

**ICC/IDEA JOINT
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 5 2014
COMFORT INN, BISMARCK**

Approved 6.11.15 without corrections

Present:

ND Interagency Coordinating Council:

Jennifer Barry
Jill Staudinger
Holly Major
Tammy Gallup-Millner
David Zimmerman
Tina Bay
Jody Haug
Carol Brakel
Nancy Skorheim
Senator Nicole Poolman
Jacki Harasym (Also serves on the IDEA State Advisory Committee)

IDEA State Advisory Committee:

Debra Huber
Barb Swegarden
Colette Fleck
Matt McCleary
Cathy Haarstad
Amanda Carlson
Leona Zemleska
Kim Colwell
Lucy Fredricks

Guests:

MacKenzie Bertsch
Kristen Votava
Carolee Eslinger
Kodi Berg
Carol Johnson
Tammy Henke
Gerry Teevens
Roxane Romanick
Colette Perkins

Barb Swengarden called the meeting to order.

TOPIC: Agenda

A motion was made by Holly Major and seconded by Cathy Harstad to approve the agenda. Motion carried

TOPIC: Family Story

Roxane showed two videos.

TOPIC: Member Introductions and Updates /Issues

TOPICS:Minutes

A motion was made by Jennifer Barry and seconded by Dave Zimmerman to approve the IDEA/ICC Sept. 2013 joint meeting minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

TOPIC: Part C to Part B transition activities

This topic area was presented by Nancy Skorheim and Amanda Carlson. They noted that the data that they used to present their report is from FFY '12 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). They additionally noted that the regulations that were issued in 2011 for Part C put a heavier emphasis on transition out of Part C services. Part C is now required to report that there was a transition plan in place no more than three months after a child turns 2 and no later than 3 months before a child's 3rd birthday. Nancy and Amanda reported that they completed a Memorandum of Agreement between Part B and Part C and this was reviewed and approved by OSEP. This assures that ND is referring children in a timely manner and getting information to parents and to Part B. Newly updated transition guidelines were issued in June of 2013 and regional training followed. The guidelines can be found at: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/earlyintervention/stateguidelines/transition-guide.pdf> and on the DPI website.

Amanda noted that ND EI went with the "opt out" policy where families can say that they do not want their child's information released to Part B or the local school district (which also means no referral for special education services is made). It has been one year since the "opt out" policy was implemented. At this time, we don't know how many families have chosen to "opt out" and are unable to note any trends. The question was asked whether parent can change their mind and have a referral made. The answer is yes, they can. Parents sign a form that they want to "opt out" but there are instructions that if they decide they want Part B services they can get that. Typically, families choose to "opt out" because their child is doing well and they anticipate that they won't qualify for Part B services.

On 6/30/14, Amanda sent a list of children to State Part B. Part C sent 422 children's names to Part B. Nancy reported that they had been told by the school districts through their data collection process that 447 children had been referred by Part C. There were 80 children from Part C and 85 children from Part B's list that were not comparable. A comparison of the lists revealed a need to provide additional guidance on the fact that the LEA notification/release of Childfind information does constitute the referral for special education.

The Transition Guide is family friendly, which is available in hard copy and electronically. ND EI is responsible for handing out this guide and the "opt out" policy is in the guide. A question was asked whether or not the directors will be able to know who the children that did not match are so they can figure out effective strategies in the region/district. This will be discussed when the data is looked at.

TOPIC: Update on State Early Childhood Initiatives

Tara Bitz and Jennifer Barry were on hand to provide updates to the joint committees. Tara reported that there is work being done through a contract with the University of Mary to provide training in the field on the 3 – 5 year old Early Childhood Standards across the state. This will be promotional in that no one can mandate early childhood programs to use the standards at this point. There is a request for web-based training for those that are not about to attend in-person training.

Tara also provided an update on the Early Childhood Education Study that was requested by the legislature. They are anticipating that they will have the final report from the consultant that was hired to address the study on Friday and that it will be available after 6.18.14 in a 2 page summary. Currently it is under review by DPI. Tara noted that a twelve member advisory group will be maintained to continue the work. An Institute of Educational Sciences (IES) Grant will help with the study. Funds end next year June 30 2015. Have to have a research partner to apply for IES Grant which we have with Dr.

Gromlaugh. Submitted letter of intent to look at teacher prep for this grant and this will take substantial research.

Kindergarten entry assessment consortium – made of up various states. North Carolina is the lead and ND is part of the consortium. The state will be aligning their state standards with the assessment requirements. In the next year, they will be piloting the implementation of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment for those districts interested in assessing their new students coming into kindergarten.

