

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL & IDEA
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK, ND
SEPT 16, 2010**

PRESENT

Stephen Olson
Laura Larson
Cathy Haarstad
Allison Dybing-Driesen
Tara Bitz
Holly Major
Kathy Barchenger
Wendy LaMontagne
Roxane Romanick
Deb Balsdon
Bob Rutten
Senator Dick Dever
Nancy Skorheim

Jennifer Barry
Ed Boger
Katherine Terras
Anthony Arnold
Tammy Gallup-Millner
Kim Hruby
Cindy Lund
Amanda Lausch
Barb Swegarden
Shannon Grave
Tyler Hanson
Jill Staudinger
Alison Dollar

Jill Staudinger welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Introductions were made.

TOPIC: FAMILY STORY – Presented by Kim Wood
ACTION:

Kim Wood is a parent that lives in the Dickinson area and who's daughter receives services through the ND School for the Deaf Parent – Infant Outreach Program; as well as the ND Early Intervention system. Kim told the two committees that on April 2, 2007, her daughter, Madison, was born and came into the world with a hearing impairment. Upon leaving the hospital, the nurse said Madison had failed her initial hearing screening, that maybe it was due to fluid in her ears, and not to worry. Kim said that they were told to bring her back in two weeks to do another screening. They waited and had PKU done and hearing screening completed. Kim recalled that they had to try the probe in Madison's ears about 15 times each and the readings continued to come back as "refer". Madison was sent to an audiologist where they continued to get "refer" indicators. Kim noted that Madison then had an auditory brain response (ABR) test. This was difficult because she could hear them talking among themselves about the results, which indicated that Madison had a moderate hearing loss in her left ear and a mild loss in her right. The recommendation was to fit a hearing aid for her left ear and to wait on her right. Madison got her first aid at 6 weeks of age. At the time she was diagnosed with the loss, the family lived in the state of Idaho. They were told that Madison was not delayed enough to qualify for services. When they moved to Dickinson, Kim stated that she called the ND School for the Deaf and also got Madison into see an audiologist in Dickinson. They did have a third ABR and received more definitive information about Madison's right year. She was provided with a hearing aid for that ear around 1 year of age.

Kim reported that they were receiving services from both the NDSO Outreach Program and also Region VIII Early Intervention program. Around the time that Madison turned 2, they hit some "rocky road" with Early Intervention, who felt that Madison should be receiving direct speech therapy services. At this point, Madison did not have fifty spoken words at that time; however they spoke with a clinical speech therapist who felt that Madison seemed to be on track and to re-evaluate her use of language when she was closer to three. Due to other issues with Early Intervention, the family asked for a change in interventionists and DDPM. They rewrote the IFSP and felt that the new IFSP contained more of what Madison needed. Madison made great progress with the new interventionist and the continued support of NDSO Outreach.

Kim noted that Madison received new hearing aids with updated technology last December and gained 8 to 10 months worth of speech development. In April, Madison transitioned out of early intervention and infant/parent program and into early childhood services.

Tami Iszler accompanied Kim to the meeting today. She is the Wood's Parent-Infant Outreach coordinator. Tami noted that the Wood family deserves a lot of praise for all of the support they have provided to Madison.

TOPIC: JUNE 2010 MINUTES REVIEW

ACTION:

- A motion was made by Tyler Hanson and seconded by Anthony Arnold to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

ACTION:

These topics were addressed in addition to the distributed agenda:

- Cathy Haarstad, executive director of Pathfinder Parent Center, asked to distribute a new product that their center has created. The postcards address the use of the "R" word and feature pictures of children with developmental disabilities. The cards describe how hurtful the "R" word – assistance with project – it is the "R" word – postcards with pictures of children with developmental disabilities – and how hurtful the R word can be for them and their families. The postcards can be used for such things as Child Find, use by classroom teachers, etc. Cathy distributed copies for members to look at. Cathy indicated that she can be contacted if someone wants to use the postcards. (1-701-837-7500)
- Discussion about the change in the term of mental retardation to intellectual disability. Bob and Deb both reported that they believe that there will be upcoming state legislation to address this issue. Deb noted that there have been conversations with stakeholders on addressing the needed changes. She went on to note that changing the terminology will not change how services are delivered at this point.
- Bob Rutten offered his apology for one particular agenda item that the IDEA State Advisory Panel addressed yesterday. He noted that Kaitlyn Brosseau from Senator Conrad's office approached the panel regarding reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act). She left her email address and telephone number for us to submit additional comments. IDEA including contact information in minutes and suggest if ICC wants to visit with her, Bob felt the door was open.

