

Interagency Coordinating Council

January 25, 2010
9 AM – 12:00 p.m.

CAFAP
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT

Minutes

Mark A. Greenstein, M.D. Chair
ICC Chair/Pediatrician
Patrick Ruddy ICC Vice Chair
Parent
Ginny Mahoney
Dept. of Social Services
Deborah Pagano
Parent

Office of Protection and Advocacy
Dona Ditrio
New Opportunities Early Head Start
Rita Esposito
REACHOUT, Inc.
Linda Goodman
Dept. of Developmental Services
Laurel Ross

Abilis
Clara Gutierrez
Parent
Jeanette Haines
BESB

Richard Fisher
Dept. of Insurance
Cynthia Jackson
Children's Therapy Services
Robert LaCamera, M.D.

American Academy of Pediatrics
Joe McLaughlin
McLaughlin and Associates
Elise Minor
Parent

Kathleen Bradley, PhD
Dept. of Children and Families
Maria Synodi, Alternate
State Dept. of Education

Louis Tallarita
SDE- Educ. for Homeless Children
Rep. Jack W. Thompson
CT legislator

Robin Tousey-Ayers
Dept. of Public Health

Melissa Van Buren, Alternate
A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence
Myra Watnick

Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.
Mary Ann Dayton Fitzgerald
Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Sen. Anthony Musto
State Senator

ICC Members Present: Kathleen Bradley , Linda Goodman, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Jeanette Haines, Dr. Robert LaCamera, Joe McLaughlin, Deborah Pagano, Lolli Ross, Maria Synodi, Representative Jack Thompson, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick

ICC Members Absent: Jose Centeno, Dona Ditrio, Rita Esposito, Richard Fisher, Clara Gutierrez, Cindy Jackson, Ginny Mahoney, Elise Minor, Senator Anthony Musto, Louis Tallarita,

The meeting began at 9:35 AM.

Introductions:

Dr. Mark Greenstein, ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and eight members of the public introduced themselves.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Lead Agency Update/Fiscal Update

Please refer to the "Lead Agency Update" posted on the Birth to Three website (www.birth23.org) - under State Interagency Coordinating Council

Birth to Three's projected deficit for FY10 so far is \$9m (after we use the \$4.6m in ARRA funding). Without the ARRA funding, it would be \$13.6m. None of the deficit mitigation plans so far have affected Birth to Three, although the continuous draining of cash from other Department of Developmental Services (DDS) accounts makes it impossible for the department to transfer any funding to Birth to Three as they have done in previous years.

Birth to Three spent \$2,868,369 of our ARRA funding in November and December by paying the invoices for 16 programs. Birth to Three will most likely spend the rest of it in the third quarter of FY10. DDS is aware of this and there will need to be deficit mitigation.

Autism Services

As of 1/21/10 there were 253 children enrolled in the ten autism-specific programs and 43 in the general programs. Data on 279 IFSPs that were in effect on 1/6/10 show that the autism-specific programs were scheduled to provide an average of 47.1 hours per month. The general programs were scheduled to provide an average of 37.9 hours per month to children with autism spectrum disorders. There were 9 children in autism-specific programs and 1 child in a general program scheduled to receive more than 80 hours per month.

Insurance

DDS staff and OPM met with the insurance plans on January 15th to discuss increasing Birth to Three insurance rates for all programs. The plans requested 10 days to consider the proposal. Birth to Three will continue to work with the autism-specific programs on the logistics of billing for autism services, which are increasingly quite complicated.

Linda Goodman made a motion for Birth to Three programs to report their total insurance revenue received from each health insurance plans in October 2009. Lolli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Birth to Three continues to work with the autism-specific programs on the logistics of billing for autism services, which are increasingly quite complicated. The legislation mandates a yearly recertification of the autism diagnosis. Each of the 10 autism-specific programs has the personnel to give a DSM-IV diagnosis and each is implementing plans to ensure that the required level of supervision is maintained. General Birth to Three programs can also attempt to bill if the child has a diagnosis and if the services meet the requirements of the statute.

Parent Fees- FY10

	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
July, 2009	\$ 73,380	\$ 65,047
August	\$ 75,655	\$ 68,322
September	\$ 70,226	\$ 62,963
October	\$ 65,015	\$ 58,449
November	\$ 78,420	\$ 70,967
December	\$ 73,660	\$ 66,162
January	\$ 68,496	not available yet

Referrals through December were down 6% from last year. We can account for at least 3% of that decrease due to late referrals (64) and referrals for children whose speech development appears to be on track despite parental concerns only about speech (62), and re-activation of some exited children rather than re-referral (31).

Program Personnel Changes

Donna Cimini is leaving as director of both Creative Development and Kaleidoscope. Heather Nacca will be the acting director.

