

June 6, 2013

**ICC MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 6, 2013
COMFORT INN
BISMARCK, ND**

Approved as corrected 12.5.13

PRESENT

David Zimmerman
Nancy Skorheim
Holly English
Moe Schroeder
Allison Driesson
Karen Tescher
Jacki Harasym
Tammy Gallup-Millner

Holy Major
Carol Brakel
Jennifer Barry
Stephen Olson
Cassie Keller
Scot Hoyer

Staff:

Amanda Carlson
Roxane Romanick

TOPIC: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Introductions were made.

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

- No changes.

TOPIC: MINUTES REVIEW – MARCH 14 2013

- Minutes were tabled for review until September, 2013 meeting as they were not included in the mailing for the meeting.

TOPIC: MEMBERS UPDATES AND ISSUES

- Allison Driessen reported that attempts were made to connect with Senator Tyler Axness and Senator Nicole Poolman regarding the legislative opening on the council. Contact was successfully made with Senator Axness by the time of the meeting and he is interested in joining the Council if appointed.
- Karen Tescher reported on the status of children's waivers in the state. They have been working with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare since March to align the Children's Hospice Waiver with what is now allowed under State Plan Medicaid. The Children's Hospice Waiver is due to be renewed by Sept. 14, 2013. Service to be offered will now include: Case Management/Monitoring; Skilled respite; Expressive Therapy – Art; and Equipment and supplies. State plan Medicaid will pay for some case management, and grief counseling up to a year. The Children's Hospice Waiver renewal is out for public comment until 6.15.13. Karen also reported on the Medically Fragile Waiver for Children. There are currently nine children being

June 6, 2013

served on the waiver with two cases pending. There has been no change on the level of need. Karen will update the waiver comparison sheet and forward to Roxane to distribute to members.

- Stephen Olson reported that Pediatric Therapy Partners will be opening a clinic in Bismarck later in the summer.

TOPIC: STANDING NDICC AGENDA ITEMS

- Part C Budget Report – The state office is currently spending FFY '11 funds. Money received in July of this year was for FFY '12 and we will have until December, 2013 to start using. There has continued to be an increase in the amount that is being spent on direct services and currently there has been \$250,000 spent in direct services. Amanda noted that the most that was spent in the past in the line item for direct services was \$45,000.
 - Experienced Parents – Northern Plains Special Education currently holds the contracts for Regions IV, V, and the State Family Liaison position. They have decided that they are no longer are interested in holding these contracts. New contract entities will need to be located. The regional Experienced Parent contracts are handled at the regional level. There has been some talk about pulling that spending authority back to the state office, further define the scope of service of Experienced Parents.
 - UND Parents as Trainers – The State Office has determined that this will be the last year of this contract, which expires Dec 31, 2013.
 - Audiologists – A new reporting form was developed to ensure that only bills for Part C children are being reimbursed.
 - There was \$2.17m in the FFY '11 budget and of that, we have \$665,587 left to spend, before we start using the FFY '12 budget.
 - Discussion occurred regarding families having adequate information about applying for Medicaid. A question was asked whether or not the denial of applying for Medicaid has any trends, such as rural vs. urban. It was noted that a number of individuals just opted out of EI prior because they didn't want to apply for Medicaid. There was no data taken on this, so we don't have that number to compare to. It was noted that DD Program Management is bringing back the topic to families at different times during the course of service. A suggestion was made to have DDPM's hand out a business card for state office staff so that if a parent has questions later or whatever, they could call and ask Amanda and/or Roxane. Another suggestion was made to develop a short form just for early intervention to explain the MA options for both new applications and redeterminations. This letter could be in the DDPM's intake packet. A suggestion was made to discuss the MA option right after the family signs the application for services. It was noted that timing is important and funding for EI should be discussed at the intake.
 - Sequestration – North Dakota will have a cut of \$110,000 in the FFY '13 budget that we will have to trim from the budget. This cut was not figured into the FFY '13 Part C Application. Part C budget cuts will be a topic on the Sept agenda.
- DD Slots Report:

June 6, 2013

- The traditional waiver renewed and started April 1. Every year add 105 slots to the previous year and hold 190 emergency slots of which 135 are for early intervention. On March 2014, there were a total of 4365 slots available and 3658 assigned which left 707 open slots (This doesn't include the reserve of 190). From April 1, 2012 to March 30, 2013, there were a total of 4260 slots available and 4249 were assigned, leaving 11 free prior to having to use reserve slots.
- Autism waiver – Full slot capacity was hit at the end of January. The state office currently has 4 on the waiting list come Nov 1. Ten children are anticipated to age out of the Autism Waiver by November 1, 2013 (not considering the changes made in the past legislative session). The Legislature increased the Autism Waiver from 30 to 47 slots and increased the age range from 5 years to 7 years. However these changes will not be implemented before 1.1.14. The waiver renewal will occur this fall and then an amendment will be written to incorporate the changes made by the legislature.
- NDICC Membership Updates
 - Legislative Position – The legislative position on the Council continues to be open. The governor's office has asked us to give some recommendations to them. In March, the Council talked about options and requested that the NDICC executive committee take up the discussion. The Executive Committee met and narrowed it to Sen. Nicole Poolman who was involved in the last session on early childhood issues and Sen. Tyler Axness who currently works for Freedom Independent Living Center and has some personal interest due to family member. Both were contacted and Sen. Axness responded. We haven't heard back from Sen. Poolman at the time of this meeting. Tammy made a motion that Senator Axness be forwarded to the governor's office to be considered for membership and seconded by Carol Brakel. Motion carried.
 - Region VIII Parent – There is an open position in Region VIII for a parent. Region VIII was asked for names and 2 names were submitted to the state office and forward to the governor's office. Both have children in early intervention.
 - Several reappointments due on 8.31.13: Tina Bay, Shannon G, Holly English, Cassie Keller, Shawna Ereth, Dr. McDoungh, and Carol Brakel. Roxane will contact you later about reappointment and then submit to the governor's office.
- General Supervision Update
 - Regional Program Reports and Level of Determination –When we submit the federal APR and SPP, ND is assigned level of determination and in turn are required to issue a level of determination to our regional programs as well. The FFY '11 Program Reports and Level of Determinations have been submitted to the regional programs. For most indicators we give the data is broken down by individual programs; however there are a few of the indicators (Indicators 5 and 6) that are reported by region. For FFY '11, there were three regions that Met Requirements and two of these programs were in same status last year. Five programs were in Needs

