

June 7, 2012

Approved 9.20.12

**NDICC
JUNE 7, 2012
PRAIRIE HILLS PLAZA
BISMARCK NORTH DAKOTA**

PRESENT

Allison Dybing-Driessen
Holly Major
Tammy Gallup-Miller
Cassie Keller
Jackie Haraysm
Dr. Steve Olson

Holly English
Amanda Carlson
Shannon Grave
Dana LoneBear
Nancy Skorheim (Via phone)

STAFF

Amanda Carlson
Roxane Romanick
Colette Perkins

Natalie Maxwell, and her son Landon, were present to provide the Council with their family story. Landon was diagnosed prenatally with a congenital heart defect. Natalie shared their family's journey through his diagnosis, his first surgeries and hospitalization, and their involvement in the North Dakota Early Intervention system. A big thanks to the Maxwell's for sharing. Natalie's blog is at: Landonsletters@blogspot.com.

TOPIC: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Committee members introduced themselves.

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

- Additions are: OSEP verification and OSEP conference.

TOPIC: MINUTES REVIEW – March2012

- There were no changes to the minutes as distributed.

TOPIC: MEMBERS UPDATES AND ISSUES

- Allison – Head Start going through many issues at this time. The Fargo area Head Start program has always been high performing, but a system error was found on their last federal review and now their grant has to go out for re-competition. Williston Public Schools decided to not continue to host the Head Start grant in that area of the state and the director resigned, so now the program is without a facility and a director. The grant will go to a federal regional center in Denver while they

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try to figure out what will happen. Minot Head Start is getting back into their building after the flooding.

- Holly – Reported that their office at Minot State is reviewing some interesting federal guidance higher education and disability. When the Americans with Disabilities Act was reauthorized in 2008, the way higher education viewed disability was deemed to be inappropriate and burdensome. The reauthorization and continuing guidance is that the primary documentation is student self-report on whether or not there is a disability
- Tammy – Dr. Dwelle, the state director for the Health Department, has requested meeting with the Governor regarding the public health structure in North Dakota with the increasing demands due to increased population in the state. Tammy reported that her office is currently working on the Title V – MCH grant and a couple grants due in July. They are also working on upcoming biennial budget. They are trying to prepare for a possible 8% reduction in federal funding. The guidance to the state departments from the Governor was to prepare a hold-even budget and also a 3% reduction budget. Tammy reported that the Maternal Child Health block grant is a federal/state partnership. (57% federal and 43% state) Currently, ND receives 1.8 million and about one-third of that funding goes to children with special health care needs. Tammy also reported that the federal home visiting funding will go out for RFP's to a non-profit in the state since the state opted not to take the federal money when it was first released. She also reported that nationally there are two new areas of newborn screenings that are being promoted federally: SCID, which is an auto-immune disease has become a nationally accepted screen and congenital heart disease screening. Currently, North Dakota has no adopted either of these two screenings into the newborn screening profile. Tammy provided information on the North Dakota Immunization Conference, the state Injury Prevention Conference and the Causal Leadership (Partnering with Families) Summit. The Ronald McDonald Dental Care Mobile is off the ground and in operation. Allison then shared about a pediatric dental day at Spirit Lake that they helped participate in. Around 300 children in all were seen.
- Nancy reported that currently the transition guidelines are in final stages of revision and training dates have been set in the fall to roll out the guidelines to the field. Part B has been working on indicator 7 (Preschool Children with Improved Outcomes) and indicator 12 (IEP by age of 3). DPI is currently working to align the Early Learning Guidelines with state standards. Nancy noted that there is a need for consistency on age appropriate activities as well as an assessment tool and a curriculum for preschool. DPI has developed draft documents to take documents to next stage to use with curriculum guide. Tara Bitz has been taking the lead on this.
- Shannon – infant toddler mental health class is going this summer at UND. 16 people in the class.
- Jackie – Minot has 1200 homeless students due to flooding and people living in FEMA trailer camps. Homeless – Jackie reported that her office is accepting grant apps statewide for homeless programming and closing date is June 17. Cassie – has a baby girl, still doing daycare, and oldest going to kindergarten this fall.
- Stephen – Reported that three staff has finished the autism certification through UND. Pediatric Therapy Partners is expanding their building this year and will double the size. They will be also adding a few more services. Stephen reported

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that the children that Early Intervention Partners (EIP) is serving continues to climb in the West Fargo area. EIP will be going through CQL (the accreditation process) the end of this month. They will be hosting a picnic at the end of June for families who are using their Early Intervention services. Stephen reported that getting services covered that are delivered out of state continues to be difficult.

