

Interagency Coordinating Council

April 10, 2005
9 AM – 1:20 p.m.

CAFAP
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT

approved 6-12-06

Minutes

Laurel Ross, ICC Acting Chair

ARC, Greenwich

Jeannie Mazzaferro, Ph.D.

ICC Vice Chair

Parent

Timothy Bowles

Dept. of Social Services

Anita Cella

Parent

DeAnna Lia

Dept. for Children and Families

Elizabeth Daly

Office of Protection and Advocacy

Dona Ditrio

New Opportunities Waterbury

Rita Esposito

REACHOUT, Inc.

Linda Goodman

Department of Mental Retardation

Mark A. Greenstein, M.D.

Pediatrician

Jeanette Haines

BESB

Moira Herbert

Insurance Department

Cynthia Jackson

Children's Therapy Services

Robert LaCamera, M.D.

American Academy of Pediatrics

DeAnna Lia

Dept. for Children and Families

Deborah List

Parent

Joe McLaughlin

McLaughlin and Associates

Elise Minor

Parent

Maura Provencher

Parent

Maria Synodi, alternate

State Dept. of Education

Louis Tallarita

SDE- Educ. for Homeless Children

Elayne Thomas

Parent

Rep. Jack Thompson

State Representative

Robin Tousey-Ayers, alternate

Dept. of Public Health

Melissa Van Buren, alternate

A.J. Papanikou Center for Excellence

Myra Watnick

Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.

Diane Wixted

Commission on the Deaf and

Hearing Impaired

ICC Members Present: Tim Bowles, Dona Ditrio, Rita Esposito, Linda Goodman, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Jeanette Haines, Moira Herbert, Cindy Jackson, Dr. Robert LaCamera, Jeannie Mazzaferro, Joe McLaughlin, Maura Provencher, Louis Tallarita, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick, Diane Wixted

ICC Members Absent: Anita Cella, Elizabeth Daly, Clara Gutierrez, DeAnna Lia, Elise Minor, Deborah List, Lolli Ross, Maria Synodi, Elayne Thomas, Rep. Jack Thompson

The meeting began at 9:20 AM.

Introductions: Jeannie Mazzaferro, ICC Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and 6 members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of February Minutes

Tim made a Motion to approve the minutes as modified. Dona seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment offered.

ICC Meetings and Responsibilities

In addition to its regular meetings, the State ICC fulfills other obligations in its role of advising and assisting the lead agency.

(1) Executive Committee Meetings: It was decided to convene these meetings on an ad hoc, as needed basis rather than on a fixed regular schedule. When needed, the Executive Committee will meet directly following the State ICC meeting to eliminate the need for additional time spent in travel.

ICC Meetings and Responsibilities, continued

(2) Focused Monitoring (FM): ICC members are important stakeholders in the FM system. It was decided that at this point in the FM process, only one full-day meeting or the equivalent per year is needed. Therefore, the half-day FM meeting originally set for the afternoon of June 12th is cancelled. The October 16th meeting will begin with FM in the morning. The State ICC meeting will begin after lunch that same day.

(3) Birth Through Five News: This newsletter is co-produced by Birth to Three and the State Department of Education Preschool Special Education division for parents and professionals working with children with developmental delays from birth through age five years. One-half page of each issue has space dedicated to news from the ICC, presenting an authorship opportunity for ICC members. Lolli and Eileen usually craft an article that describes the ICC's priorities, membership, or activities plus notice of future meetings and the opportunity for public comment. So that readers may benefit from multiple ICC members' perspectives, volunteers were sought from among the Council to author the next two issue ICC articles. Louis Tallarita agreed to handle the Fall issue, and Jeanette Haines volunteered to handle the Winter issue. Eileen will provide each of them with their author deadlines and offer editorial guidance as needed.

By-Laws: Review and Vote

The Communications Committee presented modifications for discussion by the full Council. Edits were made to reflect statutory language and Council philosophy. Further changes were requested to reflect decisions made during the meeting. A final draft will be presented at the June meeting.

Lead Agency Update

Linda distributed information (*att. 1*) detailing the Appropriations Committee's plan to implement portions of the rate study recommendations including a \$338 unit rate, 1 unit for initial IFSP meetings, and increases to the supplemental rates effective January 1, 2007. Mark made a **Motion** which Myra seconded to write a letter of thanks to the legislators involved on behalf of the Council. It was suggested that parent members might include a photo of their child(ren) along with the thank you notes.

FY06 expenditures through February were comprised of net invoices (\$16, 986,905) including supplemental payments (\$931,641). Insurance revenue totaled \$1,895,411 during those same eight months. Parent fees collected each month ranged from a low of \$48,050 in September to a high of \$59,717 in February after subtraction of collection administrative costs.

Referrals continue to decrease along with the percentage of referred children found eligible Families in the West and North Regions continue to experience delays of more than two days in assignment to a program for evaluation. After discussion, the Council requested further data analysis to try to identify referral pattern differences and to explore possible reasons for these disturbing trends. The ICC expressed its appreciation to Lynn Johnson for her effectiveness in expediting communications that have resulted in a reduced waiting list in the North region after that regional manager position was vacated. It was noted that contract talks prior to the new fiscal year will include discussion of serving families in sub-regions and towns across former regional boundaries. Discussion then moved to the possibility of a one-time fuel subsidy for programs using the funds still available this fiscal year in order to help defray the significant increase in gasoline prices statewide. The Legislative Committee will pursue this option further.

