbook.
- GAINS Grant application was submitted 3/16/16.
- State assessments cancelled for this year.
- Working with GCDSE on training for Principal's Conference.
- ESSA diploma for 1% test – discussion ongoing.
- HB102/SB/103 – legislation looks like it died.
- Consideration or modifying next year's monitoring process.
- eLearning issues, duplicate enrollees, costs, expansion, options.
- Submitted federal comments on disproportionality online.
- Planning for next year's ASSEC.
- Notified by the Office of Civil Rights that EED website does not meet accessibility requirements. Working with DOL and IT to resolve.
- Secondary transition eLearning to include specific resources currently available.
- LEA determinations were dispersed.

Christie Reinhardt asked Cassidy Jones to ensure that when they are

monitoring, they check to see that Mt. Edgecumbe has a restraint and seclusion policy.

Christie Reinhardt also noted that another change that will be happening within EED is that FASD will be added to the other health impairment category for eligibility.

EHDI

No one was present to give a report for EHDI.

Women's, Children's and Family Health (WCFH)

Jimael Johnson reported that WCFH continues to work on developing the plan for Help Me Grow, which would be a centralized resource access point for children and families who are at risk for developmental delays and more. They had five workgroups that have been convened to build a set of recommendations that the leadership team will consider toward the end of the summer to determine what the state Help Me Grow program will look like, where it would be housed, and any funding issues. By the end of the year, they hope to have a functional Help Me Grow program that may start small and hopefully be expanded to the whole state next year.

Jimael Johnson reported that WCFH also just submitted a federal grant to help them focus on earlier identification and connection to services for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental delays. She noted, however, that there will be changes to screening and diagnosis for children with autism regardless of receiving the above mentioned funding. The idea is to do multidisciplinary teams and getting some training to do a higher level of screening and diagnosis in rural communities. She also noted that Dr. Brennan will be retiring this year.

Christie Reinhardt stated that if WCFH receives the federal grant, it will be of great importance for this committee because part of the focus is on early identification, referral, and treatment and looking at children under 37 months old.

Old Business

Update on ILP/SDS Transition

Christie Reinhardt stated that the transition is still moving forward. There have been a number of meetings to look at transparency and to talk about data transfer, and the Council has participated in those meetings. The handoff of ILP from OCS to SDS will take place on July 1st.

Maureen Harwood stated that SDS has been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work regarding the transition. SDS met with AILPA and a group of folks to go over some of their transition concerns. They have also been in contact with OSEP to formally let them know about the transition. They are ensuring that SDS has access to reports and introducing managers to the various committees to understand all of the various aspects of the program. They are still awaiting budget approval. Overall they are hoping that families won't notice the transition, and all will go smoothly.

EIC Five-Year Plan Work Plan

Christie Reinhardt stated that the full Council met last Thursday, and the emphasis was on the Five-Year State Plan. She highlighted that the EIC made recommendations to the Council, and because there were too many goals and objectives in the Five-Year State Plan, the full Council combined the EIC goal 4 with another goal. All of the work plan ideas are still incorporated within the plan. Because the Council is the Interagency Coordinating Council, they continue to have four objectives instead of three to allow for a goal related to the duties of the ICC.

Christie Reinhardt reviewed the goals and objectives with EIC members, and directed them to the draft of the work plan. She stated that although there will be further wordsmithing, this will be the draft submitted for public comment. She asked committee members to provide any input they can on the wordsmithing.

New Business

Neurorelational Framework

Christy McMurren from PIC presented to the EIC on the Neurorelational Framework (NRF). She directed committee members to the tree graphic,

and stated that the NRF is a framework that translates what matters in early brain development into how clinical assessments are done as well as parental intervention.

Christy stated that in the last year-and-a-half, they have been doing a weekly class with representatives from Homer and Sitka to learn the basics of the NRF followed by case presentations using the framework to think about the children they see to assess them and come up with appropriate interventions to meet their needs.

Christy stated that at PIC, they have been getting increasingly complex cases, and they are getting better at recognizing social and emotional delays. PIC has been able to use the NRF in order to guide their interventions for these children.

Christy McMurren stated that the NRF is broken down into three steps:

- Look at how children are adapting to stress and sleep cycles.
- Look at how robust the child's relationship is with their caregivers.
- Look at the four brain systems:
 - Regulation of body process
 - Sensory – all sensations
 - Relevance – emotion and memory
 - Executive – movement and adaptability.

NRF gives a context to where they should be starting with the child, to start with the foundation and work up.

Christy stated that NRF has given the disciplinary team a framework with common language with which to learn about families. It also affords the team an opportunity to learn about and reflect on their own stress responses to different situations and different families. It also allows the team to gear their interventions to meet the needs of the parents as well. It is an individualized, family-based, relationship-based process. Amy Simpson stated that this process has allowed PIC to realize greater success with having positive interactions and responses from families that have entered infant learning through the child protection process.

Christy McMurren stated that it has also allowed the infant learning

programs to collaborate with multiple partners involved in the families' lives, and gives them a common language to work within. She also stated that the color associations have been very useful for families in talking about and identifying their feelings.

Christy stated that she can send additional materials about the NRF to committee members if they are interested. She stated that they would like to see having another cohort with infant learning by fall or even next year, and they would like to find a way to fund people from other systems to participate.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

No upcoming meetings or conferences were reported.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.