

January 31, 2013

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
THURS, JAN 31, 2013  
PRAIRIE/ROSE ROOMS  
BISMARCK, ND  
And  
Statewide Video Conferencing**

*Approved: 3.14.13*

**PRESENT**

Karen Tescher  
Moe Schroeder  
Shannon Grave  
Stephen Olson  
Dave Zimmerman  
Jaret Cvancara  
Lori Wentz  
Cassie Keller

Jennifer Barry  
Carol Brakel  
Jill Staudinger  
Amanda Lausch  
Nancy Skorheim  
Gladys Baerwald  
Jacky Haarysm

**Staff**

Roxane Romanick  
Amanda Carlson  
Colette Perkins

**Guest**

Jaret Cvanara

**TOPIC: INTRODUCTIONS**

- Everyone introduced themselves.

**TOPIC: MINUTES REVIEW FROM 12/6/2012**

- Review of minutes was tabled until the March meeting.

**TOPIC: MEMBER UPDATES**

- Jennifer Barry reported on the following legislation:
  - SB 2244 – a bill to provide an appropriation to the Department of Human Services for the Early Childhood Services Inclusion Support Services and grants. \$300,000 for the purpose of contracting for early childhood services specialists to provide technical assistance to early childhood services providers; and \$200,00 for the purpose of providing grants to licensed early childhood services providers that provide care for children with disabilities or developmental delays (equipment, supplies, modifications, and staffing)
  - HB 1422 – a bill to provide an appropriation for a child care stabilization initiative to provide assistance to stabilize child care operations, recruit

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and retain a qualified workforce and advance quality child care practices through the implementation and administration. Currently \$15.5 million fiscal note attached.

- There is a bill to bring a state appropriation for expansion of Head Start.
- There are 2 preschool (pre-K) bills (SB 2229/HB 1429) to bring funding to local school districts to expand preschool services.
- SB 2256 – legislation to provide structure for home visiting programs in the state. There is not a fiscal note on this bill.
- Karen Tescher reported on the fact that there are currently four bills in the House and Senate combined dealing with Autism supports and services.
- David Zimmerman reported on two particular bills relating to the Affordable Health Care Act – HB 1034: maintaining a health care reform committee and HB 1362: Medicaid expansion.
- Nancy Skorheim spoke about the pre-K standards that are aligned to the Kindergarten standards and encouraged the committee to have an Tara Bitz who is heading this project at DPI
- Gladys Baewald noted that they continue to struggle to recruit Early Childhood personnel to the early childhood program that she is employed with.

#### **TOPIC: MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Moe was appointed to the other provider position.  
All NDICC memberships are currently active and filled.

#### **TOPIC: REVIEW OF FFY 11 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT (APR)**

The NDICC was provided with the FFY '11 APR information. They were also provided with the link to the FFY '10 APR and updated SPP.

#### **Indicator 1 – Timely Initiation of Services:**

Discussion: There is a significant lack of available staff in the NW area of the state. It is difficult to meet the needs of families who may need an evening appointment and when travel is required. Currently there is only one staff person who is able to complete an evaluation/assessment without a sign off. It was noted that there are staff shortages in the central part of the state as well.

Suggestions:

- Have a parent speak with preservice programs or potential employees/contractors
- Important to emphasize the positive aspects of working in Early Intervention – need to include more humanizing stories about what early interventionists do; important to tell the stories.
- Suggestion to look into a payback loan program for Early Interventionists.
- Explore two year agreements for education for individuals interested in Early Intervention careers.
- Let colleges/universities know about the opportunity to do an internship/field experience at an infant development program
- Discuss outreach to high school students as well
- Explore existing legislation to see if it could be expanded to include Early Intervention (i.e. HB 1317)

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- Discussion of doing a survey about current needs/status to include the following: Who is currently working, positions that are needing to be filled, how many are retiring in the near future, is what was authorized actually delivered into services, contract and hired staff.
- Add in Experienced Parents to Improvement Activity 9A
- Assure that all partners in Early Intervention have access to training as in the example of Improvement Activity 14 and 15.

