

**IDEA/ICC
JUNE 10, 2010
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill Staudinger
Roxane Romanick
Scott Hoeper
Dana Lone Bear
Stephen Olson
Brenda Patzner
Rita Weisz
Allison Dollar
Deb Balsdon
Colette Perkins

Amanda Lausch
Steve Snow
Cindy Lund
John Bole
Holly Major
Jennifer Berry
Kathy Barchenger
Tammy Gallup-Millner
Anthony Arnold

Cathy Haarstad, Pathfinder Parent Center, participated via conference call.

TOPIC: FAMILY STORY

ACTION:

- Family story via video with a family from Dickinson.
- Missi Baranko conducted the interview.
- The family moved to Dickinson from a foreign country because of the oil field.
- They are a bilingual family.
- They have one son that is 3 and was in Infant Development for a short time and transitioned into school and is receiving Part B services.
- Their other son is 13 months and was evaluated by the KIDS program and met the criteria and will be receiving Infant Development services.
- The oil impact is having an impact on the number of kids in the program.
- The Kids Program referral rate is huge.
- Young families moving in making good money in oil fields but life style is poverty definition.
- They don't qualify for services because their income is too high.
- March and April they had as many referrals as half of their current caseload. The KIDS program is at about 116 kids.
- Early Head Start has also started in the region.
- Referrals come from physicians, from rehab therapy clinics, and the Right track screening program.

TOPIC SEPT 2009 MINTUES REVIEW

ACTION:

- A motion made by Scot Hoepfer and seconded by Stephen Olson to approve the minutes as distributed.

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

ACTION:

- The agenda was approved.

TOPIC: UPDATE ON STATEWIDE DATA ALIGNMENT PROJECT – STEVE SNOW

ACTION:

- There is a need to link data systems – not just k-12 but also between departments, with higher education, and the workforce.
- There is also a need to build a longitudinal data system which would help build a picture of student performance, etc.
- Currently DPI, is in an extensive planning phase through November of this year. They are discussing with the local school districts what is needed to built, questions, and elements we need to have, other parties affected.
- Presently the schools are loading the information and Steve pulls in their data for comparison purposes.
- Districts want a portal that is easier to read and easily read reports from the state.
- Applied for stimulus grant but this was not awarded.
- Have a meeting next wk to talk to ITD to scale down budget to find out what they can and can't do.
- Bringing in finance, employee comp, and transportation data looking at different assessment data from vendors and linking on a statewide for schools.
- Some information that is voluntary may become mandatory.
- Pull from public and private schools – public schools have power school – private submit data, but they don't have to submit.
- Develop a system that is easy and effective that schools want to submit information.
- Core set of data – what are the elements – k-12 now p-20, student identifier, college scores, link student to teacher to course, addressing what a teacher record is, course codes, etc.
- There has been some discussion of 0-3 age range, but there assessment information is very different. It was pointed out that there is outcome data that could be used.

TOPIC: MEMBERS UPDATE AND ISSUE

ACTION:

- Scot Hoepfer & Rita Weisz – new data system FRAME – combines all of the old systems for child welfare. The state had a Program Improvement Plan review for child welfare on 4/2008. The state is responsible to address concerns from the review on how services are delivered to provide quality. The review emphasized that all the needs

of the family should be examined and not just those of the identified child. This included looking at needs of fathers – need to attempt to actively involve the father and contact them. They also reported that the face to face contact with foster children can be a challenge and has to be month to month no matter where the placement is. Any child under 3 where there are services required has to be referred to DD for a developmental screening.

