

September 20, 2012

**ICC/IDEA JOINT MEETING
Radisson Inn, Bismarck
SEPT 20, 2012**

PRESENT:

Amanda Carlson	Jill Staudinger
Cindy Lund	Cassie Keller
Katherine Ternas	Tina Bay
Eric Wittliff	Holly English
Shannon Grave	Stephen Olson
Barb Swegarden	Nancy Skorheim
Jacki Harasym	Tamara Gallup-Millner
Ritz Weisz	Carol Brakel
Cindy Lund	Karen Tescher
	Allison Driessen
	Holly Major
	Scot Hoeper

Staff:

Steve Bourgois
Roxane Romanick

TOPIC: INTRODUCTIONS

All members introduced themselves.

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The minutes were approved as distributed.

TOPIC: FAMILY STORY

- Shale Erickson and his mom, Karen Erickson presented Shale's experience with the recent Lose the Training Wheels camp and his past successes. The Lose the Training Wheels camp was brought to Bismarck by Designer Genes of North Dakota. It was initially designed and created by a mechanical engineer, Dr. Richard Klein to teach individuals with disabilities to ride two-wheel bike. Now LTTW has 10 fleets of specially designed and built bikes and holds camps throughout the

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United States and Canada. The Bismarck camp had 32 riders and 28 individuals were successfully riding without training wheels at the end of the five day camp. Shale is 23 years old and his mom told the group how much it meant to their entire family to have him riding bike independently.

- Karen told the group that she and her husband did not know that Shale would have Down syndrome prior to his birth and it was a big adjustment. He received Early Intervention services and went on to preschool special education at Mandan. Shale graduated from Mandan High School in 2010. He has a past history of having leukemia and at one point, he was released from the hospital on hospice and not expected to live. Now he's a three time silver medalist at the National Special Olympics games in powerlifting. Shale stated he's looking forward to participating as a Olympian at the games in Princeton, New Jersey.
- Karen reported that one of their challenges currently is finding him employment that will work for him. He had a job but it cost him more to take the taxi to work and back then he made and so he had to quit. Presently he is working on building a fence with his dad and siding a cabin.

TOPIC: MINUTES MARCH 2012

- A motion was made by Barb Swegarden and seconded by Tina Bay to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

TOPIC: 2013 MEETING DATES

- IDEA is meeting on the following days:
 - Dec 12, 2012
 - March 13, 2013
 - June 5, 2013
 - Sept 25, 2013

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- Discussion about IDEA and ICC meeting jointly twice a year. It was noted that we continue to have the requirements of IDEA that we both have to consider and that meeting jointly is helpful for that purpose.

ACTION:

- **A motion was made by Holly Major and seconded by Tammy Gallup-Millner that IDEA and ICC would meet jointly twice a year. Motion carried.**
 - IDEA and ICC will meet jointly on June 6 in the morning and Sept 26 in the morning. These meetings will be face-to-face.

TOPIC: MEMBERS UPDATES AND ISSUES

- Holly Major stated that she has had a team meeting to talk about Katie's assessment plan.
- Allison Driessen reported that the Head Start conference will be held on Nov. 6 and 7 and will focus on school readiness. There has been a lot of turnover in Head Start in leadership positions. Linda Rorman, the state Head Start Collaboration Officer, resigned and the Department of Human Services are currently interviewing for her position. The Head Start Association has met with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction and requested that the position be transferred to the Department of Public Instruction. There has been a clearer focus from the federal Head Start partners that the emphasis needs to be on school readiness. It was felt that locating the state Collaboration officer in DPI would bring the state closer to this focus.
- Karen Tescher - Medicaid world – getting ready for the Legislative Session. Medical Services has received many out of state service requests in regards to the pilot project that it is being extended. Medical providers have been sent letters regarding this extension. The Medically Fragile Waiver is not being fully utilized as it could be. Kathy Barchenger maintains oversight of the Medically Fragile

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Waiver. Since March of this year, she has taken another position within HCBS and still maintains oversight of the waiver and works in adult world of HCBS policy and procedure training for the programs.

