

**ND INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL  
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK  
JUNE 9, 2011**

**PRESENT**

Joe Elsberry  
Tammy Gallup-Millner  
Cassie Keller  
Holly Major  
Amanda Lausch  
Stephen Olson  
Holly English  
Shannon Grave  
Tina Bay  
Bob Rutten  
Jill Staudinger

Shawnda Ereth  
Allison Driessen  
Dana Lone Bear  
Karen Tescher

Staff:  
Roxane Romanick  
Deb Balsdon  
Colette Perkins

**TOPIC: Family Story**

**ACTION:**

A video was shared with the group from a website called "Results Matter". The video was produced by the Colorado Early Intervention system. The video can be viewed at: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries\\_EarlyIntervention.htm#top](http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries_EarlyIntervention.htm#top) and is called "Reflections During the Final Home Visit".

**TOPIC: MINUTES REVIEW FROM 12/9/10**

**ACTION:**

- A motion to approve the 12/9/10 minutes was made by Joe Elsberry and seconded by Stephen Olson. Motion carried.

**TOPIC: Introductions/Member Updates**

**ACTION:**

- Joe Elsberry – Three Speed is working with a friend that is a producer from NBC to make an early intervention video. They hope that it will be done by September. Joe will send to everyone when completed.
- Jill Staudinger – Dickinson has all 6 disciplines as part of their team. Working on defining roles and how to use everyone's professional and extend to families. Have a list of about 10 people who have expressed interest in working for the KIDS program. Ran a ½ marathon in Deadwood.
- Shawnda Ereth – kids are going to be 5.
- Tammy Gallup – Discussed funding from the 2009 legislative session to assist the Early Health Detection and Intervention program. Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHS) has established a contract with North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) to develop an access tool that would be available for the medical community so that hearing screening results can be accessed during well child visits. During this past legislative session, there was a request in the

Department of Health budget for spending authority to use the federal funding that was available for creation and expansion of home visiting in North Dakota; however this authority was denied and so ND will not be able to use the federal home visiting funding that the state was allotted. Tammy reported that her department had worked with Judy Lee to address the issue of children born with metabolic conditions. Both a bill and a study were introduced, but neither passed, so there is currently discussions being held with Department of Human Services Medical Services to find administrative solutions to expand the metabolic food programs. There have been an increase in requests and these requests are generally very costly. In addition, Tammy reported that CSHS is working with NDCPD to apply for a new grant to address issues in the state autism plan that was created by the North Dakota State Autism Task Force. They are also working on NDCPD to develop another grant that addresses promotion of the medical home in the state.

- Cassie Keller – Cassie shared her story about her own family and her experiences in Early Intervention. Cassie has two children – Carson was in Early Intervention until January when he passed away. She continues to want to be actively involved. Cassie is currently assisting a group of family leaders to develop a project that assists families in getting information about supports prenatally.
- Holly Major – Katie is starting to talk.
- Amanda Lausch – pediatrician is moving and in the process of finding another one.
- Stephen Olson – Pediatric Therapy Partners (PTP) has received a provisional license to become a new early intervention program in Region V. Also are hosting a camp for children with autism the first week in August and have 10 kids signed up. PTP currently has 2 social groups for children on the spectrum or who have similar characteristics. They are working on developing an autism team and have three staff working on their autism certifications through UND. Their feeding program is growing and they recently sent one of their therapists to become certified in working with children with sensory integration disorders.
- Holly English – Holly shared her family story with the group. She has twins that were born 31 weeks. NICU experience was fabulous and she had great assistance from her DDPM and Experienced Parent in Region VII. Currently living in Grand Forks and the twins are in Early Intervention in Region IV.
- Allison Dybing-Driessen – Noted that she just came through a federal Head Start review, opening two new classrooms, helping to coordinate the federal Region Head Start conference, and then involvement during the 2011 legislative session. Allison reported that there had been a bill in this legislative session that would have expanded Head Start to address the waiting list of 800 kids. The original request was for \$6 million dollars, which was reduced to \$1 million, but then lost by one vote in the Senate. On the federal level, ND did keep the 150 new expansion slots for Early Head Start. Continuing to monitor the activity at the federal level because there have been many discussions of budget cuts. Allison reported that the Ronald McDonald dental van has been purchased and is anticipated to start providing services this fall in the western part of the state. They will hire full-time dentist and hygienist.
- Shannon Grave – Shannon reported that UND has just finished process going through Council on Exceptional Children accreditation. The Autism Certification Program is growing. Currently, the program to train and certify teachers who can

work with children with vision impairments is on line. UND is expanding courses in early childhood special education.