It was noted that there are concerns about the Early Childhood study not including North Dakota's Part C Early Intervention program. It was noted that the younger the children are identified, the better they do and the less services that may be needed in the long run.

Jennifer Barry talked about the Bright & Early initiative which is a quality rating improvement system for the child care system. Currently it's been piloted in Cass County and funded through United Way. This pilot has shown good results and there has been investment into the initiative to attempt to scale it up across the state. The goal is to have it in every county by the end of the biennium. There will be limited providers enrolled due to funding restrictions

Jennifer reported on the Inclusion support program which was funded last session provided \$400,000 for grants to providers to support inclusive child care and \$300,000 for technical assistance. Jennifer noted that they are seeing many creative grant requests and partnerships with families and providers. So far the Department has awarded 12 grants for \$116,000 and there are 6 pending. 100 providers have received consultation visits. The grants allow for environmental modifications or staff or both. The grant is limited to \$5,000 for environmental modifications and \$16,000 for staff. Jennifer noted that they have seen some barriers and might suggest some changes to the law next session.

There was some discussion about action relating to the Early Childhood Initiatives projects. There was a discussion about writing a letter of support for the projects. It is felt that this would be beneficial as DPI moves forward on naming their 12 member study committee. It was asked if there were families on the committee and it was noted that Dr. Grumlauck felt that this would be better met through parent focus groups that were held before. There was discussion about a letter being written to discuss the need for Part C to be included in any further discussions. It was noted that Senator Poolman was going to meet with Superintendent Baesler today. There was consensus that we would wait for this meeting to move forward with any other activities.

TOPIC: ND STATE AUTISM ACTIVITIES

Autism Registry:

Tammy Gallup-Millner was on hand to talk about the start-up of the registry. She noted that there were challenges to jump start the database; however a staff person has been hired.

Kodi Berg, the newly hired Department of Health (DOH) staff to oversee the registry, went over the passage of bill and what has happened since she started. DOH received \$235,732 to address the legislative requirements. Kodi started on April 14. DOH has purchased the needed software to run the registry. The plan is to have it operational by this summer. DOH is charged with compiling an expert panel to address the registry and needed administrative code changes. They are still in the selection process and would be willing to take names. In order to be included in the registry, an individual must have a diagnosis of autism made under the newly issued DSM V criteria.

Autism Conference:

The State Autism Conference is set for 10.20, 21, and 22nd.

Autism Waiver:

Tina Bay reported that the initial autism waiver expired and we received approval late Oct for approval Nov 1 and started on the amendment. The autism waiver now serves children birth through age 7. 1,038 changes submitted and approved late on May 27, effective date of June 1. The Department has been working with families on accessing the renewed autism waiver to transition to new service managers so plans can be developed and service provision can occur.

Autism voucher:

Tina Bay reported that there is still the anticipation that the Voucher program will go live on July 1 and is meant to serve those individuals that do not qualify for the waiver.

**TOPIC: UPDATE ON STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLANS –
PART B and PART C**

Gerry Teevens reported that both Part C and Part B have to report state performance on the annual performance report to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Gerry noted that ND Part B is doing well on compliance but not on actual results. This is the first year, that OSEP has used results based data to determine a state's level of determination in Part B. In addition, OSEP has developed a new indicator on the APR which is Indicator 17 and is the state's systemic improvement plans (SSIP). Kevin McDonough, DPI staff, distributed a handout regarding the work to build the state's SSIP.

Amanda Carlson reported that Part C also has to create a SSIP, which is the new Indicator 11. An orientation on the process was held for NDICC members last night as well as in March, 2014. Part C did not experience the use of results in making the state determinations for FFY '12, but they are continuing to consider which data to use. It was noted that the SSIP's measurable focus must align with one of the results indicators on the APR. Part C is allowed to use family outcomes as well as child outcomes. State can consider family outcomes in Part C to address supports that we provide for families.

TOPIC: DECISION ON JOINT MEETING FOR 2015

It was noted that in 2013, we agreed to meet once in 2014 which we accomplished with this meeting. We will meet again in 2015 and committee needs to decide on when to do this joint meeting. Discussion on the joint meeting was held. It was noted that having a joint meeting is not a requirement but OSEP looks upon this very favorably. It was noted that we want this to be a functional use of our time. It is important to consider that there will be a legislative session in 2015 and also SSIP's are due to be finalized in April. It was decided to set a date range from June 10 – 12, 2015 to hold the individual meetings and the joint meeting.

Topic: Miscellaneous Information:

Gerry noted that OSEP has issued letters of guidance relating to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and collaboration with foster care agencies is available.