

September 12, 2014

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting minutes

Sept 12, 2014

Approved 12.4.14

PRESENT

ICC Members:

Carol Brakel	Tammy Gallup Millner
Shannon Grave	David Zimmerman
Sen Nicole Poolman	Jackie Harasym
Jolynn Wasem	Tonya Canerot
Mary McCarvel-O'Connor	Moe Schroeder – phone
Tina Bay – phone	Jill Staudinger
Jennifer Barry	

Guests:

Amanda Carlson, Staff
Roxane Romanick, Staff
Colette Perkins, Staff
Natasha Sawicki, DD Council
Kirsten Dvorack, Pathfinder Parent Center
Magan Paulson, Pathfinder Parent Center
Sarah Carlson, Parent
Cindy Vollmer, Parent

Standing update on the Autism Task Force will be on all future agendas.

TOPIC: JUNE 5, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Carol Brakel and seconded by Shannon Grave to approve these minutes. Motion carried.

TOPIC: FAMILY STORY

The family story was shared by Sarah Carlson of Dickinson, ND. Sarah and her family currently participate in ND Early Intervention services. Her son Beckett is 2 and it's his prematurity and subsequent health issues that have brought them to services. Sarah shared how she came into their Individual Family Services Plan meeting with priorities that she and her husband had outlined for their family, including Beckett. These priorities then became the outcomes for their family's IFSP. Sarah noted that she feels that all of Beckett's developmental needs can met through these family outcomes

September 12, 2014

versus trying to just teach him to “stack blocks”. Sarah participated in the Parent Leadership Institute this past June.

TOPIC: MEMBER UPDATES

Stephen Olson – Roxane noted that she had sent out a benefit flyer for Stephen who is undergoing treatment for cancer. She noted that Moe Schroeder is putting together a silent auction donation and we are collecting to add to the donation if any member is interested.

Jill Staudinger reported that they continue to see increased enrollment and referrals in the Dickinson region. Jill is wondering if we are able to know what the state average age is for children that are eligible. Jill discussed attending a meeting in Minot that included tribal agencies and early intervention special needs services from schools and special education directors regarding service delivery to children on the reservation. This meeting was helpful in discussing who is responsible for what and an action plan was developed. Gerry Teevens, DPI Director of Special Education, is managing the action plan. There is a next phase of addressing the needs of the southwest region and meeting in December to define what a memo of understanding looks like for regions/programs. The goal is to make sure families are getting the services no matter who is providing them.

Carol Brakel reported that they are seeing an increased number of hospitalized infants and infants discharged shortly after birth. She noted that she does not track the average age at eligibility in their region any longer. She noted that it feels like they spend an excessive amount of time opening and closing cases. This leads them to worry about the quality and doing everything to get the required things done. Region IV is currently recruiting for an open DD position and will be cross training a DDPM on early intervention. Carol noted that their EI staff travel a lot of miles. Carol noted that their providers in Region IV are also having difficulty recruiting staff. Carol noted that there continues to be an increase of New American families in Region IV.

Sen. Poolman reported that she is gearing up for the legislative session and hearing about the vast needs in both the east and the west sides of the state. People are having difficulty finding housing and needed services. Businesses are having a hard to find people. All of this will lead to a challenging session and it will be difficult to prioritize the needs. From a tax perspective, there is current movement to changing how much the counties will keep. Senator Poolman reported that she believes there will be a number of proposals in early childhood that may use a community grant approach.

David Zimmerman reported that the Insurance Commission is continuing to follow new changes occurring from the implantation of the Affordable Care Act. The essential health benefits will be reexamined starting in 2015. The guidance on doing this work should come out in 2015 as well. A question was asked about the relationship of the essential health benefits in Medicaid Expansion vs. private insurance. The essential health benefit package is included in the Medicaid Expansion plan.

Jennifer Barry reported they are continuing to see severe shortages in staffing across the state. Her office recently partnered with the Department of Commerce to develop a recruitment video. Jennifer

September 12, 2014

reported that the implementation of the Child Care Inclusion Program is going well that was funded during the last session. The inclusion specialists that were included in the legislation have been active and busy. In regards to the grant money, \$450,000 was available for direct grants to providers to support children with special needs in child care. The first grant application was received in April, 2014 and by August, the total \$400000 was allocated. The Department awarded 35 grants to 16 centers and 19 home day cares, in all regions except Region 1. The issues that the inclusion specialists are primarily include behavioral supports and special health care needs.

Mary McCarvel O'Connor reported that the state DPI Special Education office has seen the retirement of two staff. This has meant some change in who's doing what at this time. Mary also shared about the meeting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the state partners around American Indian education issues.

Shannon Grave reported that UND Education department continues to grow. Students are now able to take courses in behavioral analysis/behavioral supports and then be qualified to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst national certification. Shannon reminded everyone that the Autism Conference is set for 10.20 – 22. 2014. Support is available for families to attend the conference.

Cindy Vollmer, who is attending as a guest, introduced herself.

Tammy Gallup-Millner reported that the Department of Health has engaged in a Collaborative Improvement Innovation Network (COIIN) initiative which is encouraged by the federal Maternal Child Health Bureau. The state is going to work with March of Dimes, the Native American Resource Center at NDSU, and the current home visiting programs that are supporting ND's reservations to address the reduction of infant mortality rate in ND's American Indian population. Issues that will be addressed will be pre-term birth, congenital anomalies, SIDS, etc. This will be an 18-month initiative. Tammy also shared the Department is attempting to get the word out that their Injury Prevention Division has expertise and equipment in car seat safety for children with special needs. Tammy requested input on where to target this information. The Department of Health received funding in the last legislative session to set up a registry/database for collecting information on the population of individuals in ND that have a diagnosis of Autism. The Department has been working on research other states' registries and through this work decided to partner with New Jersey, who has a model that best matches the state's needs. The Department has pulled together an expert panel of 30 individuals in the state and will pull them together following the Autism conference. The work that will be continued to be developed is around how to collect the needed pieces of information, developing administrative rules for the registry, and education components.

Jackie Harasym reported that the grant funds were issued to six entities, including Youthworks and the Adult Abused Resource Center. Additional funding was also set aside for professional development. Jackie noted that she will be doing presentations for staff this winter. Jackie also reported that the Fall DPI (Title 1/Special Education) Conference will be held on October 8, 9, 10th.

September 12, 2014

Tonya Canerot reported that the foster care numbers in ND are high. There is currently a shortage of foster homes and there has been effort to get new homes licensed and trained. She also reported that Rita Weisz, who has been a West Central Human Service Center regional supervisor for many years, is retiring. Dawn Staave will be her replacement.

Jolynn Wasem reported that she getting ready for an upcoming IEP. She stated that Pathfinder's has helped her to know that she is her child's coach and her opinion matters.

Natasha Sawicki shared that she is currently employed with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Natasha gave an introduction to the Council and shared 2 new brochures that were developed through a grant with KAT Communications. One is a guide to the American Indian Tribes in ND and the other is a brochure of Developmental Disability Services. Natasha also shared information about the Legislative Training Institute (LTI) which is October 27 – 29th and would be willing to provide any further information about LTI if needed.

Magan Paulson shared that she is currently employed through Pathfinder Parent Center. She has 3 children and the middle child has Down syndrome and an hearing impairment.

Kirsten Dvorak reported that she is employed through Pathfinder Parent Center. The center is working to attempting to provide coverage across the state. She also shared the date with the spring Parent Involvement Conference, which will be April 9 – 11 at the Radisson in Bismarck. She noted that there will stipends for parents to attend the conference.

Roxane Romanick reported that the Designer Genes Buddy Walk is coming up on September 27th. She also reported that Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota (PCAND) is currently working with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant which is focused on building comprehensive developmental screening systems (Birth to 3) across the state of ND.

TOPIC: ELECTIONS

Roxane noted that a Nominations Survey was distributed to the membership prior to this meeting. The results of that survey indicated that Jill Staudinger would be slated for Chair and Jody Haug as Vice Chair. Roxane noted that she was unable to visit with Jody about her willingness to accept the nomination and would do so following this meeting. In the event that Jody is unwilling to accept, the next individual slated would be Shannon Grave. Shannon noted that she would be willing to accept the Vice-Chair position. A motion to accept the slate as stated was by Sen. Poolman and seconded by David Zimmerman. Motion carried.

September 12, 2014

TOPIC: SET 2015 CALENDAR

The following dates were agreed upon through consensus for the 2015 Calendar:

Dates	Time	Method
January 15, 2015	10:00 – 5:00	Statewide IVN Available
March 4, 2015	10:00 – 5:00	Statewide IVN Available
June 10 -12, 2015	Exact days and times in this date range will be determined	In Person
September 17, 2015	8:30 - 5:00	In Person
December 17, 2015	10:00 – 5:00	Statewide IVN Available

The state office will need to confirm IVN availability prior to confirming the schedule

TOPIC: STANDING NDICC AGENDA ITEMS

Membership Updates

Roxane provided an update for the Council on the status of the NDICC membership.

