

# Interagency Coordinating Council

December 19, 2005  
9 AM – 1:20 p.m.

CAFAP  
2189 Silas Deane Highway  
Rocky Hill, CT

Approved 2-27- 06
----------------------

## Minutes

### **Laurel Ross, ICC Acting Chair**

*ARC, Greenwich*

### **Timothy Bowles**

*Dept. of Social Services*

### **Anita Cella**

*Parent*

### **DeAnna Lia**

*Dept. for Children and Families*

### **Elizabeth Daly**

*Office of Protection and Advocacy*

### **Rita Esposito**

*REACHOUT, Inc.*

### **Linda Goodman**

*Department of Mental Retardation*

### **Mark A. Greenstein, M.D.**

*Pediatrician*

### **Clara Gutierrez**

*Parent*

### **Jeanette Haines**

*BESB*

### **Moira Herbert**

*Dept. of Insurance*

### **Cynthia Jackson**

*Children's Therapy Services*

### **Robert LaCamera, M.D.**

*American Academy of Pediatrics*

### **DeAnna Lia**

*Dept. for Children and Families*

### **Deborah List**

*Parent*

### **Jeannie Mazzaferro**

*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*

### **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, Anita Cella, Linda Goodman, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Moira Herbert, Cindy Jackson, Dr. Robert LaCamera, DeAnna Lia, Jeannie Mazzaferro, Joe McLaughlin, Elise Minor, Lolli Ross, Louis Tallarita, Elayne Thomas, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick, Diane Wixted

ICC Members Absent: Elizabeth Daly, Rita Esposito, Clara Gutierrez, Jeanette Haines, Maria Synodi, Deborah List, Maura Provencher

The meeting began at 9:22 AM.

**Introductions:** Lolli Ross, Acting ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and 8 members of the public introduced themselves.

### **Approval of August Minutes**

Myra made a Motion to approve the minutes as written. Cindy seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Follow-Up to September Retreat**

New ICC standing committees were established as a product of the Retreat held in September: Communications, Legislative/Financial, and Quality Services. Committee members do not have to be appointed ICC members. Members are hoping that these committees will afford family members a vehicle for increased parent involvement.

Everyone broke out into Committees.

## **Committee Reports**

**Legislative** members include: Jeannie Mazzaferro, Moira Herbert, DeAnna Lia, Tim Bowles, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Myra Watnick, Joe McLaughlin, Diane Wixted, Bob LaCamera, and Pietro Rosato. Jeannie reported that members discussed a variety of methods for informing legislators about the good work performed by Birth to Three and the challenges faced by the System. The Committee would like to distribute postcards with important “factoids” approximately monthly beginning in the new legislative session. This proposal met with approval by the group.

**Quality Services** members include: Cindy Jackson, Melissa Van Buren, Mark Greenstein, Rita Esposito, Elayne Thomas, DeAnna Lia, and Linda Goodman. Cindy reported four primary points. They will send representatives to participate in development of the Family Survey on January 24. This survey will provide data to be reported to the federal government within the State Improvement Plan. The Committee discussed services to children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder within the comprehensive programs. The need for improved Cultural Competence throughout all aspects of the System was discussed, with plans made to more closely collaborate with Head Start and to refresh the Birth to Three Cultural Competence Committee chaired by Tom Coakley. Consistency of services across agencies was also cited as an area of need.

**Communications** members include Elise Minor, Lolli Ross, Anita Cella, Jeanette Haines, Maria Synodi, Clara Gutierrez, and Eileen McMurrer. Lolli reported that the Committee has begun to revise and update the State ICC By-Laws and hopes to present them in draft form for Council approval at the February meeting. Wider dissemination of the ICC agenda was cited as a need that will be met, in part, by posting each meeting agenda on the Birth to Three website a week prior to the meeting. Future plans include updating the State ICC Resource Manual and convening an ICC new member orientation session. The Committee would like to see improved communication with LICCs. Elise Minor volunteered to act as liaison to these community groups. Building relationships with other community groups and initiatives is also a goal of the Committee, which plans to extend overtures to the Preschool Network, the Early Childhood Cabinet, and others.

It was decided to keep Committee Work as a standing ICC agenda item.