TOPIC: MEMBERS UPDATES AND ISSUES

ACTION:

- Oct 9 Family Voices parent leadership retreat in Bismarck. Family Voices website is where you can RSVP.
- Roxane distributed brochure on the Buddy Walk for Saturday. Shale Erickson, who received 3 national silvers in Special Olympics powerlifting and his coach will lead the walk.
- Deb reported that the Early Intervention Crossroads Conference will be on Sept. 28, 29, and 30 at the Seven Seas in Mandan. The conference will include updates on Therap, which is the new online program management system that starts November 1st
- Pathfinders Parent Involvement Conference will be at the Seven Seas on April 14-16, 2011. The conference will be rotating to different cities in the future.
- Tammy Gallup-Millner reported that ND Department of Health did a comprehensive needs assessment in addition to their Title V needs assessment for purposes of the new federal home visiting program. These needs assessments are available on the department's website.
- Jennifer Barry reported that the proposed added revisions to administrative rules relating to child care have been tabled to an administrative committees meeting in December.
- Allison Dybing-Driessen reported that the regional Head Start conference will be Oct. 13-15.
- On Oct 6, 7, & 8, DPI is hosting a conf at Civic Center, planned with special education, Title I offices and 21st century learning programs.

- Jill Staudinger reported that the number of people moving into Dickinson is maintaining. 90 kids served last year and at 120 now. Partnering with Early Head Start home visitors, going in for coordinated home visits.

TOPIC: ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING CHANGES WITH LEAD AGENCIES
ACTION:

Developmental Disabilities:

- Tina Bay is now the DD Director and that leaves the Assistant Director position open.
- Robbin Hendrickson retired and have hired for his positions. Deb is getting all questions on ISLA, group home budges, AETS.
- Karen Larson is leaving but we have hired for her position and she is training her replacement.
- Linda Heinrich working 16 hours per week, addressing self-directed supports, fiscal agent, and additional Early Intervention activities.

DPI- Special Education

- Bob Rutten had decided to step down out of the director position, take on different responsibilities and DPI will open the director position for hire.

TOPIC: ND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF STATUS REPORT, NANCY SKORHEIM
ACTION:

- ND is one of 3 states that does not have state legislation for early hearing loss detection.
- www.nd.gov/ndsd - final product of the transition team – future services plan and executive summary is at this website.
- HB 1013 sec 19 - this bill passed in the last legislative session called for a study of the services and supports of NDS. A report needed to be prepared and presented to the legislative council.
- The study called for six tasks. These tasks included:
 - Task #1 a review of the needs of all deaf and hearing/impaired persons throughout the state and develop a plan to provide comprehensive outreach services to all ND citizens who are deaf or hearing/impaired.
 - Task #2 – explore the development of partnership with other states relating to the provision of residential and educational services to individuals who are deaf or hearing/impaired. Attended statewide and national meetings to bring information back to North Dakota.
 - Task #3 – review current research and national trends in the provision of services to students who are deaf or hearing/impaired.
 - Task #4 – meet regularly with a transition team appointed by the superintendent of public instruction consisting of representation from the legislative assembly, parents of school for the deaf student
 - Task #5 – explore the feasibility of implementing revenue-generating activities at the school for the deaf.
 - Task #6 – develop a long range site and facility plan for the school for the deaf campus.
- Team members; Fred Bott, Connie Hovendick, James Johnson, Carol Lybeck, Nancy McKenzie, David Oehlke, Holly Pederson , Diane Rice, Larry Robinson, Michelle Rolewitz, Terry Solheim, Cynthia Tastad, Cindy Wetzel
- The process: contract with Consensus Council as a neutral third party to facility the process and transition team; the transition team participated in 8 meetings held in Bismarck and Devils Lake.
- Purpose: responsible for the development, coordination, and maintenance of a comprehensive continuum of non-duplicative services for all citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing(infants through senior citizens)
- Responsibilities:
 - identify develop and manage and maintain a continuum of services
 - Provide long/short term educational services

- Maintain and improve services to school age children
- Maintain/broaden the scope of existing programming and services
- Establish and maintain quality standards
- Provide a comprehensive information and referral service for individuals families and general public
- Develop, provide and maintain public education/information awareness program
- Provide and coordinate data and research services
- Serve as the focal, coordinating and support point for the exploration and utilization of technology
- Coordinate vocational services employment placement and employment support services
- Coordinate and provide social and deaf cultural programs and services
- Serve as the coordination partner for expansion and monitoring of interpreter services

