



**"The purpose of the RICC is to ensure partnership of parents and regional representatives dedicated to supporting children with, or at risk of, a disability from birth to age 3, and their families."**



**RICC Meeting  
8/17/06  
12:00 noon**

Present were: Rhonda Bartlette, Parent; Jaret Cvancara, DD Casemanager; Tim Coughlin, DD Program Administrator; Andrea Peterson, Opportunity Foundation; Sonya Owan, Program Coordinator - Opportunity Foundation; Barb Olson, DD Casemanager, Erica Turnquist, Program Coordinator - NW Infant Development; Rose Shafer, Right Track; Harlan Fixen, Parent; Angie Dubovoy, Disabilities Advocate; Kathi Benth, DD Support Staff.

Introductions were made, as Angie Dubovoy is a new member to this committee. Angie explained her role in protection and advocacy. Angie is from Minot and handles advocacy issues. Janelle Olson of P & A in Williston handles protection services.

Erica Turnquist has taken Betty Omgig's place as Program Coordinator for NW Infant Development. Erica still has responsibilities as an Early Interventionist with a half time caseload. Betty is now working for NW Infant Development as an Early Interventionist with a half time caseload. Ginger Mitchell, Speech/Language Pathologist has retired and taking her place is Teresa Anfinson and Sarah Delorme. Amy Baker is currently serving two children in the New Town area. After these children reach age 3, it is uncertain whether Amy will continue with her services. There has not been a referral for services from New Town in quite some time. Deb Bingeman will begin work on Monday, 8/21/06 as a half time Early Interventionist for NW Infant Development. Deb has stated she would be willing to increase her hours if the number of children being served increases.

Erica gave a report on children being served by Northwest Human Service Center and Northwest Infant Development. We are currently service 39 children and families in

Region 1. 2 of those children will "age out" at the end of August 2006. There has been 1 referral received so far in August 2006. In the last 4 months, there were 14 referrals in May, 4 referrals in June, 1 referral in July and 1 referral in August. Referrals from Right Track in the last 4 months include 3 in May, 0 in June, 1 in July and 0 in August.

Rose Shafer with Right Track reported that as of July 1, 2006, Right Track in Region 1 suffered a huge budget cut, which came from the state level, Part C Funds. Rose received a message from Deb Balsdon regarding the fact that Rose's priority would be referrals to Right Track first and if there is time and money left, to target referrals from WIC, doctors, etc. Rose had previously been seeing 90 to 95 children per month. With the budget cut, she will only be able to see 30 to 33 children per month. There was discussion of who would find or serve the remaining children. Erica Turnquist reported that almost all the children Right Track has referred to Infant Development have been enrolled in the program. It is felt the state has done Region 1 Right Track a disservice. Rose reported that in the past, she has seen children who have delays who have not been referred, but Rose has worked with the family, who in turn work with the child, which has made a difference. It was this committee's understanding that Right Track was supposed to assist in finding every infant born in this region.

Tim Coughlin explained to the committee Region 1 has given the half time position that had been offered to us to the Minot region. This position was offered to Northwest Human Service Center to take excess cases from Barb Olson's caseload. Minot will now be serving the individuals from Tri City Care that Jaret Cvancara had been serving and they will also be taking clients in the New Town area. This will decrease Jaret's caseload so he will be able to serve more infants in Region 1.

The new "Baby PAR", developed by the State of Oregon, being used by NW Infant Development was explained by Erica. Erica passed around a copy of this document to members of the RICC Committee. The font on this document is micro mini, which makes it very difficult to read. The Baby PAR is to be administered between the time of evaluation and the development of the IFSP, which is about a three week period. Erica reported the Infant Development evaluation is more thorough than the PAR being used as the PAR includes children up to age 5 (therefore, some of the questions do not pertain to children age 3 and below). When the Baby PAR has been completed, it is entered on a spreadsheet and sent to Deb Balsdon who compiles data to report back to Oregon on how this document is working to serve our children.

It was discussed as to whether the state could offer documentation on how the Part C budget dollars have been utilized by each region from July 2001 to present. Andrea Peterson volunteered to e-mail the state to see if this documentation could be provided

to see how each region was utilizing their budgeted Right Track funding.

Erica and staff from NW Infant Development attended the Family Connection Conference. Erica reported it was a good conference and encourages parents to attend in the future. This year, there was one parent who attended from Region 1.

The transition process for children transitioning out of Infant Development will be changing. Early Intervention and Special Education will be meeting in September to discuss this.

The committee agreed a letter should be sent to Yvonne Smith with a copy to Deb Balsdon regarding the budget cut for Right Track funding through Part C for Region 1. The committee devised the letter, the letter was typed during the RICC meeting and was signed by all Region 1 RICC Committee members present. A copy of this letter is attached to a hard copy of these minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.