

Region VII Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee
 Minutes
 4-20-10

(As Corrected on 10-26-10)

Present: Lori Bergquist, Jody Bettger-Huber, Theresa Kuhn, Carlotta McCleary, Cherie Mortenson, Carol Olson, Sandy McMerty, Vicki Peterson, Connie Schwartz, Shonda Wild, JoAnn Brager, Becky Severt, Michelle Hougen, Jennifer Restemayer, Roxane Romanick, Lorri Sandal, Joe Elsberry, Lisa Keidel

Member Updates:

Roxane

- Pathfinder Parent Involvement Conference – May 6,7,8
- New Special Education Director for Bismarck Public Schools
- IEP Support Group
- Juliann Woods Training – May 4th
- Gracie Larson’s Fundraiser
- Family Voices Parent Leadership Institute – Aug. 6, 7, 8
- Part C 2010 Application is out for Public Comment
- State Level Work: Continued work on EI Competencies, EI Guidelines, and Orientation Modules. Currently reviewing Transition
- Federal Level Announcements: Federal Home Visiting Funding attached to HCR; Early Childhood Summit – August 3,4,5th in DC

JoAnn Brager

- Literacy Activity – West River Head Start and Prairie Public – 5-22-10
- Continued Early Head Start Expansion – Mayville/Grand Forks; Towner/Devils Lake
- Regional Head Start Conference in Fargo – October 13, 14, 15

Carol Olson

- New Family Mentorship Coordinator- Mary Vearrier
- Continuing to need families to volunteer for mentorship program
- UMary Research Colloquium – 4-30-10
 - CEU’s are offered
 - OT Study with West River Head Start – structured play increased gross motor development

Carlotta McCleary and Becky Severt

- Children’s Mental Health Week – 1st week in May

Jody Bettger-Huber

- Prevent Child Abuse Month – April
- Healthy Families Program continues to expand
- Have been getting referrals from Medcenter One and West River Head Start
- Currently sharing 4 families with Region VII Early Intervention

Shonda Wild

- Child Care Resource and Referral received stimulus money in last legislative session which they are using to improve retention and recruitment as well as professional development.
- 75 providers attended Training on the topic of autism which was presented by Red Door Pediatric Therapy Services.
- Currently in Region VII – 16 providers are working on their Child Development Associate Degrees (~100 providers in western ND going through CDA training), 3 providers started new group child care facilities, working with 3 centers on leadership training

Lori Bergquist

- Children’s Advocacy Center is offering the “Happiest Baby on the Block” curriculum.

Vicki Peterson

- Training by Anne Carlsen – Every Move Counts – June 15, 16
- Autism Walk – June 12th

Jennifer Restemayer

- Experienced Parents together in May, 2010

Connie Schwartz

- Car Seat Safety Check
- Shared safety information on baby ~~slights~~ slings

Sandy McMerty

- Department of Commerce – Child Care Grants are not open again

Program Reports:

Right Track

- Hired consultants in Mercer, Kidder, and Emmons Counties
- Need consultants in the western Morton county area
- Lisa reported that due to the number of visits available each month, the repeat follow-up visits are often late.

- The numbers reported under “Unable to Contact” include those children that have disconnected phone numbers, no response after 2 -3 calls, families don’t schedule and say that they will call back to schedule.

Standing Rock

- Presently, they are unable to report on Right Track numbers because the numbers are a combination of both ND and SD. Presently there are about 150 children followed in tracking.
- There is a new tribal chair person who has been friendly to the Early Childhood Tracking Program. The Chair’s been working hard to keep families enrolled.
- Presently serving 19 children in Early Intervention in ND.
- Needing to add staff
- Child Protective Services have been working hard to help with locating families.

Suggestion – Use of relocation services through the Department of Commerce for hiring purposes.

BECEP

Infant Development funding

- As of 1-1-10 was to go to fee for service; however date has been pushed back to 7-1-10
- Fee for Service would cover: Home Visits, Evaluations, Consultation, and Plan Development
- The programs continue to be concerned with whether the funding methodology will be sufficient to meet the programs needs.
- Continuing to meet with the state office

Compliance

- Region VII was issued a Needs Intervention Status for the regional determination – they received 8 points out of 23. Primarily due to timeliness in getting information put in to the system and timeliness in correcting findings of noncompliance.
- Recommended Action to address NI Status – Internal IFSP monitoring system – all IFSP’s will be reviewed for content and quality. Also tracking timeliness. The DDPM will be sending notice to early Interventionist and Michelle to keep up on timeline. Development of the Regional Action Plan

Continuation of RICC

Roxane reported that there has been discussion at the state level to discontinue the RICC’s – would like to have feedback from Region VII on the need for this advisory group:

Comments:

- Would hate to see RICC’s go
- See group as supportive to local providers
- We’re getting some state data – haven’t seen that in years
- Not sure that our actions have moved the bar or made any difference to the state
- Still good for a lot of different purposes

- Need to constantly look for collaboration
Group consensus that Region VII RICC continue.