

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee
Minutes from 04-21-09

1. Welcome/Introductions

Present: Shonda Wild, Lori Bergquist, Kirsten McIntyre, Connie Schwartz, Michelle Hougen, Lorri Sandal, Jennifer Restemayer, Lisa Keidel, Rebecca Helm, Sandy McMerty, Roxane Romanick, Carol Olson, Anna Bergman, Lindsey Bauer, Jenni Goetz (OT students at U of Mary), Deb Tibor, Becky Severt, Vicki Peterson, Angela Glaser

Review of Screening Flow Chart/Red Flags document

Connie has a form she gives out for speech which lists by month each important milestone and then a "talk to professional (red flag)" indicator. As a parent, Sandy doesn't like the word red flag. Lisa suggested changing the wording from "red flag" to "talk to professional if" which sounds a lot softer. The OT student from the University of Mary will compile their list within the next few weeks. Vicki said the CDC does not use red flags. They use learning signs and they also separate their kits, one for parents and one for providers.

2. Minutes

Under member updates - The correction of Keri Milas' name was noted and Ava Tomahawk was added as being present

Motion to approve minutes made by Rebecca Helm, seconded by Kirsten McIntyre. MOTION PASSED and minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Member Updates

- Deb Tibor:
 - Morton-Sioux Special Education Unit is working on scheduling preschool screenings as well as hearing and vision screenings for next fall.
 - She reported that she is working on end of year reports. The unit has 20 indicators they have to report of which she is responsible for 3.
 - Deb noted that she is attending a workshop next week on building social relationships.
- Becky Severt:
 - May is Mental Health Week, first week in May is Children's Mental Health Week. There will be a walk on Saturday, May 30. It will be at the Country Club in the back of Ward Road. They will have packets available to get sponsors if anyone is interested. The walk starts at 11:00, registration at 10:30. They also have green ribbons for people to wear or tie around posts. If anyone is interested contact Carlotta or Becky.

- Vicki Peterson:
 - She reported that she attended the Pathfinder's Conference. It was very good and very informative.
 - Family Voices has leadership institute in May and August.
 - April is Autism Awareness Month.
 - Saturday, June 20th is Autism Walk at Horizon Middle School.
- Shonda Wild:
 - April is month of Prevent Child Abuse.
 - This week is Week of the Young Child.
 - May 8th is Provider Appreciation Day.
 - Shonda reported that they are winding down with legislative initiatives.
- Lori Bergquist and Connie Schwartz:
 - Bismarck/Mandan Breastfeeding Workshop, Thursday, June 4th. Some of the speakers will be a physician from the Philippines, Native American speakers, working moms. Registration fee is \$60 and \$70 at the door.
- Kirsten McIntyre:
 - Great American Bike Race was held on Saturday - they had a wonderful turnout.
- Connie Schwartz:
 - Regional Nurse Meeting was last week. The speaker was Rebecca Quinn from UND on traumatic brain injury. There's no such thing is a mild bump on the head. Shannon Hilfer from Medcenter One's Child Advocacy Center was also there.
 - There's an extra car seat checkup on Thursday, April 30th at Bis-Man Transit from 2:00-4:00. It is by appointment.
- Lorri Sandal:
 - The waiver changed April 1st. DD Case Managers have a new title. In order for families to be on Medicaid they have to be receiving a waiver service. Infant Development or any other waiver service cannot be started for children who are referred and are hospitalized (i.e. in NICU). They can provide extra service to parents who are DD eligible who have children. Waiver supports now include in-home behavior consultation services to families.
 - There are new changes they're still learning about. Vicki asked if behavior management is only in-home. Roxane said it's basically consultation.
- Anna Bergman:
 - Fundraiser for Door Step (program within Red Door). They are starting a nonprofit called Social Key. They are having a fundraiser next week at the Texas Roadhouse for freewill donation. The fundraiser will be on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, April 30th from 11:30-1:30.