- Jackie Harasym discussed DPI issues relating to programs supporting students who are homeless. DPI is currently working on granting out the federal funds that they receive. They are working with the school districts to identify homeless needs. It is apparent that the homeless student issue is larger than who is being reported. Williston and Minot are two areas that they are working closely with due to the oil boom and the recent flooding. DPI is currently working to train districts on recognizing homeless situations.
- Barb Swegarden announced that the State Council for Exceptional Children Conference is in Fargo at the Holiday Inn on Jan. 24, 25, and 26, 2013. Temple Grandin will be presenting on Jan 24. Anita Archer will be full day preconference presenter on Friday. CEC is currently looking for a 2nd preconference presenter. CEC is also looking at increasing the sessions on assistive technology.
- Eric Witliff – Their family is back in their house after the flood. They are currently considering residential options for their son.
- Carol Brakel reported that they are seeing more referrals on infants in their region.
- Tammy Gallup-Millner announced that there is new information developing in the arena of newborn screening with additional conditions being considered as well as screening for critical congenital heart disease conditions. The Department of Health is deciding how to proceed with the new recommendations, but is concerned because they don't have staff support for follow up. CSHS Staff are currently involved in the state autism task force and efforts are being made to align a strategic plan with the work of the legislative interim committee. There continues to be a lack of overall consensus with autism efforts in the state. The Department of Health is continuing to look at possible decreased federal funding.
- Shannon Graves reported that UND is offering a few new courses and there may be programs added; such as a certificate program

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around early childhood special education with a focus on birth to 3. UND is currently hiring new staff.

- Katherine Ternes reported that UND has a distance degree program, on-line without residency requirement which is continuing to grow nationally. This program has attracted a lot of international students. UND has gotten a lot of feedback from students who view North Dakota as ahead of the game.
- Stephen Olson reported that Pediatric Therapy Partners has been meeting with community partners to look at the gap between kids who have mental health concerns and/or are on the autism spectrum disorder. In general, children with these diagnoses are not getting services they need as there is no coverage through their insurance. Stephen reported that in the spring of 2013, they are adding a 6000 sq. ft. addition to provide services in this area. Infant development growing and serving between 50-60 kids.
- Nancy Skorheim noted that she is the Section 619 Coordinator which focuses on educational supports for 3-4-5 year olds. Nancy reported that she and Amanda Carlson will be starting to complete regional trainings on the transition guidelines this month. Steve - getting data ready and analyzing. 619 – Part b has more 618 existing things.
- Shawna Ereth reported that her triplets started kindergarten and they are working through some adjustment issues with her son.
- Cindy Lund noted that there has been some staff turnover at Protection and Advocacy and they are now fully staffed again.
- Holly English noted that she has moved back to Bismarck. She added that the twins are busy and her baby will be one on Sunday.
- Tina Bay reported that the Division is working on the budget to submit to the Office of Management and Budget. The Traditional Waiver is due to expire in March, 2014. The Division submitted quality indicator and report findings to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare and is waiting for a response. The Autism Waiver expires in October, 2013 and the Division is working on gaining information on how to edit the waiver. The Division will be having some stakeholder meetings in November and December in

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addition to the work with the Autism Task Force and Protection and Advocacy in regards to services in the Autism Waiver.

- Jill Staudinger reported that Region VIII has been working to stay ahead of changes in their region. Continuing to work with their Early Head Start partner and other partners in the community. There are three new pediatricians that have moved into the Dickinson area.
- Roxane Romanick noted that there is an upcoming IDEA webinar and there are fliers on the back table. The webinar is on Results-driven accountability. Roxane shared information about the OSEP blog that is currently occurring. Roxane pointed out that the Division for Early Childhood conference and early childhood outcome conference is in Minneapolis this year in October. Roxane announced that Lutheran Social Services is holding child care summit on October 2. Roxane shared information about the Achieving a Better Lifestyle (ABLE) Act. Roxane will forward out some talking points about this to the members. Roxane announced that the Annual Buddy Walk is September 29th. Also showed a copy of the Council on Exceptional Children public policy publication which featured a story about Elizabeth Romanick.
- Cassie Keller noted that she is busy doing care 60 hours a week, house hunting, and trying to raise an 8 month old. Project Carson is up and running and applying for grants.