- Tina Bay – Tina noted that she testified at her first session as the new Division of Developmental Disabilities Director. No funding in the current Developmental Disabilities budget was cut and the legislature voted in a provider raise. Have a number of new staff in the Division.
- Karen Tescher – Karen provided a legislative recap from the perspective of Medical Services. HB 1152 provided a supplemental payment to critical access hospitals. SB 2142 successfully changed the language in statute from mental retardation to intellectual disability. SB 2079 addressed expanded long term care option for home and community based services. The legislature supported a 3%/3% (each year of the biennium) inflationary increase for Medicaid providers across the board except physicians. Services in Medicaid retained at the current levels. The Children’s Health Insurance Program (Healthy Steps) was maintained at current level of eligibility (how much a family can make) and funding was sustained to allow outreach. The Children’s Hospice Waiver is up and running and two children have accessed this program. In the Money Follows the Person (MFP), individuals can access the funding if they have been institutionalized for three months or more. There are some new services that can be offered, one of them being access to a nurse consultant to assist with transition to home. The program has hired 5 staff across the state to develop housing options for individuals with disabilities. They are currently working with a marketing agency to promote the program and are also developing a video to promote the field of becoming a Qualified Services Provider. MMIS (this is the data/billing system for Medical Services) is projected to be running by June, 2012. Karen also reported the Medical Services Pediatric task force reviewed a draft policy on how to address children who require out-of-state services and have complex medical needs. Currently if the services are available in the state, these services must be used first; however many of these children require a team approach to health care management and the requirement makes it difficult. If anyone is interested in attending the task force meetings, you can contact Patti Donovan at: [pmdonovan@nd.gov](mailto:pmdonovan@nd.gov).
- Dana LoneBear – Dana noted that her son that brings her to the NDICC is 7 ½ yrs old and has a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Currently Dana works for Head Start.
- Bob Rutten – DPI is currently sponsoring a statewide meeting at Bismarck State College on drop out prevention for children with disabilities. Bob reported that at this time, no one at the federal level is talking about reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In addition, the reauthorization of the general education bill – the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (also known as No Child Left Behind) is currently stalled. Federal funding for IDEA is currently secure. Bob reported that due to energy development in western part of the state there are more kids coming into programs, more evaluations being conducted, not enough professionals and difficulty in providing appropriate services.
- Deb Balsdon – She noted that the Division currently finished 3 days of training with staff from Acumen, who is the fiscal agency for self directed supports. This included staff and families.
- Roxane Romanick – Roxane reported that this year it’s her 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Part C – 1986 passed legislation for services for infants

and toddlers. Roxane noted that the Healthy North Dakota Early Childhood Alliance will be holding an early childhood summit on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Bismarck State College Energy Center. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Designer Genes was contacted by First Lady of ND because she wanted to be a part of the national “Light the Way” event. The group had supper with the First Lady and then went to the governor’s mansion to light some awareness signs outside of the residence. Roxane noted that she attended the Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action conference in February. She talked about the materials that have been developed with the Genetics Alliance, the National College on Obstetrics and Gynecology to support families that have a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. The materials are available through a company called Lettercase ([www.lettercase.org](http://www.lettercase.org)). She also discussed working on a statewide project to support parents with new diagnoses.

**TOPIC: ADVISORY COUNCIL TRAINING**

**ACTION:**

- John Copenhaver has been contacted to provide a training for the North Dakota IDEA State Advisory Panel and the NDICC. The training is scheduled for September 8, 2011 (from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.). John currently works for Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center. This training will be important for panel and council members as ND is scheduled to receive a visit from the federal Office of Special Education in 2012. Travel expenses will be reimbursed for NDICC members.

**TOPIC: EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING**

**ACTION:**

- Current training for ND Early Intervention staff was shared with the NDICC. Funding for this training comes from our Part C ARRA funding. Dr Juliann Woods was here for follow-up training. There is training on Infant Mental Health issues on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The schedule includes training on assistive technology for infants and toddlers and the use of iPads/iPods. Hanen Center training will be conducted in the state for speech language pathologists. Dr Kathleen Quill has been contracted with to conduct training on autism supports. The Crossroads Conference which is for DD Program Management and Early Intervention staff will take place the end of September. Training on functional vision and hearing screening will occur during this conference. There will be a conference sponsored by Therap on our new statewide data system. A retreat for Infant Development Directors and Developmental Disabilities Program Managers will be held in Carrington in August. Sharon Walsh with the Data Accountability Center will be present for this retreat.