- Jennifer Restemayer:
 - The Pathfinder's Conference was wonderful. They had wonderful speakers and she met great people.
 - She read Road Map to Holland by Jennifer Graf Groneberg and it was a good read. It was raw and it was honest.
 - Rebecca Helm:
 - Rebecca reported that her daughter had heart surgery and it went well.
 - Roxane Romanick:
 - The Pathfinder's Conference tripled in attendance. Some of the speakers were Rick Lavoie, Michael and Eleanor (21 year old daughter) Bailey and Jennifer Graf Groneberg who has twins one with a diagnosis of Down syndrome. Vicki Peterson also presented.
 - Prior to the conference EI staff spent two days in training with Larry Edelman. He is trying to take Early Interventionists into the digital age. Roxane will send a web link to his blog. He also talked about wiki pages which is a web-based product where you can create and edit content, as well as invite others to create and edit content in the same site. Jennifer said you can invite certain people to view it and they can add comments. It is a neat way to collaborate. Sandy added that a wiki is a big webpage, huge working space where everybody could see, change, edit. Google will let you do that for free. Jennifer set one up on pd wiki. Rebecca asked if you can access digital health records. St. A's and Medcenter One are not members of it. Vicki said Colorado uses it within their medical home. Connie asked if it is possible to put information on there that can't be changed. Sandy said you can set it up so one person can be the administrator.
 - Julianne Woods will be at the Seven Seas on May 4th. Julianne Woods is a professor in speech/language pathology at the University of Florida. She has done a lot of work on speech/language service delivery in Early Intervention. This is a free event. If you have additional expenses let Roxane know as they should be covered through being a part of the RICC.
 - Carol Olson:
 - May 1st from 8:00-3:00 at the Civic Center is the University of Mary Research Colloquium. Students will be presenting their research projects. She will send a link on the different presentations.
 - Picnic for families involved in family mentoring will be May 3rd at Sertoma.
4. Legislative/Congressional Updates
- Shonda Wild: HB 1418 passed with stimulus funds of 3.6 million dollars.
 Childcare professional development bill - covers training registry and also covers quality improvement for childcare providers.

Roxane Romanick: HB 1012 Department of Human Services Bill left the Senate. 7/7% biennium raise for DD providers which includes Infant Development, the House passed it at 6 and 6. The senate also put in a dollar raise in addition to the inflationary increase. 90% of providers will get dollar raise. Now they're in conference committee because the two chambers didn't end up the same amendments. There was also money in there for Healthy Families. Parenting centers and family based decision making funding did not pass.

Vicki Peterson: HB 1436 - moving 6-19 year olds who are at the 100-133% federal poverty level to SCHIP vs. Medicaid. Family Voices is collecting stories from families on what they would be losing and what insurance would not be covering.

Roxane Romanick: Early childhood lost preschool funding in HB 1400 which was originally funded for 4 year old public preschool

Roxane Romanick: Autism Waiver money still attached in HB 1012 for services to birth-5. The money for autism task force and study was signed by governor.

Vicki Peterson: TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) is still in conference.

Roxane Romanick: North Dakota got 50% of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) money into Part C as of April 1st. The State ICC meets June 4 and 5 and she is assuming budget discussion will be part of that.

5. Program Reports:

- BECEP Right Track - Lisa Keidel
 - Staff did attend one day of technology training.
 - Lisa and one consultant attended the Pathfinder's Conference.
 - They got additional supplies from the state. They got several new screening tools (Bayley, Behavioral, and Language). They have not used them as Lisa still has to review them. They are giving more encouragement on M-CHAT saying that will be included in their contract which will be renewed in October. Children ages 18-36 months will be offered the M-CHAT screening tool.
 - She e-mailed Dr. Rosetti and he gave her resources to look at like Michael Guralnick Efficacy of Early Intervention. He was very open to coming to Bismarck.
 - Handout: Quarterly Report gives you an idea of how many kids we're aware of, how many visits we've done and why they're not receiving visits.
 - Handout: Visits by County - they had a little bit of trouble this winter due to weather. March was a slow month. A lot of visits were cancelled due to

flooding. They are still doing what the state allows them for visits. Eligibility rates: 115 Right Track referrals, 46 eligible, (40%), 8 withdrawals. The eligibility rate is low in this region. In visiting with Carol Johnson, she was surprised we offer evaluations to all families whether or not they qualify for Early Intervention. The Region IV Right Track consultants aren't offering referrals for evaluation unless the child is in line to qualify for Early Intervention. Roxane did get eligibility rates for rest of state but she did not get utilization information. We do not know out of money that's allocated to them from federal contract, how much the other regions are using. Our number of referrals is a lot higher than others. Connie asked if the motto has changed throughout the state, the motto was it's offered to all families. Lisa said no. The state has just limited the number of visits they can do. Sandy asked for clarification on what "unable to contact" means. Lisa said that's when the phone has been disconnected or in situations where the consultant leaves several messages, a letter is sent, the letter does not get returned, and they don't receive a call back in response to the letter. Shonda asked when the consultants make their calls. Lisa said during the day, evenings and weekends. Sandy commented the original question was asking this committee to write a letter to Deb for more visits. If we are looking at other states, we're ranking 3rd in regards to eligibility. In those regions where they weren't getting out before we don't know if there was an increase. Lisa said no because we don't know what their numbers are. Sandy asked if we still want to write a letter to Deb or is there some other avenue? She feels she doesn't have enough information at this point. Michelle Hougen noted that it would be a good idea to get information from other Right Track programs. Roxane asked what else we want to know from other Right Track programs - what their regional allocation is and how many visits they're doing based on budget and how many visits they're making, based on population. Kirsten asked if we are maxing out our visits every month. Lisa said we're up and down but over the course of the year the visits are all completed. Kirsten asked if she felt there are a lot of families we're missing. Lisa said yes. We could hire another consultant for harder to contact families. The next RICC meeting is July 21st. Michelle suggested coming up with the information we need to have by that meeting. The fiscal year for Right Track is October-September, we would still have time to present the information to Deb before the end of the fiscal year. Sandy said we still don't know if the other regions are not serving kids, what's the number they're not serving? Roxane added (1) we're not happy with the amount of kids and (2) the eligibility rate, we may not be screening the kids that might be eligible. Michelle added to keep in mind that in Early Intervention, up until this year, we have always been serving more kids than what we originally budgeted for. As a result, we would ask