- Stephen Olson - Autism day camp – 2nd week of August. Open in new building in Fargo and offering lots of new things in the area.
- Kathy Barchenger – The children’s hospice waiver has been submitted to CMS and they are waiting to hear back. The waiver is to start by July 1, 2010.
- Tammy Gallup-Millner – Tammy noted that the state legislature had dedicated some additional funding to CSHS and they were exploring ways to address follow-up on hearing screenings results through the state’s link for immunization tracking systems to further involve the children’s physicians. Will need to continue to explore ways to do this as they have had to ask for an attorney general’s opinion on this linkage. Tammy also reported that she’s had contact with Senator Judy Lee who is interested in making changes to the metabolic food program and she is working with her on the bill Sen. Lee has drafted.
- Holly Major and Cathy Haarstad – They reported that the Pathfinder Conference was held in May and they received lots of positive comments.
- Jennifer Berry – Jennifer reported on the professional development project and made reference to the Growing Futures website. This website will house a training registry by end of this year which will include a function to register all licensed provider requirements for training, registration for training, and a record of training for each provider. This is pending some rule provisions. Looking at professional development and lots of needs in our workforce to prepare them for the diverse needs of young child.
- Deb Balsdon – The DD Division is looking at transitioning from their current database (ASSIST/Lotus Notes) to a web-based product through a company called Therap. Eventually the hope is that all providers and families will be able to access the records. In addition, the Division is a part of a study that is working with Burns and Associates which is conducting data analysis on DD rate setting mechanisms particularly enhancements for medical and behavioral needs. The final report should be received this summer and go back to the interim long-term care legislative committee. Deb reported that on July 1 – all Infant Development programs will move from daily rate to a fee for service funding methodology.
- Roxane – Buddy Walk magnets were distributed. The walk will be held on September 18th. The Arc of Bismarck is sponsoring a disability awareness rally on July 26 at the State Capitol.

TOPIC:
ACTION:

UPDATE ON DHS AUTISM WAIVER

- The funding for an autism waiver was contained in the DHS budget during the last legislative session. The approved budget contained funding for a half of the biennium but did not include funding for a position to manage the waiver
- The application has been completed and submitted to CMS for approval. Questions were received from CMS and the DHS responded to these questions on June 8th. This included a notification of tribal entities and the impact on them.
- Presently, the waiver is out for public comment until 4:00 pm today.
- A Request For Proposal for the evaluation and diagnostic team is drafted and being reviewed by Legal Services
- The waiver is designed to serve 30 children birth to 4 during one waiver year.
- In order to qualify, children must meet the ICF/MR level of care and be eligible for DD program diagnosis. The children must have a diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Delay.
- The Evaluation and Diagnostic Team will do evaluations of all children referred to the waiver. This team will confirm a current diagnosis or give a diagnosis. The team will be multidisciplinary, including professions such as speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physicians, psychologists, etc. There will be a clause in the contract that a team member can't be providing a service thus avoiding a conflict of interest
- Services contained in the waiver include: intervention coordination (developmental assessment, plan development, home visits, specific discipline consultation). In-home support to come into home to work with family. Environmental modifications/equipment supply funding for the families.
- There must be contact with intervention coordinator monthly. There will be quarterly plan reviews by a member of the Evaluation and Diagnostic Team and if no progress is made, team will need to look at modifications to the current plan.
- 0-3 intervention coordination will look a lot like Infant Development. For 3 and 4 yr olds, intervention coordination wouldn't address anything that is the responsibility of special education.
- Funding for training was in the OAR. Focusing on a core team to do the training and have ongoing training. Using autism program and coordinate with MSU with their training.
- The services of DDPM, the evaluation and diagnostic team, and the fiscal agent supports are not a part of the waiver.
- DHS will be changing the DDPM eligibility Administrative Code to read that if a child who is age 3 and through age 4 have a diagnosis of ASD

which is confirmed by the evaluation and diagnostic team and will or are receiving services will be eligible.

- The DSMIV criteria are supposedly changing and will occur in 2013. This waiver is for 3 years and so they will continue to use existing criteria in the DSM 4.
- Transition work relating to collaborating on the children who receives services through the Autism Waiver will occur with DPI. This waiver is not taking over special education responsibilities but will require collaboration.
- A question was asked about how the evaluation and diagnostic team will collaborate with current autism clinics that are operating. Deb noted that children accessing the waiver will still need to have any prior diagnosis confirmed by the evaluation and diagnostic team as noted in the RFP and contracted through DHS. The evaluation and diagnostic team will be available to serve those children under 5.
- A question was asked about whether or not a waiting list is anticipated. It is unknown at this time.
- Presently, DHS is working on the development of the evaluation and diagnostic team, training for them, and training for infant development programs and DDPM's.
- We introduced Shannon Grave, on faculty with UND and with Village Family Services. Shannon joined us via a Skype connection.
- Shannon presently is an instructor with the UND Autism Certification Program. This program offers an online program. To receive graduate level in ASD, a student needs to take 12 credits (4 required courses and 2 electives) to get a certificate. The required courses are Introduction to ASD, ASD methods, medical issues and trends, supports across the life span, structured teach, ASD assessment, intensive early intervention, methods for Asperger's. Anyone with a bachelor's degree can enroll in the courses.
- Presently the Council on Exceptional Children does not have specific standards for accreditation in this area, but Shannon noted that UND has plans in place to align with the standards when they become available.
- Program is multidisciplinary as far as those that enroll in it.
- North Dakota is a little ahead of other states in offering this certification.
- Program is very hands on and practicum focused. Assignments are applied to individuals that the student is working with.
- There are a number of people who work at Anne Carlsen Center that went through the UND program.
- A student can complete the course in one year.
- In the methods class maybe 1/3 of the 35 students were from North Dakota.
- More school districts could offer the same tuition assistance/scholarships.