**TOPIC: LEGISLATIVE RECAP**

**ACTION:**

- Roxane reported that funding was approved in the Department of Commerce budget to further the efforts of technical assistance and training for child care providers. There continues to be development money in the Department of Commerce budget as well for childcare providers.
- SB 2298: Inclusive Child Care – This bill set up grant program for childcare providers to attempt to get grant money for specific needs for children with special needs. Part of the bill addressed hiring inclusion specialists in the state; however the bill

ended up with \$50,000 for the biennium which will not be enough to achieve that provision. There was strong testimony from families.

**TOPIC: THERAP DATABASE IMPLEMENTATION**

**ACTION:**

- On Nov. 1, 2010, the Division went live with implementation of Therap which replaced the Division of Developmental Disabilities program management system. This first phase also included the Infant Developmental providers.
- The Division is working towards the completion of Phase 2 which will open the data base system to the rest of the providers of DD services. The projection is that this will go live in July, 2011.

**TOPIC: STANDING ICC AGENDA ITEMS**

**Review of ICC Membership**

- Laura Larson resigned from Insurance Dept and at home. Roxane will be notifying the Governor's Office regarding the opening.
- We continue to need a parent to serve from the Region III area.
- Roxane will be contacting those individuals whose positions are coming up for reappointment.
- Sen. Dever did not request reappointment for his next term. The governor's office has appointed Rep. RaeAnn Kelsch however she was unable to be here today.

**Review of Available Waiver Slots**

- The Division requested from the Centers of Medicaid and Medicare to combine the traditional DD waiver and the DD Self-Directed Waiver which has created more options for families. This change will allow families in Early Intervention to access self-directed in-home supports so that they are able to hire their own staff.
- There are 4345 slots in the new Waiver, which runs April through March. Of the 4345, 3458 are assigned, with 887 remaining. Of the 3458, 1011 are filled with children birth through 2 years of age.
- Autism Waiver runs November through Oct. There are 30 slots available and 10 are assigned. Of the 10: 1 is a 2yr old; 3 are 4yr olds and 6 are 3 yr olds. Deb noted that there is some concern about how the Autism Waiver slots are currently distributed across the state. There are no families currently being served or with applications pending from Minot, Devils Lake, or the Fargo areas. Deb informed everyone that the entry place for the Autism Waiver is the regional Developmental Disabilities Program Management units. Comment was made from NDICC member that it does not seem like there is good information for parents about the waiver. There was information developed for DDPM's to go through with families. Question was asked about the training that staff in Infant Development (Intervention Coordination) have received to support children in this waiver. Deb noted that staff have access to upcoming training scheduled, will have access to Autism Pro, and some staff have completed the UND certification program. A question was asked about the training for in-home support (respite) staff – Deb noted that the Autism Waiver is different in

that the Intervention Coordination (Infant Development) staff can work directly with the in-home support staff that the family hires. Deb reminded everyone that the children on the Autism Waiver who are over 3 may have both an IFSP and an IEP and that it is important for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and the Autism Waiver staff to collaborate on services. It is possible that some children could qualify for the Autism Waiver, but not qualify for ECSE services.

**Part C Budget Update:**

- Deb reported that we are currently spending '09 funds which needs to be obligated by September 30, 2011.
- ARRA funds have the same time line and must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2011.
- The 2011 Part C application is out for public comment on the ND Early Intervention and DHS website.
- ND received an increase of \$838 in the 2011 budget. We will start to use the 2011 in 2012.
- MTAC contract using ARRA funding is funding the upcoming training for the summer/fall, the development of training modules, and competency implementation. The contract is for \$677,000.
- Other purchases that are being made: 100 parent binders for families that have children in the NICU, all Part C orders, notebooks, air cards for DD and Infant Development. The Division is also looking at placing orders for an iPad lending library

**TOPIC: DHS AUTISM WAIVER**

**ACTION: Based on discussion within in this topic area, Deb will follow-up with NDCPD on the concerns noted.**

- Deb provided additional information about the Autism Waiver. Even if families had received a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder for their child, an evaluation still needs to be completed through the Evaluation and Diagnostic Team from NDCPD. This confirmation or statement of the diagnosis is used for eligibility for the waiver. For children under 3, there is still a requirement to develop the IFSP 45 days after the date of referral. A comment was made that the timeline to get the reports back from Minot State is taking a long time. Deb noted that NDCPD has 30 days from the date that received the completed application packet to get the report back to the DDPM.