### **Indicator 2 – Children served in their natural environments**

Suggestions:

- Discussion about needing materials that is in a parent and/or child's native language. Currently there is a concern about accessing translators for Early Intervention programs. Suggestion made to check to see if translation can be reimbursed by Medicaid and if this could be written into the waiver when the waiver is renewed.
- Suggestion was also made to look into electronic translation possibilities. Official documents should also be considered.

### **Indicator 3 – A, B, C – Child Outcomes**

Discussion: The state has not contracted with a new provider to supply a new tool for measurement of the child outcomes. Initial work was done and the state is in the process of writing a Request for Proposals.

Suggestion:

- Collaboration with Part B on standards alignment work.
- Revisit the targets once the new tool is implemented as they are not in alignment with the federal target information.

### **Indicator 4 – A, B, C – Family Outcomes**

Discussion: The state sent out 731 surveys, return rate of 27% with 197 returned. This is the first year that the ECO – R survey was used. This survey is shorter and contained on two pages. We had some programs do outreach to families to get them completed. Better knowledge of the field that the survey was going out.

Suggestions:

- Add a comment section to the survey so that families can write in comments.
- Continue to evaluate whether or not the survey can be sent out without an identifier. Then could add an optional section for a name.
- Assure that families know that the survey pertains to both ID and DDPM.
- Use an outside entity, such as Family Voices, to conduct the survey. Use Family Voices to conduct focus groups to add to the information in the survey.
- Assure that we distribute and train on any updated information in Improvement Activity 8
- Continue to explore materials being produced in “native language”.

### **Indicator 5 & 6 – Child Count/ChildFind**

It was discovered that the target for Indicator 6 was inaccurate on the State Performance Plan that was submitted in FFY '10, so it was requested of the NDICC to approve a correction. The target for FFY '11 was stated as 3.2, but should have been 3.3. Carol Brakel made a motion to reflect the correct target percentage as 3.3%. Lori Wentz seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

The NDICC would like to have any reasons for slippage in Indicator 5 to be shared with them.

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### **Indicator 7 – 45 Day Timeline**

Discussion: It was noted that Region IV and VIII had many migrant families which impacted the access to these families and so the 45 day time line was missed. It was noted that one region uses a tracking sheet and then this is shared with families in determining the reason for the delay. It was noted that it is difficult for families if there is only one option given for a meeting at the end of the 45 day timeline. The development of a decision-making tree which asks whether earlier steps were taken in a timely manner can be helpful.

Suggestion:

- Division to have 2 times a year orientation training for service coordinators/DDPMs – Part C 101 and those that need a refresher on Part C.

### **Indicator 8 – A, B, C - Transition**

Discussion: It was noted that there is upcoming training scheduled in March and April on Transition. Both Improvement Activities are completed.

### **Indicator 9 – Correction of noncompliance**

Discussion: The state has assured correction of all findings that were issued in January, 2012 except for one program which continues to be in noncompliance and has been unable to close Prong 2 for Indicators 1, 7, and 8. This program continues to be on a Regional Action Plan and is receiving intensive technical assistance. North Dakota will not be reporting on any correction of noncompliance as no findings were issued in FFY '10 (which is the year that is required to be discussed). Extensive information will be provided to OSEP on the fact that findings discovered in FFY '08, FFY '09, and FFY '10 have been formally issued to the appropriate programs in FFY '11. These corrections will be reported in the FFY '12 report filed in Feb., 2014. In addition, new findings will be issued on the FFY '11 information by April 1, 2013.

**OSEP has stated that states do not need to report on Indicator 10, 11, and 12 – however ND did not have any incidences of due process hearings, formal complaints, or mediation. Currently ND does not use the Part B procedure for resolutions (Indicator 12).**

### **Indicator 14 – Timely and Accurate Data**

The state will be reporting 100% on this indicator as all reports have been filed on time.

**Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 via video conferencing. Agenda items as follows:**

Information on infant development pay points.

Report on Autism bills.

The public comment period on the 2013 Part C Application, plus Early Intervention policies will still be active when NDICC meets. A public hearing will be scheduled for the evening of the NDICC meeting. A suggestion was to encourage NDICC members to bring a family that is receiving services to the hearing if appropriate.