IDEA: Connecticut's State Performance Plan was accepted.

OSEP: Connecticut's Data Verification Visit has been scheduled for August 9 and 10th.

WESTAT: Connecticut's data monitoring visit will take place on June 5 and 6th.

Dispute Resolution Activity: There has been one new mediation request since the last ICC meeting and three written complaints resolved plus one new complaint received on Friday.

Birth to Three System Reorganization: In a continued effort to streamline operations and both reduce overlap and fill any gaps, the Birth to Three System is centralizing its administrative operations. A new Service and Support Office has been established which may be reached toll-free at 866-888-4188. The plan is for this office to be co-located with the Child Development Infoline office in Rocky Hill. A draft diagram of the re-aligned functions was distributed (att. 2).

QA: Five programs will receive on-site monitoring visits before the end of FY06 concerning activities related to Child Find, Service Delivery and Transition.

Report on Meeting with Denise Merrill: Joe reported that members of the Executive Committee and Linda met with Representative Denise W. Merrill and Judy Dowd from the Office of Policy and Management among others to discuss stabilizing provider programs and increasing capacity by implementing the Rate Study recommendations. Subsequently, the Appropriations Committee passed a Bill that includes almost all of the study recommendations.

The Council took a brief recess for lunch, then launched into Committee work.

Committee Reports

- **Legislative** members include: Joe McLaughlin (chair), Jeannie Mazzaferro, Moira Herbert, DeAnna Lia, Tim Bowles, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Myra Watnick, Diane Wixted, and Bob LaCamera. Joe reported that this Committee is planning a two-pronged follow-up to legislators' generous support:
 1. send thank you letters to legislators involved from the State ICC
 2. distribute a sample letter to programs and Local ICCs for them to give to families to mount a statewide "Thanks for your continued Support" campaign aimed at the legislature. A list of legislators by district will be compiled and shared so families may better know their local senators and representatives.
 3. Summer 2006: conduct a postcard campaign providing facts to legislators about the positive outcomes from Birth to Three enrollment. Moira offered to lead this initiative.
 4. Communication with Judy Dowd from OPM is planned regarding both a one-time payment to programs and future considerations. A proposed payment of approximately \$45 per continued child will be requested for each program.
- **Quality Services** members include: Cindy Jackson (chair), Melissa Van Buren, Mark Greenstein, Rita Esposito, Elayne Thomas, DeAnna Lia, and Linda Goodman. Cindy reported on five areas of discussion, including Focused Monitoring, the decrease in eligibility, services for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis and Cultural Competence. The committee proposed that supplemental rates be increased in January, 2007, along with reconsideration of possible specialty programs to enhance comprehensive providers' delivery of services to children with ASD. Cindy also reported the Committee's recommendation that Tom Coakley be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on the draft Cultural Competence Service Guideline. Copies of the Birth to Three developmental milestones infosheet in Polish, Haitian Kreole, and Brazilian Portuguese were circulated. This outreach product has been available in an English/Spanish version for many years, and was recently made available in additional languages in order to reach more families.

- **Communications** members include Maura Provencher (chair), Elise Minor, Lolli Ross, Anita Cella, Jeanette Haines, Maria Synodi and Eileen McMurrer. The Council discussed the latest revision of the 1996 By-Laws and was encouraged to consider the content and implications thereof, not just spelling or grammatical revisions. A final round of revisions was produced by the group, which will be reflected in a final draft to be presented at the June meeting for Council approval. The ICC page on the website is also in need of a makeover. Eileen will bring copies of the current web-based information to the June meeting for review and updating by the Committee.

Focused Monitoring Update

Alice Ridgway, Birth to Three Quality Assurance Manager, thanked Cindy and Rita for having volunteered as peer participants in recent FM site visits. Rita suggested a poll of programs re. their feelings after having gone through the FM process that could guide future visits and procedures. She expressed that there is some room for improved efficiency, but that her involvement was a very worthwhile use of time.

Reports and Announcements

Melissa Van Buren noted the recent passing of Mrs. Lucy Pappanikou, wife of A.J. Pappanikou after whom the Center for Excellence is named.

Jeannie then called for a motion to adjourn. Cindy made the motion to adjourn; Myra seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 1:15 PM

NEXT SICC MEETING

Monday, June 12 from 9 – 1:30 at CAFAP, 2189 Silas Deane Highway in Rocky Hill. Please RSVP to Kathy Granata at 860-418-6146 or via e-mail: kathy.granata@po.state.ct.us

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

August 14	State ICC	9 – 2	CAFAP
October 16	Focused Monitoring//State ICC	9 – 4	CAFAP
December 11	State ICC	9 – 2	CAFAP

*CAFAP -- the CT Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents – volunteers their meeting room to accommodate the State ICC meetings. They are located at **2189 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, Connecticut**. Take Exit 24 off of I-91 North or South. Turn South off the exit (away from Wethersfield). CAFAP is on the right next to Chuck’s Steak House. Meetings take place on the ground floor and are handicapped accessible.

PLEASE PARK in the rear of the building or behind the adjacent building, Chuck’s Restaurant.