

# Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC) Minutes

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

10 members were in attendance; Jodi Hebl, Ramona Gunderson, Carol Brakel, Joan Karpanko, Dena Larson, Tiffani Peterson, Marilyn Arneson, Sherri Nelson.

Carol Brakel opened the meeting stating case reviews have not been received as of yet. The conversation lead into, the comment from Marilyn, that we should make sure that the last IFSP's are being used. She also had questions on the ASSIST Software.

There was a lot of talk on getting preapprovals and what will be covered. Carol said that recently in Bismarck she heard Dan Johnson present on Out of State Authorization pre-approval. It is suggested that you always get a pre-approval before you go on the trip and if the professional is in the state you may not get Pre-approval to out of state. In the presentation Dan said that he does not like being the barer of bad news, but has to follow the guidelines. It was mentioned that MA may not cover all charges if you are going from appointment to appointment, even if you are there and the primary physician is sending you to another specialist. Tiffany mentioned that there is a program at Mayo call "Mayo Need"; they will help cover the charges incurred. Jodi asked how long it usually takes to get a preapproval; Carol stated roughly two weeks for scheduled appointments. Carol thought it would be a good idea to give parents another copy of the handout on pre-authorization. This is not new just should be given again to make sure parents are aware of it.

Carol Brakel touched on the changes that are happening with DDPM, not just the name change but also the changes in services and how to receive them. She briefly touched on the waiver and slot changes. She also talks shortly on the changes that will be happening in October. There is thought on writing something up to share with members so they will better understand the changes taking place. She stated that they are having there licensure visit next week and will be looking at things more in depth.

Tiffany Peterson with Altru rehab said that she used the Family Voices website and looked up an article on, "How to be an advocate for professionals"; she thought the information was great and now hands out the article to families she works with. This led to a great conversation on Family Voices in general, what they do, who do they help and, so on.

Jodi Hebl let told everyone about her experience with the Family Voices Leadership Institute she attended in May. The Institute was held in Edegly ND and last from Friday at noon until Sunday at about 11:00. She stated that it was very informational and a great networking experience. The attendees learned about lobbying, legislation, the medicaid ladder, different groups and services available. It was a great opportunity. It was also brought up that we would like Donene Feist with FVND to speak at a RICC meeting in the future, to better inform us of their services. We would also like to talk with her on have a Leadership Institute here in Grand Forks. Jodi is going to contact her and see what she can set up. Jodi also touched on a new program from FVND called Parent Navigator. Missi Baranko from Dickinson is heading this and will be traveling to different towns talk with parents and professionals. Grand Forks is going to be holding there's on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Joan Karpanko with Family Voices informed us of a new Urologist coming to Altru; he was associated with Shriners and will be handling peds and adults. Joan spoke on the ARC and the Buddy Walk being held on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Pam with the ARC is currently accepting volunteers for the event. There is a pamphlet circulating for the walk with more information on it. There is also an interagency picnic being held that is not on the handout, it is Lincoln Park.

Ramona Gunderson updated on Infant Development saying that they are busy, as always. She stated that there has been a lot of training in the past few months for the therapists. Just recently there was a very intense training for selected ID Therapist, presented by Juliann Woods, in Bismarck. The training was on typical routines and working with families along those bases. The teams will be videotaping their visits and sending them to Julian and receiving feedback. The training will continue on in the months to come. Everyone is very excited about the knowledge and support they are gaining from this

A great conversation took place regarding the Autism Task Force. There was a bill in the ND legislature which passed that created this task force in North Dakota.. It was mentioned by Carol that they are currently accepting positions for the board, some of those positions are: parents, physicians, OT/PT and behavioral specialist were just a few. They are presently taking nominations for the state board and nominee must have worked with autism. The task force will provide input to DHs regarding Autism Waiver that will be developed. The task force will give recommendations; watch for the consistency in services and provide recommendations to DHS regarding the waiver. As of now the proposed autism waiver will cover up to 5 years of age and the child can only be on the waiver for a total of 3 years, there will also be a certain

amount of slots for the waiver, once the slots have been filled there will be a waiting list.. The problem in some states is that the children are aging out of the waiver before their name comes up on the waiting list.

Tiffany Peterson asked everyone to write a small description of their program for here quick reference manual that she is making for Altru Physicians. She also mentioned that there are 12 new doctors starting at Altru.

Ramona asked members in attendance how they think the meetings are going and how beneficial everyone thinks they are. She mentioned that as when we get the results from the state on monitoring we will be reviewing that information. All who attended thought the meetings are a great source of information. We also discussed what members would like addressed at the meetings, different speakers or different times, to get member attendance up. We all would like to hear more from Family Voices and Minot on their autism grant was another suggestion. Jodi suggested that to encourage attendance she could also send out the minutes of the meetings to all members by email within a week of meeting, maybe people would see the topics being addressed and want to attend more frequently. She is also going to send out a small questionnaire asking if the members would like the date changes and whether or not you would still like to a member. Ramona stated that there will be some information coming from the state directing us as a group on what other issues we should be addressing.

Marilyn said the Anne Carlson Center would like to attend the meetings. Which brought up the topic of who can join and what the criteria is. Jodi is going to do some investigation into the in the mission statement for the next meeting and also place the information in the news-email.

There was discussion at the RICC on whether this meeting was of benefit to agencies and if other agencies felt a value in coming to the RICC. Those agencies in attendance stated that they felt that there was value in the RICC and it was beneficial in networking for the early intervention system. It was discussed that in the future that meetings could be less frequent and may not include lunch. We discussed other ways of conducting the meetings.

Following meetings for August 24, 2009 and November 23, 2009 were announced