### ***Connecticut’s Guidelines for the Development and Early Learning of Infants and Toddlers***

Peter Palermino from the Department of Social Services and Deb Flis from Connecticut Charts a Course presented a draft version of the guidelines under development by Anna Figueroa from Wheeler Clinic. The national focus on early learning is aimed at preschool children, but caregivers for infants and toddlers also seek up to date information on personal/social, cognitive, and language and communication skills for children younger than three years. This will support licensed childcare providers as well as familiar providers with incorporating principle of best practice into their care giving routines. Feedback is encouraged, particularly on concrete suggestions for adaptations to promote inclusion, and may be sent via e-mail to [anewkirk@wheelerclinic.org](mailto:anewkirk@wheelerclinic.org). The draft document is available at [www.wheelerclinic.org/children/ELGdraft2forweb.pdf](http://www.wheelerclinic.org/children/ELGdraft2forweb.pdf).

Lolli mentioned a publication from Aspen publishers that includes many good suggestions for effective adaptations. It was asked that the final guidelines include information regarding referral to the Birth to Three System when a developmental concern arises.

**Lead Agency Update** Linda distributed information (*att.2*) detailing progress on the rate study. Referrals have decreased 2% from this time last year and enrollment has been drifting downward. Draft regulations for Part C of the reauthorized IDEA are not yet available, however new Birth to Three Procedures will take effect on January 1, 2006.

The State Performance Plan was sent to OSEP earlier this month and we will receive a response within 120 days. The federal application will be made available for comment in early February prior to an April 7 submission to OSEP. Data verification visits by OSEP are ongoing with completion expected in 2006. Connecticut has not yet gone through this process. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on Part C that was generally favorable.

The Governor's Early Childhood Cabinet has requested more information about the Birth to Three System model and eligibility information, and anticipates a formal presentation at their meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Hartford.

Additional programs are being solicited to participate in the rate study so that more comprehensive information may be provided on the actual costs of operating the Birth to Three System at the program level. Preliminary results are due in February.

A proposal to modify the current Personnel Standards to increase the pool of evaluators was discussed. The consensus was to retain the current standards without modification at this time.

### **Focused Monitoring Update**

Alice Ridgway, Birth to Three Quality Assurance Manager, shared revised groupings of programs based on the numbers of families served (*att. 5*) as well as updated rankings for program selection per priority area:

- % of IFSP meetings held within 45 days from referral to Birth to Three
- % of children for whom all planned services began within 45 days from the initial IFSP meeting
- % of children with transition conferences held no later than 90 days before age 3

After discussion, it was decided that half of the June 12<sup>th</sup> ICC meeting would be used as a Focused Monitoring Stakeholders meeting.

### **Reports and Announcements**

Lolli distributed a response letter (*att.3*) from the Department of Mental Retardation Commissioner, Peter H. O'Meara in response to the meeting held September 13, 2005 with ICC representatives, Rep. Denise Merrill and OPM Secretary Robert Genuario. Linda noted that FY06 expenditures have been somewhat higher than those of FY05, but are still lower than FY03 and FY04.

Diane Wixted from the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired announced that further hearing aid legislation has been proposed by Rep. Boukas from Plainville to expand hearing aid funding.

Bob LaCamera announced that the Academy of Pediatrics is working to influence a bill that may be proposed to initiate universal lead screenings for infants and toddlers and subsequent referral

to Birth to Three for children with levels as low as 15 mc/dL. Current eligibility is 45 mc/dL unless developmental delay is present.

Mark Greenstein announced that Dr. Rich Antonelli from CT Children's Medical Center has set up a Parent Advisory Committee re. Medical Homes bringing together specialists, primary care physicians and parents on behalf of children with special health care needs.

DeAnna Lia from the Department of Children and Families announced that her agency has hired Kathy Bradley as a program supervisor in early intervention and anticipates that Kathy will succeed her at Department representative on this Council.

Robin Tousey-Ayers announced that the Department of Public Health has established five regional medical homes for children with special health care needs.

Joe McLaughlin announced that Verizon gives a 10% discount to health care providers.

Lolli then called for a **Motion** to adjourn. Cindy made the Motion to adjourn; Mark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 1:45 PM

### ***NEXT SICC MEETING***

**Monday, February 27** at CAFAP, 2189 Silas Deane Highway in Rocky Hill.

Please RSVP to Kathy Granata at 860-418-6146 or via e-mail to Eileen at [eileen.mcmurrer@po.state.ct.us](mailto:eileen.mcmurrer@po.state.ct.us).

### ***FUTURE MEETING DATES:***

February 27, 2006	State ICC meeting	9 – 2	CAFAP*
April 10	State ICC meeting	9 -- 2	CAFAP
June 12	State ICC // Focused Monitoring	9 – 4	CAFAP
August 14	State ICC	9 – 2	CAFAP
October 16	State ICC	9 – 2	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.