- Head Start Position: Allison Dybing-Driessen has decided to not be reappointed to the Council. This opens up the opportunity bring someone onto the Council that may also represent our American Indian population. Jennifer Barry suggested the director from Spirit Lake and will forward her information to Roxane.
- Region III Parent: We received recommendations from the Early Intervention staff in Region III and Bobbi Jo Couch was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Council. She was unable to attend this meeting.
- Region 1 Parent: This position was open as of 9.1.14. Roxane is currently talking to a parent in Watford City to serve in this role.
- Child Welfare Position: Tonya Canerot was approved and appointed by the Governor.
- Mental Health Position: We are continuing to wait for the individual that will be hired to replace Wendy Borman.
- Department of Public Instruction – Special Education Position: Mary McCarvel O’Connor was put forth by DPI to replace Nancy Skorhiem, approved and appointed by the Governor.
- Stephen Olson will retain his position at this point.
- Jill reported that Dr. McDonough was contacted and he stated that he would get here if he could, but if we need more reliable attendance by a member, he would be willing to give up his position. Other ideas were generated about filling this position:
 - Someone in medical school who’s interested in pediatrics
 - Dr. Carver’s PA that was sent to the Governor’s office previously.
 - Child psychologist

September 12, 2014

- Dr. Hurtler (sp?) – Dickinson
- Dr. Yeager – Grand Forks.
- Dr. Haaland – Bismarck
- Use formal channels such as ND AAP to find someone as they may have persons that are interested.
- Representative from the American Indian community.
- Stacey Miller from Early Intervention Partners has expressed interest. It was noted that there is concern about having 2 representatives from one agency on the Council.

It was a consensus decision to move forward to find other options for replacing Dr. McDonough. A small subcommittee was requested to look at this issue: Carol Brakel and Tammy Gallup-Millner volunteers. Roxane will work with the group to bring some recommendations back to the Council.

ND Early Intervention Financial Report

Amanda Carlson reported that the FFY '12 grant funds were fully expended in June, 2014. The state started using FFY '13 funds in July, 2014. In addition, we currently have access to the FFY '14 funds as of 7.1.14. Amanda made note that at the rate of spending, we will eventually get to the point where we are spending the current funding in the current year and there is no buffer. Amanda noted that while federal sequestration was deferred for 2 years, the thought of it being reinstated is not completely off the table. Amanda noted that we have cut back on all of our contracts, except for the contracts with the audiologists where the cost of an individual reading went from \$7.00 to \$10.00.

Currently there are 39 children that are not choosing to be Medicaid. The amount spent out of the Direct Services budget for state fiscal year '14 (July, 2013 – June, 2014) was \$793,069. Amanda noted that she will double-check that amount with the fiscal staff. Suggestions from the Council regarding controlling the spending of the Part C dollars vs. the use of the waiver included: use more Parent-2-Parent connection to talk with parents about this issue, use the Experienced Parents to have these discussions.

Amanda reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) to have all of the Experienced Parents under one agency was put on hold for now. The regional contracts were all extended to June, 2015 and we are currently in the process of gathering more information about how best to issue the RFP.

A question was asked about the modules that were developed with the ARRA funds and Amanda reported that the modules are still in development. She informed the Council that equipment that was ordered with ARRA funds was distributed to the field during the stakeholders meeting in July.

DD Slots Report

Just to remind the Council, Amanda noted that the DD waiver slots renew each April 1. The Division is currently "cleaning up" from last year and assuring what was used. This year, they were able to add in 105 new slots (as they will each year) for growth. This past year, all of the slots were used and some

September 12, 2014

reserve slots had to be used for Early Intervention. Amanda noted that there will be an amendment to the waiver being issued and the number of slots may be expanded (based on the Department's budget).