for additional spending authority. That might be reasonable mechanism for Right Track. If we find out that we really have identified a lot more kids who should be screened, it would be nice to have the additional spending authority to do those kids. Lisa said Fargo did a lot of pre-screening, which will save money in the long run. Roxane asked what constitutes a prescreening for a Right Track screening. Lisa said a phone call. If a parent would call in, a prescreening would be done over the phone. If the child is doing well, it would end there. Sandy said we will decide what this committee's recommendation is in July.

- Standing Rock Early Intervention - Rebecca Helm.
 - They just had their monthly tracking meeting. They are facing a couple issues that need to be addressed. They have several kids that are coming through borderline on their screening, talking to parents about it, have visitors going in, knowing child is not eligible, evidence continue to drop, some of them don't want referrals, how do we deal with those kids?
 - They are collaborating in tracking meetings with other areas at looking at infant mortality we've had this past year across the reservation and comparing it with other reservations, looking at cause. It looks like the increase was due to abuse. There are at least four pending trials, one in Bismarck, one in federal court. Roxane asked if any of the kids were in Early Intervention. Rebecca didn't think so, not in infant mortality, of other abuse yes. Roxane asked Lorri if that is part of their new responsibilities - health and safety. Lorri said for anybody who dies they have to report the death to the state office. Rebecca said there is a grant due July 1st that can write for that will help fund getting information to parents on abuse.
- BECEP Early Intervention - Michelle Hougen:
 - Michelle reported that the following as a follow-up to the EI report from last month: We collated and handed in the activity report from all the different Infant Development programs in the state to Deb. We also got a letter from the state indicating that Deb has proposed starting January 1, 2010, we will go to fee for service. Deb will use the information we collected in terms of trying to indicate all different activities Early Intervention does during the day so it can be rolled over to fee for service.
 - This is the first time in history we are serving less than the number of kids we projected we would be serving. The state has a ruling of 90% occupancy. At this point, we meet that but it's been a real different year. We haven't seen the increase in kids. We have so many kids graduating each month, we're not getting the number of kids coming in to the program that we're letting go. Shonda asked since the average number of children has dropped and there's not as many young people, is there studies being done to see why? Is there a correlation with not being able to see as many kids in Right Track? Is it too early to see that? Anna feels like Right Track is a big

connection, we have a lot of kids in common. Sandy asked is it happening for external reasons. We need to figure out what the reason is and bring it to this group. Roxane asked if it is change in eligibility. Connie added the referrals from hospitals went up a little bit from 07-08.

7. Old Business: Follow-up on Right Track and eligibility rates
 - See Right Track Program Report above.
8. Program Compliance Reports
 - Roxane we don't have regional information from annual compliance report that was in January. In process of going through case review process, last time we did that was in October 2007. They pull random number of charts, team of folks go through charts using case review tool that looks for quality and federal case indicators.
9. Regional Quality Improvement Plan Updates
 - No report

Roxane Romanick: Part C federal dollars

- Expand eligibility - is there something else we should be spending our money on? Lisa suggested a program to serve the in betweeners, the ones that don't qualify for Early Intervention. So many kids are behind but aren't quite behind to qualify. And also social emotional kids. Michelle suggested training in behavior management. In Early Childhood Special Education we're qualifying those kids but in Early Intervention we can't. Roxane said Jennifer Laub talked about the same thing. One of the solutions is that there should be some conversations with our staff and referral source before the evaluation.

10. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.