- Shannon's recommendation for implementation was that personnel need to have a strong grasp of ASD and how to serve kids more effectively with ASD. Also need to address needs of the family. It would be good to see one ASD specialist available in all school districts and early intervention programs.
- Start the program any semester. Offer intro course in all 3 semesters.
- Web link for program: <http://distance.und.edu/degree/?id=asdCERT2> or <http://www.und.edu/org/graain/>.
- There was a question about whether there any scholarships and tuition assistance. Shannon noted that some school districts have paid tuition. UND is not doing any scholarships unless part of their resident teacher program.
- There was a question whether or not the individuals on the state autism task force need to have this certification. There is no requirement for them to have this certification to be on the task force.

TOPIC: DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT FOR AUTISM PROFESSIONALS
ACTION:

- This is a state grant through the Federal Office of Special Education Program. State Special Education is looking at a new grant application for next 5 years.
- Current grant funded resident teachers at UND, MSU, and University of Mary. Give scholarships to students who are getting their master's degree and have teaching degree already.
- Funding scholarships for Speech and Language Pathologists at UND and MSU. At the end of 5 years, the program will produce 20 new speech pathologists.
- New application will add in professional development for autism specialists, but not lose any of the others.
- Grant is for 2.5 million over 5 years. Asking for a little more for task force and working with universities.
- A question was asked about coordinating with the Governor's Autism Task Force. It was noted that because of Bob Rutten's absence from work DPI hasn't had representation on that task force but want to further the collaboration with them.
- JoAnne Hoesel has invited people from MSU to attend meetings and give input. Deb told Allison to contact JoAnne Hoesel.
- Deb reported that Anne Carlsen Center is now licensed to provide infant development services statewide.
- The grant will be submitted by DPI on July 9.

TOPIC: UPDATE OF CHNAGING TERMINOLOGY
ACTION:

- A letter of recommendation was sent to OSEP on behalf of IDEA Advisory Panel on May 12 to replace mental retardation with intellectual disability but they have not heard anything back.
- A contact with Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center was made in regards to how other states changed the term and how to work with OSEP to submit data and documents with this new term.
- It was suggested yesterday at the Advisory Panel meeting to talk with the Legislative Council about changing the state statute language and how to go about doing this.
- It was recommended that an endorsement of the NDICC also would make this action more meaningful.
- A motion was made by Brenda Patzner and seconded by Stephen Olson to change the terminology of mental retardation to intellectual disability.

TOPIC: DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH/SOCIAL- EMOTIONAL INITIATIVES

ACTION:

- Follow up recommendation was to include someone on committees with expertise, explore needs of children in our state, and explore other state's best practices.
- Children's mental health initiative in Cass & Clay County - supported by Dakota medical center.
- Roxane reviewed information from a screening program at Innovis where patients there for a well-child check are provided with a palm device that has a mental health screening tool loaded on it. At the end of April 1276 screenings were completed and about 10% of the kids filing out the screens had a positive reading and were followed up with a brief consult with a children's mental health counselor.
- ND Early Childhood Alliance discussing improving screening and identification, adding behavioral consultants, and developing resource packets.
- Roxane will send this power point to the members.
- What part does the NDICC and IDEA Advisory Panel play in promoting supports in the arena of early childhood mental health? No additional discussion was held.

TOPIC: UPDATE ON TRANSITION AT 3 WORK

ACTION:

- Roxane will send the power point presentation to the members.

Meeting is adjourned and the next joint meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16th.