TOPIC: CAUSAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

- Donene Feist is the Director of ND Family Voices.
- This Conference is being held on October 19th at Tom O'Leary Country Club in Bismarck.
- The purpose is to promote a better approach to engaging providers and families together to embrace issues.
- Eileen Forlenza is the presenter and is active in conducting advocacy work on families and children with special health care needs.
- This conference is sponsored by Early Childhood Comprehensive System, Dept. of Health, and Healthy North Dakota.

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- Eileen will provide tools on how to approach working with families conducive to their needs and families to work with providers.
- There will be a follow-up session on October 20th from 9 to noon to work on action plans from the previous day
- To register Call Family Voices at 888-522-9654.
- Offering CEUs for social work.
- There are stipends for families to attend that will pay mileage and motel.
- Indicate when registering that you are registering a family.

TOPIC: PART C TO PART B TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

- Amanda and Nancy shared an overview of what is coming in regards to transition.
- The transition guide, which is endorsed by both Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction, was created in 2006. Due to updated Part C regulations, the transition guide has been revised.
- Regional trainings will be held this month across the state for both Part B and Part staff.
- The outcomes for the training include the following: review the existing early childhood transition process; learn how the new Part C regulations impact the process; understand roles and responsibilities in the transition process; and work together to deliver a consistent early childhood transition process across the state.
- Amanda noted that Part C's opt-out policy was out for comment in January. This is currently at OSEP waiting for approval. DD Program Management and Infant Development will present the opt-out form to families at the time the child is 2 year, 5 months or any time after that children enter into Part C. Part C is hoping to implement the opt-out option by end of September or first of October.
- Amanda and Nancy noted that one of the most significant changes is that any information that is child specific and is exchanged from Part C to Part B is concerned a referral to Part B.

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- Potentially eligible children definition in North Dakota has been created.

TOPIC: PART B INDICATOR 6

- Nancy Skorheim reported that Indicator 6 on the Part B section of the Annual Performance Report refers to the least restrictive environment for preschool settings.
- The data has been collected for a couple of years and this year, the state has to set targets for this indicator.
- DPI will be seeking input from different groups to decide on setting the targets.
- Environmental codes have been developed on the IEP and the state has been using these for a couple of years to get ready to set targets.
- For data purposes a regular environment is defined where 50% of the students enrolled or less are on an Individual Education Plan.
- DPI is currently looking at all data for programming reasons.
- Child count for 618 data collection and OSEP asks the state to pick a date between October and December of each year and count all children. North Dakota uses December 1.
- Issues to Consider:
 - Funding – what are the differences; Minimum N sizes – deviations can skew your information; Continuum of Placement Options.
 - How does ND approach this new indicator? Nancy and Steve will look at how to gather the input from entities after this is fine tuned.

TOPIC: OIL IMPACT AREA DISCUSSION

- There was a conversation last March and there was a discussion about a task force looking at migration numbers and the effect on support systems in our state.
- DPI is still looking at this. Some issues that are being studied are how are school buildings affected, where are there teacher

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shortages, etc. NDCPD conducted a brief survey with DPI that included an interview with the administrators on what is happening in their districts. This survey needs an accompanying data piece with exact numbers. There are plans to meet with each unit to discuss what they are seeing over the next month and a half and then to conduct a request for information.

- DD Division has not been contacted to participate in anything. Do know our programs are highly impacted. Dickinson DDPMs are gathering some information from families.

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