NEXT STEP

- NDSD/center of excellence advisory council will be reorganized and reestablished
- Develop a clear mission
- Develop partnerships
- Bob Rutten – reassuring to have Nancy’s assistance/leadership on this project has been wonderful and appreciate her commitment.
- School age services for ND youth – concerns shifted out of school age to adult services and the lack of those services around our state.
- OSEP wants to see North Dakota’s summary on this project.
- This goes to the North Dakota Legislature in January and Bob Rutten hopes this makes sense and asked Sen. Dever to talk to other Senators about the importance of this project.
- Specific Legislative recommendations: legislation that deals with early detection, have interpreter standards but don’t have a licensure body for those standards.
- Continuum of services in a timely fashion and reauthorization of idea and talked about funding and staffing.
- Enrollment at the School for the Deaf has declined into the mid to low 20’s – preschool through 12th grade. Families have moved to North Dakota to receive services at the School for the Deaf.

TOPIC: FROM TPOT TO TPITOS: SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF EARLY LEARNING – BRENDA OAS

ACTION:

- Brenda stated that the legislation relating to early childhood issues established a collaborative council. One issue that may be important for us to work on collaboratively is the issue relating to social emotional and behavioral issues of young children. Brenda reported that DPI was instrumental in bringing CESEFL in for training with many providers that work with children, ages 3 to 5. Brenda presented the pyramid approach on addressing issues with children. Last year, CESEFL was in ND providing basic training for providers. They provided 4 total days of training. In 2010, DPI is looking at bringing them back to build skills of building/center coaches. The focus will be on supporting caregivers rather than the children directly. She would like to look at a partnership between DPI and DHS, to also reach the birth to three providers.

TOPIC: UPDATE ON DHS AUTISM WAIVER

ACTION:

- Deb reported that the Division has been going back and forth with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare as they develop the Autism Waiver. The waiver will be for three years.
- Within waiver there will be 4 services: intervention coordination, environmental modification, equipment and supplies and in-home supports and they will be self directed. Intervention

coordination services are essentially an extension of infant development supports and funded through this waiver. Intervention coordination billing will be similar to Infant Development billing including home visits, IFSP/PCSP development and update, consultation, and assessment).

- Administrative claiming will be for DD program management, fiscal agent services, and the evaluation & diagnostic team services.
- The Evaluation and Diagnosis Team (EDT) will assess each child prior to eligibility. An eligible child must have a diagnosis on the autism spectrum. The EDT doesn't develop plan. That is the responsibility of DD Program Management and Intervention Coordinator service provider. The EDT will review the data from each case quarterly to determine if progress is being made and programming is appropriate.
- Deb reported that the Division is purchasing Autism Pro which is software to support programming for children who have a diagnosis on the spectrum.
- Deb also noted that they are looking at using ARRA funds to contract with someone in state to be 1-800 help line for the local teams.
- Talking with Julianne Woods and Amy Weatherby for modules birth to 3,
- Children may be new referrals or children already who are already being served through the current traditional or self-directed DD waivers. Children can transfer to new waiver.
- Deb noted that she has been working with DDPMs and going out to the regions to meet with groups interested in this. Other criteria for consideration is that the children must be under the age of 5; eligible for DDPM, apply for Medicaid, meet the ICF/MR level of care screening, and have a need for a monthly waiver service. Only 30 slots available statewide and first come first serve. This is a 3 yr waiver. No reserved slots and DD Program Manager will submit a request for a slot for a child.
- Projected start date is October 1.
- CMS is reviewing ND's current changes.
- Referral process to get started – contact regional human service center and apply for DDPM eligibility.
- Names will be added to a waiting list when slots are full.
- Currently developing guidelines regarding EDT. There is no cost for the family to go through the EDT. The EDT will be multidisciplinary in nature yet customized to the needs of the child.

TOPIC: UPDATE ON TRANSITION AT 3 WORK

ACTION:

- Roxane will send out an updated power point presentation.
- Recommendations from committee are spelled out and a lot around child care and expansion to serve 4 yr old preschool and infrastructure.

TOPIC: REPORT ON STATEWIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

ACTION:

- Presenter was not able to be here.

Chairs of IDEA/ICC and lead agencies will discuss dates for next year.