

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
September 14, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Mary Deitz
Maggie Ferry
Heidi Haas
Dorothy Erickson
Linda Borghols
Patrick Pillai
Tracey Thomas
Amy Simpson

Community Members/Guests:

Carolyn Coe
Debbie Kitelinger
Margaret Kossler

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:
Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair, Introductions and Announcements

Amy Simpson welcomed new members and everyone introduced themselves.

Dorothy Erickson announced that the Special Education Directors Conference is happening at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage this week.

Approval of the Agenda

Dorothy Erickson **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda. The motion to approve the agenda **PASSED**.

Approval of Past Minutes

Patrick Pillai **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion to approve the minutes **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that she received an e-mail from Erin Schneider, who announced that she has accepted a job in Dillingham and she will no longer be on this committee.

Teresa stated that they created an early childhood listserv, ECSPED, which has 57 people enrolled. She asked committee members for suggestions on improving that enrollment. Carolyn Coe suggested including people coordinating early childhood in the schools and special ed preschools. Tracey Thomas stated that she will send Teresa the special ed director list. Amy Simpson stated that she will send Teresa the contacts that she has for the early childhood special ed programs in the Anchorage area.

Review Indicators 2 and 6

Amy Simpson stated that indicator 2 is the percentage of children with

IFSPs receiving services in the home or community setting. The target for that indicator is 95 percent and they are at 95.83 percent.

Reasons the committee members shared for people not receiving ILP services in their home include:

- Homelessness
- Domestic violence
- Parents don't wish to have services in their home
- Families come in to hub communities to receive services and natural environments are not available.

Linda Borghols stated that even though they have exceeded the target, the key is to continue to work to maintain that level.

Amy Simpson stated that indicator 6 is the Part B side of this and it is in two parts. The first part is children 3 through 5 with IEPs who attend a regular early childhood program and receive the majority of their special education services in the regular program. The other part is for children who attend a separate special education class, separate school, or residential facility.

Teresa Holt commented that indicator 6 is not being reported on for this period. Tracey Thomas stated that she will find out why and report back.

Teresa Holt stated that at last week's State Board of Education meeting last week, they were reporting on the pre-K programs. Geri Benshoof asked the board if these pre-K programs served children with disabilities. Teresa stated that Geri's comment was that the EIC should make a formal request to the Department to make sure that those pre-K pilots include children with disabilities.

Priorities

1. Support/advocate for ILP eligibility change from 50% delay to 25%

Teresa Holt explained that the Council will not be taking any action on this priority for this legislative session. She stated that she believes there will be a "soft" eligibility change and then data collected to see if they need to do an ask. She stated that the focus right now is on getting enough staff in the local ILPs to ensure that they would be able to handle that kind of a

change.

Linda Borghols stated that in addition to billing Medicaid for ILP services, they will also be looking at billing private insurers. She stated that the project is multifaceted and is a huge undertaking to get the system to work.

2. Address ILP concerns about the early intervention services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Teresa Holt stated that they will need to address this priority at their face-to-face meeting and come up with some action plans.

Teresa stated that she spoke with Erin Kinavey about gathering information about the children with vision and hearing impairments through the ILP parent satisfaction survey and see if those parents are satisfied with the services they have been receiving from ILP.

Teresa stated that they have also been hearing public testimony regarding how quickly children are getting services and the concern around parents being given all the options available to them. She noted that they can brainstorm ideas about how to ensure that ILP providers know all the options available for this population.

Amy Simpson also suggested it might be helpful to have information about ILP at a deaf center.

3. Support the Stone Soup Group parent conference.

Teresa Holt stated that the conference will be April 25th through the 27th at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage. They are planning to have about 200 participants. The conference is free for anybody to attend.

Teresa briefly reviewed the tentative agenda for the conference and asked that if committee members have resources or ideas about people who would be good keynote speakers, to please forward that information to her.

4. Early childhood workforce development.

Teresa Holt stated that the Governor's Performance Scholarship was voted on by the State Board of Education last week. If people would like specific

details, Teresa can provide them with that information.

Teresa asked the committee for suggestions for recruiting university bound kids and pulling them into early childhood.

Carolyn Coe stated that some districts have paid the tuition for some students with a qualification that the students remain in the school district for two to three years after they graduate. She noted that there is another program that the university has in Chevak where a group of people fly out there to do hands-on training, as well as a distance component, of university courses leading to a teaching certificate so people are trained right in the community where they live and work.

Amy Simpson suggested they identify all of the programs that are available within the state university system and then target career planning events at schools to recruit kids.

Carolyn Coe stated that recruitment efforts in the high schools have not been very effective because often freshman don't know what they want to do. She stated that many people entering this field are entering to either upgrade their skills or as a second career choice and appealing to that population might be more effective. She emphasized that it is important to target the correct population in their recruitment efforts.

Report from OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols stated that they are having their face-to-face coordinators meeting October 6 – 8, and she reviewed the tentative agenda with the committee.

Linda stated that they have a lot of coordinators coming on board, which requires a lot of training and support from their end.

Report from AILPA

Lizette Stiehr was not available for the meeting and no report was given.

Report from DEED

Teresa Holt stated that she spoke with Art Arnold and hopefully they will be

having a third person in their office soon. The fourth position has been announced and they are taking applications.

Report from SESA

Patrick Pillai stated that they no longer have the CEEHI and VISIT grants. They have the ILP autism grant and they are working to provide services through that grant.

Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings

Zero to Three National Training Institute in Phoenix, December 9-11.

Teresa Holt stated that the Executive Committee has decided not to approve travel for any non-essential trips.

Next Meeting

The face-to-face meeting is scheduled for October 26 – 28 in Nome. The next teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.