- Holly – She and her family have moved back to Bismarck. They have started to prepare to transition out of EI. She is very interested in promoting sibling support in the area and is attempting to get Don Meyer here for training. She would like to see more recreational programming for siblings of individuals with disabilities.
- Amanda – IDEA Advisory Committee contracted with NDCPD to do a brief study and they presented on this yesterday at the IDEA State Advisory Panel. The report is focused on schools, teacher vacancies, etc. Amanda reported that they have not seen much of increase in referrals in EI, but the needs are significant. Providers struggling to hire staff and contracting with staff. Dickinson has seen an increase in Right Track referrals. Minot has not reported a significant increase in the amount of involvement with the children entering Early Intervention. Amanda reported that she is waiting to hear back on North Dakota's federal level of determination. The Part C application was submitted on time. She has been working with DPI on the transition guidelines and getting ready for joint training in the fall.
- Roxane reported that she had attended the Medicaid Pediatric Task Force meeting which is a meeting that is offered to providers and families to come together around Medicaid issues with Medical Services staff. There will be a presentation from EPSDT and CSHS due to the information generated at the meeting. In regards to the Out-of-State Services Policy, Medical Services reported that they have had about thirty requests to implement the policy. Medical Services staff reported that about 50% of those requests were unnecessary and didn't have to go through out of state policy. Roxane noted that she would send the link to the policy to the Council members. MedCenter One has been collecting signatures to support generating a new legislative bill that would essentially remove the requirement of to have an intellectual disability from the eligibility requirements for children applying for the waiver. This would support a child who cannot be diagnosed with an intellectual disability, but has substantial functional limitations due to other reasons under the waiver. Roxane noted that Designer Genes is hosting the Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp in August. This camp assists individuals with disabilities to become independent bike riders over the course of 5 days. Participants have to be 8 and there are some weight considerations. Roxane asked that everyone would get the word out about the camp as there have been fewer participants register than expected.
- Jennifer Barry reported on the Inclusive Child Care grants through the Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce had to use 50% of the remaining child care grant funds for special needs child care request funds. The funds can be used for increased staffing and infrastructure. The grant opened in December and there were 4 applications and 3 were granted. Currently there is approximately \$14,000 left to be reissued. Jennifer noted that contacting Kathy Lee at MSU/NDCPD would be helpful to get ideas on specific modifications for the providers' unique environments. Roxane will forward this email to members.

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TOPIC: STANDING NDICC AGENDA ITEMS

Part C Budget Report

- Amanda shared the FFY '10 Part C budget as of April 30, 2012. It was noted that ND started spending the FFY '10 federal budget on October 1, 2011. Amanda reported that \$250,000 of Part C funding has been spent on Therap updates since 7-1-11 (start of the new biennium). There has been \$405,863 spent on direct EI services since 7-1-11. \$6685 spent on ICC travel since 10-1-11.

NDICC Membership Updates

- Three Speed Early Intervention has decided to not renew their license as of the end of June. This will mean that a provider position will open up on the ICC. Roxane requested that the ICC discuss the different venues or positions that we may want to explore to fill this position. She noted that provider is defined in the regulations as a public or private provider of early intervention services. Ideas that were generated: someone from Standing Rock's Infant Development program, Infant Development in Williston, parent who is the infant toddler coordinator for Early Childhood Tracking on Spirit Lake, pediatric practice that hires a parent liaison, someone from the western part of the state would be good, representation from Pathfinder's. Roxane requested that names be sent to her if someone thinks of another role.
- Elections will be held at the next meeting. Chair position will be open. Vice Chair open. Roxane noted that in the past she has put out an online survey and then she contacts people based on feedback. She will do this again prior to the next meeting. The reappointments coming due as of 8-31-12 are: Tammy, Dave Z, Karen T, Nancy S – appointment will go until 2015. Dana Lone Bear, Holly M, Amanda L, Steve, and Jill are up.
- Allison Dollar resigned as special education director and they hired Gerry Teevens. We discussed scheduling for 2013. Gerry has conflicts on the months that we typically meeting in, so we are considering meeting in January, April, July, and October to meet with IDEA. We will talk about this at our next meeting.

DD Slots Report

- Renewed slots for the entire waiver on April 1.
- Did not need the 135 emergency slots for early intervention.
- We the slots were renewed with CMS, 105 slots were added to our total plus still having the 135 emergency slots for early intervention.
- It was noted that there was a total of 4345 slots and 3900 were used in this last waiver cycle.
- A suggestion was made that a guide to DD Slot management would be helpful to the field.
- Infant Development budgets – Amanda reported that we are serving fewer children than what we anticipated and we are still over budget. This may due to not anticipating the demand for services once the field switched over to fee for service.

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General Supervision Work Plan Update

- The state team is meeting once a month. Everything was submitted on time. APR clarification was received. Currently working on prioritizing policies that need to be written.

Committee Reports

- EI Services Subcommittee –Met Tuesday of this week to meet with publishers of on-line assessments that can be used for Indicator 3 to measure child outcomes. There are only 2 publishers that have this product and can create the OSEP reports. Brookes Publishing presented in the morning and GOLD (Creative Curriculum) in the afternoon. The subcommittee has until next Friday to provide input and then a decision will be made within the next 3 weeks. The initial reaction of the committee is that the AEPS is more sensitive to the needs of children with special needs and that the ongoing improvement to the tool is impressive.

TOPIC: OLD BUSINESS

Autism Waiver Updates

- No discussion was held.

Letter regarding ESEA/IDEA Reauthorization

- Amanda reported that the Division will be sending this letter.

Legislative Event

- Will try to do before the next meeting.

APR Updates

- Family Survey identifier – Amanda reported that there was serious consideration of the Council's recommendation to delete the identifier however the final decision was made to keep the identifier as this was the only way to assure reliable and valid reporting on all of the elements required for the APR. The Division mailed out 774 surveys on May 22, 2012 to collect data for FFY '11.

TOPIC: PART C APPLICATION

TOPIC: REPORT ON FFY 10 PROGRAM REPORTS & LEVEL OF DETERMINATION

- Letters of findings were issued to the regional DD units and corresponding ID programs in January, 2012. The findings were to be closes (both Prong 1 and Prong 2) by June 30, 2012. Program levels of determinations and program reports were issued last week. These were shared with the NDICC. The program reports and the letters of determination that the programs received will be posted on the ND EI website.

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TOPIC: DISCUSSION REGARDING MEDICAID OPTION

- Presently, the Part C regulations specifically state that a family cannot be forced to apply for public benefits to access Part C services, so we are working with DD Program Managers and ID staff to train on this issue. In addition, families have to give permission to use public benefits (insurance) to access Part C services if they have it.
- There was additional discussion about the different waiver programs for children. It was noted that if a waiver is opened up for changes or when it's renewed, it has to be put out for public comment. A Council member noted that the waiver system is very complicated and that often even staff do not understand the various waivers and they try to talk people out of the waivers, because they don't understand them.
- Roxane had supplied the Council with a side-by-side comparison that Medical Services has developed. Decision to make this more family friendly and to have the EI Services Subcommittee work on this.

REVIEW OF TALKING POINTS

- Amanda reviewed the Public Access form and the Talking Points that were supplied to the field to discuss the option of applying for Medicaid upon entrance to EI.

TOPIC: NEXT MEETING

- Report on Right Track – family story and a data presentation.
- Pull E.I. Services Committee together.

TOPIC: OSEP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

- Budgeted one ICC parent to go and would like to invite a parent.
- Let Amanda know by next week if an ICC parent is interested in going.