**TOPIC: COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EI Services Subcommittee**

**Joint Transition Guidelines Update:**

There is a meeting of the EI Services Subcommittee scheduled for Aug 19 to review the work that has been done between the Department of Public Instruction and Early Intervention. We have gotten extensive technical assistance from the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center and Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center.

**TOPIC: 2009 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT/STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

**ACTION:**

- Annual performance report is made up of 14 different indicators.
- Executive Committee met the end of Jan and reviewed the improvement activities.
- Information in case files and cases provided for kids that had IFSPs served 7/1/09 to 6/30/10.
- The APR has to be to OSEP by June 15.
- OSEP receives the report and issues a letter of determination to the state.
- Levels of determination are: meets requirements; needs assistance, needs intervention, and needs substantial intervention.
- Implications can be significant requiring technical assistance to sanctions.
- State Report has to be published publicly.
- A data report on the Indicators was provided for the NDICC. This will be attached to these minutes.
- **Indicator #1 Timely Initiation of Services:**
  - Comment made that we may want to target families that are expecting multiple births as it would be nice to receive information in advance.
  - Comment made that families need more information about how other disciplines will be involved in the services delivery. Comment made that parent did not understand that other disciplines could only come with the primary interventionist and did not know much about the frequency when the service plan was developed. Recommendation: EI staff having intentional conversations with families about service detail.
  - Roxane reviewed the Additional Improvement Activities.  
**ACTION:** inform the Feds about meeting with the regional ID and DD and develop a regional action plan to address the indicators and change 39 to 49.
- **Indicator #2 Services in the Natural Environment:**
  - Proposed targets will stay.
  - Look at the Natural Learning Opportunity Work Plan and send out to members. Roxane will do this.
  - Comment made to consider the use of the DC 0-3 for assessment purposes and understanding development.
- **Indicator #3 Child Outcomes:**
  - Deb noted that the state intends to change the assessment used to gather outcomes data. State currently calls this the Child PAR.
  - Target setting – Roxane and Deb will research and make it as small as possible. Will ask the question about how small an increase can we make.
- **Indicator #4 Family Outcomes:**
  - This information is gathered by an annual statewide survey that is mailed to families and then there is a second mailing to those that don't respond initially.
  - There is a plan to add the survey Therap so families can access this survey.
- **Indicator #5 AND Indicator #6 – Percent of Children Served:**
  - Target set in Indicator #5 and #6.

- On Indicator #5 - North Dakota is 5<sup>th</sup> compared to all states in identifying children at an early age.
  - Indicator #6 – North Dakota ranks 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - In regards to the Right Track (Kid Track) data - looking at purchasing an off the shelf software for the database
  - Recommendation to look into outreach dollars for SCHIP in the state as there may be a way to collaborate on Right Track outreach
- **Indicator #7 45 Day Timeline**
  - **Indicator #8 Transition**
  - **Indicator #9 Correction of Timely Findings:** This goes back one year. Look at the programs that were issued findings between 7/1/07 and 6/30/08. The state needs to determine which findings were corrected and verified as corrected within one year. Following the FFY 07 filing, OSEP changed the definition of findings to collapse those findings that were individual or systemic. Deb reported to the council member that case reviews were conducted for FFY 08 however findings were not issued and reviews are being considered as “discovery” and that this was due to the federal changes. There is still one one region that didn’t close all findings in 07. No findings were issued in 08.
  - **Indicator #14 Filing of Federal Reports:**
    - Indicator score of 92.9 – target would be 100%. Percent is due to late filing of the APR. A letter will be sent regarding the justification of the late filing.
    - Will address how we have addressed technical assistance (who, when, how, what areas were addressed).

A motion was made by Joe Elsberry to approve the targets and changes to the APR and submit by June 15, seconded by Allison Driessen. Motion carried.

**TOPIC: SEPTEMBER 2011 JOINT IDEA/ICC and ICC MEETINGS**

**ACTION:**

- Sept 22 and Sept 23 are the next meeting dates.
- Meeting is being held at the Comfort Inn.