IDEA Dispute Resolution-FY10

As previously reported:

Dates Received and Responded	Program/Issue	Findings of IDEA Non-Compliance
7/6/09 rec 8/17/09 resp	Child & Family Network/unprofessional remarks	None
9/22/09 rec 10/8/09 resp	Wheeler Clinic/parent fee invoice	None
11/11/09 rec 11/23/09 resp	Academy for Young Minds/make-up services, experience and training of SLP	One

New

A fourth written complaint was received 12/16/09. The family, who is currently enrolled in their fourth Birth to Three program, is complaining that their three previous programs did not give them information on autism, on autism research projects, or on local community resources that their fourth program gave them. After investigating the complaint, there were no findings of IDEA non-compliance in the 1/22/10 response. We have made sure that the Autism Speaks website is included in the Birth to Three website hotlinks and we will add the Autism Speaks website to the Autism Guidelines for the next re-print.

Aileen McKenna has developed a new Complaint Form that will be sent to anyone wishing to file a signed, written complaint. This will assist us in differentiating calls and e-mails from formal written complaints alleging violation of the IDEA, which require investigation and a written response within 60 days. The form will be posted on the website, but Aileen will also send it out to parents who call or e-mail if they want to file a written complaint.

Monitoring and Accountability

We have completed our Annual Performance Report for State Fiscal Year 2009 which is due to the U.S. Dept. of Education by February 1, 2010. We'll hear sometime in June whether we maintain our "meets requirements" status.

Monitoring Visits – FY10

Date	Purpose	Program	Result
9/2/09	Data Verification	Child & Family Network	Corrective Action Plan
11/24/09	Self-Assessment - Record Review TA	TheraCare	Improvement Plan
12/15/09	Self-Assessment - Record Review TA	BEACON	Corrective Action Plan
12/21/09	Self-Assessment - Record Review TA	Wheeler Clinic	Improvement Plan
1/15/10	Self-Assessment - Record Review TA	Creative Interventions	Improvement Plan
1/21/10	Self-Assessment - Record Review TA	Building Bridges, LLC	100% on all items

Previous Hearing Decisions posted on the website

At the advice of the ICC, the three hearing decisions that have occurred in the past six years have been returned to the Birth to Three website. Those posted include April and October of 2005 and March 2007. All of the programs involved in those hearings continue to operate Birth to Three programs. The April 2005 "decision" is actually just the announcement of a settlement agreement without any of the facts being presented, although there were at least two days of hearing held. For

the future, the department would like to know whether the ICC advises including such settlement agreements in the hearings that are posted.

Dr. Mark Greenstein made a motion that the ICC would like settlement agreements listed as “settled” in keeping with other agencies, such as the State Department of Education. Lolli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The ICC advised that if there have been changes in the IDEA that would potentially render a previous hearing decision moot, the program involved may request that DDS review the continued posting of the decision. At this point, we know of no changes to IDEA Part C statute or regulation that would have affected any of the posted hearing decisions.

Assistive Technology Project

The Tots ‘N Tech assistive technology project, Pip Campbell, director, is now working with five states, including Connecticut. Cindy Jackson (Children’s Therapy Services), Rita Esposito (Reachout), and Elisabeth Teller (SARAH-KIDSTEPS) volunteered to act as regional coordinators for the project and will receive training in Phoenix, AZ this month.

Early Childhood Cabinet (aka State Advisory Council)

We’ve been told that the Governor appointed John Rathsgaber from CBIA as chairperson. No meetings have been scheduled yet. Linda Goodman expects to be part of this activity and will keep the ICC updated.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee: Joe reported that the committee will gather data and distribute Birth to Three information to chairs of appropriations committees of the legislature. They will also collect info from the State Department of Education dollars spent excess costs kids in school systems, kids placed outside of school system and consider doing a mailing to superintendents.

Communications Committee: Lolli reported that the committee would like to refocus and reprioritize their goals. The committee completed the final revisions to the by-laws for final vote in February.

Quality Services Committee: Melissa reported on the discussion of Birth to Three families leaving because of increased parent fees and not electing to participate in service coordination only and this committee would like to put together a brochure to explain service coordination to families. In order for families to understand their insurance plans, the committee would like to put together a information sheet for Service Coordinators (SC) to explain private health insurance information and this info would also be discussed at SC training. The committee would also like Birth to Three to consider highlighting service coordination in the annual report.

Reports and Announcements

On Saturday, March 20 a cooking demonstration of gluten-free food for children by chef Rob Landouphi who has been featured on Good Morning America at the First church of Christ, Mansfield, CT and there is a \$20 registration fee.

The meeting ended at 12: 30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Gorski

NEXT State ICC MEETING

Monday, February 22, 2010 at CAFAP, 2189 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT
Please RSVP to Anna Gorski at 860-418-8716 or via e-mail at: anna.gorski@ct.gov

Agenda items to include:

*final review of and hopefully approval of Bylaws.

*Consideration of the need for a retreat and what would be the agenda/goals for this.

*Reminder that an annual determination of standing subcommittees has been a part of our bylaws and we should discuss this in expectation of organizing our subcommittees (and consider re-establishing the fiscal subcommittee).

* approval of both December 2009 and January 2010 minutes

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

April 12, 2010

June 28, 2010

August 16, 2010

October 18, 2010

December 13, 2010

Please plan to attend.