June 6, 2013

- Assistance; and three in Needs Intervention. The individual program reports and level of determinations will be on the website by the end of the month.
- The Level of determinations are made via a matrix. This matrix was sent to the NDICC Executive Committee for review and then amended by the state office staff. Essentially the matrix criteria was the same as last year. There was some slight amendment made to scoring.
 - It was noted that the Family Survey which provides data for Indicator 4, needs to have services provided by DD Program Managers and Early Intervention providers separated out. It was added that typically families leave early intervention because they are unhappy with services and leave rather than complain. It was also noted that had requested they may have requested a change in personnel, but it never happened. There was a suggestion made that the survey should contain a comment section. There was a suggestion that the cover letter be sent to the Council and Experienced Parents for review by September 1 prior to sending to families with this year's survey. It was suggested that we cull the survey to one page if we are not using the first page of information. The state office will check with ECO to see if this can be done. Suggestion made that any issues that come from the survey be fed back to the provider.
 - Motion made by Stephen Olson and seconded by Nancy Skorheim to have the EI Services Subcommittee review the various options for the protocol of the survey to be used in the FFY '13 reporting. Motion carried. Roxane will convene EI Services Subcommittee in October/November. Recommendations from the subcommittee will be reported back to the NDICC.
 - Roxane referred the Council to the Program Reports that were distributed and noted that for programs that were not at 100% on Indicators 1, 7, and 8 the Council would know that these programs had findings. Regions are working on correcting findings and then working through Prong 2 to assure that the errors are no longer being made. MTAC is assisting the programs with these findings.
- Autism Task Force Report – no meeting since the last NDICC meeting.
 - Committee Reports:
 - The Executive Committee met on 4.4.13 and 4.29.13. Topics covered included setting the agenda for June meeting, legislative position, and the parent position. The recommendation from the Executive Committee was that we leave a parent position open in a region for 6 months and after 6 months, if the position is not filled, then it can be opened up to the rest of the state. Once the term is completed, the position will return to the region for recommendations.
 - In addition, the Joint Chairs of the IDEA State Advisory Committee and the NDICC met on 4.29.13. Met jointly with part B idea to develop agenda for this morning.

TOPIC: OLD BUSINESS

- Roles & Responsibilities of NDICC – Roxane noted that this discussion was started at our September, 2012 meeting. Roxane reviewed the ideas from the Sept meeting

June 6, 2013

and asked for feedback from the Council members on which items they would like to see carried out. Suggestions were made that it would be good to know more about the agencies that are represented and what areas of interest there is in common to promote better collaboration. Suggestion was made to have a presentation on the state perspective on health care reform and implementation – Agencies and families need to be aware of the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act. Suggestion was made to request agenda items from the members prior to the meeting.

- Part C Application – Report of Public Comment - Amanda has summarized the comments; bulk was on the policy package. Comments related to the budget included clarification of the roles of technical assistance, experienced parents, and the state family liaison. Written comments were from professionals. There were no written family comments submitted. This year we had 4 parents at the 1st hearing. The public hearings were better attended than last year.
- The clarified APR was submitted in May.
- State Early Intervention Personnel Review – Item is tabled as Roxane did not send out the power point for NDICC members to review again from the last meeting. Power point will be sent to NDICC members
- Status of Autism Waiver Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Renewal – due October 31, 2013. The Autism Task Force and an ad hoc committee consisting of Family Voices representatives and Protection and Advocacy have discussed the various changes that need to be made to the autism Waiver. As noted earlier, the legislative changes made in this past session will not be included on the renewal application, but will be submitted to CMS as an amendment upon approval of the waiver. Tribal notice for comment went out on June 5. Amanda also discussed the difference between the Autism Voucher program that was passed in the last legislative session and the Autism Waiver. The voucher will be implemented as a pilot project to be initiated by July 1 2014. The voucher will be unable to pay for any behavioral therapies. Individual cannot access the Autism waiver and the Autism voucher. Amanda also reported that the State Autism Coordinator position is posted and will be hired after July 1. This position will assist the state office in writing the waiver renewal for CMS. Roxane will send the link out to members on the comment period.

TOPIC: STRUCTURE OF JOINT MEETINGS

- There was some discussion about our joint meetings with IDEA. There is a concern that the information included in the joint meeting is a duplication of information that IDEA considers the day before at their single meeting. Decision that the Executive committee and co-chairs will meet jointly with IDEA and talk about times and agenda.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 26 and Friday, September 27 at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND .