

March 8, 2012

*Approved 9.20.12*

**ICC/IDEA JOINT MEETING  
THURS, MARCH 8, 2012  
STATEWIDE VIDEO CONFERENCING**

**PRESENT:**

Shannon Grave	Amanda Carlson
Nancy Skorheim	Alison Dollar
Jill Staudinger	Steve Bourgois
Holly English	
Jennifer Barry	
Karen Tescher	
Joe Elsberry	
David Zimmerman	
Allison Driessen	
Stephen Olson	
Amanda Lausch	
Tina Bay	
Jackie Harasym	

Staff: Roxane Romanick

**TOPIC: FAMILY STORY**

- Katie McCleary shared the family story today. Katie is a sibling to an adult brother who has developmental disabilities and additional diagnosis. Many thanks to Katie for her presentation today.

**REVIEW OF SEPT 2011 MINUTES**

- A motion was made by Jennifer Berry and seconded by Tina Bay to approve the Sept 2011 minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

**TOPIC: AGENDA**

- No additions/changes.

**MEMBER UPDATES/ISSUES**

- David Zimmerman noted that there many pending decisions regarding the Affordable Health Care law. Each state has different activity levels regarding the implementation of the law. David noted that there are no significant new developments regarding children's health issues, but more will be coming in the next year. The majority of the law will need to be implemented by 2014. .
- Jill Staudinger noted that their staff met as group with the Early Detection and Hearing Intervention (EDHI) project, which is managed by North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) at Minot State University. St. Joe's had 98% of their newborn children completing hearing screenings

March 8, 2012

following birth. Jill noted that during this meeting, the statistics for hospitals births showed that they are now averaging 30 – 40 births per month vs. 20 -25 per month a year ago.

- Holly English noted that she is starting sib shops in Grand Forks by April/May. Working with Ramona Gunderson.
- Jennifer Barry reported on the Child Care Inclusion Technical Assistance project. Roxanne will email a flier to members. The TA project is located at NDCPD and the main contact is Kathy Lee. Jennifer asked that members spread word to parents and other providers as the TA can be beneficial to help support children in their child care setting. Jennifer noted that they are working to collect as much data as possible to continue to enhance the program.
- Tina Bay noted a new waiver year will start April 1, 2012. The Division has received the notification for the collection of quality assurance data to renew the waiver in 2015.
- Karen Tescher reported that the Medically Fragile and Children's Hospice waiver are currently operational. Medical Services continues to be interested in suggestions to reach more parents as neither waiver is filled. The state has completed the information gathering for Children's Hospice waiver to be renewed next year and they have received a letter from CMS that they met all of the requirements. Karen also talked about the Money Follows the Person grant which is able to assist children that might be moving out of ICF-MR. Children must have been in an institutional setting for 3 months or longer. It can be either an ICF or a nursing facility that someone is transitioning out of into the community. The child must have been Medicaid eligible to enroll in program while they were in the facility. There is \$3000 to help with transitioning home. Karen also stated that the state is evaluating how the first six months of Out of State Service policy will go and if it will be beneficial to families. Karen noted that Meagan Heckaman is the new Utilization Review Manager.
- Steve Bourgois is a new staff member with DPI and he is currently working on APR and SPP reporting for special education. Steve was with the Secretary of State's office and was head of election administration. He has a data and statistics background.
- Jackie Haraysm attended the national homeless coordinator meeting. Currently she is working on creating a webinar on homelessness.
- Nancy Skorheim reported that she is responsible for Part B, Section 619 (Early Childhood Special Education) and deaf blind services. She has been working on the transition guidelines which are getting closer to being completed. She will be providing training with Part C this fall. Nancy reported that she participated in a conference call with Amanda Carlson and NECTAC/ECO staff regarding early childhood outcomes systems.
- Stephen Olson reported that the Infant Development program that is he associated with, Early Intervention Partners, is operational and is currently serving 40 children in the Region 5 area. They will be starting to work with CQI soon.
- Shannon Grave reported that they have hired another instructor in UND's special education program to meet the growing demand. Shannon brought up the teach reciprocity issue (HB 1270) that changed during the last legislative session – still attempting to understand the repercussions of this law on higher education. Shannon noted that she will be teach an online course in Infant – Toddler Mental Health this summer.
- Amanda Lausch noted that she will be transitioning her daughter to kindergarten.
- Roxane –
  - Pathfinder Conference is April 26 – 28. It is being held in conjunction with the Assistive Technology Conference that the Anne Carlsen Center is sponsoring.
  - The Parent Leadership Institute is June 8 & 9. Family Voices is the host and they are looking for applicants.

March 8, 2012

- Designer Genes/Family Voices/Pathfinders – put together Project Carson, which is a parent to parent outreach service for parents expecting a baby with some type of diagnoses. A training workshop was held in December with parents on how to support other parents. Physical outreach is minimal but getting referrals like crazy. Family Voices is conducting the intakes and is serving as the single point of entry for this.
- Amanda distributed a fact sheet and will forward to the membership. The fact sheet is in regards to the inclusion specialist that was hired to support child care providers who was hired through funding provided in SB 2298.
- Gordon LaFrance, Department of Commerce, provided grants to child care who are serving children with special needs. It will be limited funding for staffing or infrastructure.
- Roxane attended the Nation Buddy Walk, where 350 advocates met in D.C. and promoted major legislation relating to support for persons with Down syndrome with their state's Congressional delegation.

**TOPOIC:**

**LEAD AGENCY UPDATES**

**Federal Annual Performance Reports (APR) –**

- Allison reported that Part B submitted their APR on January 30. They were in “Needs Assistance” last year. Presently ND Part B is reporting 85% correction on Indicator 15. For those units who have not corrected, letters have been sent out and they are in the process of correcting noncompliance.
- Amanda reported that Part C submitted on time this year. She noted that ND has not heard back from OSEP where the APR is in the review process. In addition, OSEP Tables 1 and 2 were submitted on time. The APR has been reviewed with the Early Intervention staff. Concern was noted with the completion rate of the exit Child Outcome tool. It was at 23%. The state has to work at this completion rate no matter what tool is used. OSEP will issue the letters of determination and analysis of the APR around the first of April. In January, letters of findings were issued for FFY '08,' 09 and '10 and hope to have 2011 out in June. Amanda noted that we have training to do in the area of transition around notification and referral to Part B.

**PART C 2012 APPLICATION/POLICIES**

- The Part C 2012 Application was posted for public comment January 20th on the EI website. This package included the methods/descriptions/policies/procedures on file or due to OSEP by June 30, 2013. One of these policies is that the state cannot require families to apply for Medicaid to receive Infant Development services. We will cover up to 90 days/3 months with Part C funding. Starting July 1, the state office had to increase the portion of Part C money allocated to direct services to \$450,000. The state office is developing a script to talk to families about the benefits to them to access Medicaid. Amanda reported that she is not anticipating a huge increase in families that don't want Medicaid. Comments on the application package can be made to up until March 20th. There were two public hearings on February 21st during the day and February 23rd during the evening. Amanda noted that any policies not on file with OSEP are due to them by June 30, 2013. We are prioritizing that list currently.

**OSEP CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT VISIT**

- Both Amanda and Allison reported that OSEP has informed them that they are not completing Verification/Continuous Improvement visits this year. North Dakota was slated for a visit. OSEP is currently changing the focus from compliance of Part C and Part B to looking at how well prepared kids are to transition from Part C to Part B and transition to graduate (Results). The state has not had an on-site visit from OSEP since 2006. There is still the possibility that OSEP may call PTI and IDEA Advisory Panel and the ICC to check on state performance.

March 8, 2012

- Allison said their OSEP contact staff is still trying to come to North Dakota and go to Minot and maybe Tioga/Stanley.
- There was a discussion about the impact of the oil boom. All 50 states and 35 countries are represented in the town of Stanley because of the oil boom. *Talked about the establishment of a new task force from the IDEA State Advisory Committee and the NDICC to look at various areas of the effects of the oil impact and what can we do to address such areas as homelessness, interpretation needs, behavior issues, etc.* Jacki Harasym reported that their data is also increasing. Karen Tescher stated that Medical Services is seeing more use of the Emergency Room and their department is continuing to look at how Medicaid access is being affected by the oil boom.
- Jacki Harasym stated that DPI is working towards more collaboration between the homelessness liaison and special education staff. The Homeless program has resources/services available and can collaborate with the IEP team as well as help to identify students in need of special education. Jacki noted that housing in the oil impact area is limited and if someone is currently living in a FEMA trailer, they are considered homeless.
- Amanda Carlson, Allison Dollar, Steve Bourgois, Cathy Haarstad, Pam Ahman, Deb Huber, Jacki Harasym, Nancy Skorheim, and a Practitioner also. This Task Force will look at immigration numbers and effects in North Dakota. **Send recommendations to Amanda and Allison for participants for this group.**

There was discussion about issues that are in front of the two committees that will be attended to in the next legislative session. It was discussed that professional recruitment is a joint topic. It will be good if the task force can identify some things for us to consider.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER**

Update from Allison on the Task Force.

Update on reciprocity – have Janet Welk give an update.

Update from OSEP

Update on Transition at 3

March 8, 2012