General Supervision Work Plan Update

- State Level of Determination: Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) State Level of Determination – Amanda reported that North Dakota received their state level of determination from OSEP this past June. North Dakota is at “Needs Assistance” which is an upgrade in our determination from the last 2 years.
- The FFY '13 Annual Performance Report is due in Feb., 2015, except for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (Indicator 11) which is due in April. Mary McCarvel-O'Connor noted that North Dakota's Part B program went from Meets Requirements to Needs Assistance because of the decision by OSEP to use 50% of the weighting factor for results. The information for the results rating was based on the use of a national test. The use of this test is controversial in that the administration of it is locally determined and often children with disabilities are not included in the testing.
- Regional Program Level of Determinations: The regional program level of determinations have not been issued to programs yet. Amanda will report on these determinations at the December meeting.
- FFY 13 Family Survey Progress: Amanda reported that the survey has been in the field starting 4.1.14 and is being issued by the DDPM's at IFSP meetings or periodic reviews. The surveys are to be in to the state office by 10.15.14. There was a question about making sure that the survey is given out with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. A suggestion was made to see if there are funds in the EPI budgets in the regions for this cost. It was noted by individuals at the meeting that the letters were stamped in their regions.
- Update on Monitoring Activity: Amanda reported that no extra monitoring activities have taken place. The follow-up on the letter of findings that were issued for the FFY '12 data is continuing. Some programs are continuing to work on closing these findings. An Early Intervention Boot Camp/Orientation was held this summer for Infant Development/Developmental Disabilities Program Managers and Experienced Parents. The state office will start pulling data for the upcoming FFY '13 APR.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Roxane reported that there was electronic communications around membership issues and a decision to open up the Region 1 Parent position.

TOPIC: OLD BUSINESS

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SIPP) Work and Report on OSEP Visit: Amanda reported that after the June NDICC activity, another stakeholder meeting that included Infant Development Coordinators,

September 12, 2014

Developmental Disabilities Program Administrators, and Experienced Parents from around the state was held in July. It was noted that the common themes was sent back out to the NDICC. Amanda noted that they are working on this compilation from the July event as well.

Amanda reported that the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), Indicator 11, needs to link back to a child or family outcome. From the information that has been gathered, there is some thought that we may be basing our State Measurable Result (SiMR) on improving Family Outcomes and in particular family outcomes as it relates to parents understanding their rights and procedural safeguards. Amanda reported that ND had a visit from the Office of Special Education Programs to assist with our work on the SSIP. This was described as constructive and helpful in moving forward on some of the decisions relating to the SSIP.

ND AAPP Meeting – Clinical Report on Medical Home and Part C Early Intervention: Roxane reminded the Council that in March she had presented the Council with the American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Report on Medical Home and Part C Early Intervention. Since that time, Roxane has been in contact with Dr. Joan Connell, who is the current president of North Dakota’s AAP chapter. Dr. Connell has invited Council members to their October 17th fall meeting in Bismarck. The ND AAP chapter is coming together on that day for a presentation by Dr. Andy Gardner, who will be discussing early toxic stress on children’s development. This is being done in collaboration with ND AAP, PCAND, and the ND Home Visitation Coalition. Roxane asked for volunteers from the Council to attend the meeting on the 17th. Moe Schroeder, Tammy Gallup-Millner, and Jill Staudinger volunteered.

Autism Task Force Update: The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) task force is meeting on Sept. 22. It was noted that currently Trisha Page, the state autism coordinator, is working out of Fargo on a full-time basis. The amended Autism waiver (with expanded numbers and extensive change in structure) started on June 1st. All of the 47 slots are full and there is a waiting list. The Autism voucher program (for ages 3 – 18) started July 1st. It was unknown if any vouchers have been approved at this time.

There was no report available on what may be happening legislatively regarding autism supports. It was noted that there is a new statement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on Autism services and endorsing the payment of it. This link takes you to a clarification that was issued by CMS in September, 2014 and includes the link for the July, 2014 letter of clarification:

<http://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/faq-09-24-2014.pdf>

TOPIC: NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of setting SIPP/AR Targets: Roxane requested wanted feedback from the Council on what would be helpful to assist in setting new targets in December for the Annual Performance Report (APR) results indicators. A recommendation was made to look at the trend data for those indicators, look at the past targets, and examine the national data (especially in Indicator 3) to set the new targets in December. A request was made that the trend data be sent out in advance so that it can be reviewed prior to the meeting.

September 12, 2014

TOPIC: AGENDA FOR DECEMBER

Follow-up on work regarding the BIE agreement; programs Level of Determinations; Setting SPP/APR targets; 2014-2015 Executive Committee members; Survey of ICC function and how it is going; Standing agenda items

The next NDICC meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4th from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be held via the IVN polycom sites at the regional Human Service Centers. You are welcome to attend the meeting in person at Prairie Hills and your expenses will be reimbursed. We will not be setting up a block of rooms for this meeting, but if you need assistance with lodging, please contact Roxane at 701-527-4645. We will not be meeting with the IDEA State Advisory Committee for this meeting. .