

Interagency Coordinating Council

October 16, 2006
9 AM – 1:20 p.m.

CAFAP
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT

approved 12-11-06

Minutes

Laurel Ross, ICC Acting Chair

ARC, Greenwich

Timothy Bowles

Dept. of Social Services

Anita Cella

Parent

Elizabeth Daly

Office of Protection and Advocacy

Dona Ditrio

New Opportunities Early Head Start

Rita Esposito

REACHOUT, Inc.

Linda Goodman

Dept. of Mental Retardation

Mark A. Greenstein, M.D.

Pediatrician

Clara Gutierrez

Parent

Jeanette Haines

BESB

Moira Herbert

Insurance Department

Cynthia Jackson

Children's Therapy Services

Robert LaCamera, M.D.

American Academy of Pediatrics

Deborah List

Parent

Jeannie Mazzaferro, Ph.D.

Vice Chair and Parent

Joe McLaughlin

McLaughlin and Associates

Elise Minor

Parent

DeAnna Paugus-Lia

Dept. of Children and Families

Maura Provencher

Parent

Maria Synodi

State Dept. of Education

Louis Tallarita

SDE- Educ. for Homeless Children

Elayne Thomas

Parent

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.

Diane Wixted

*Commission on the Deaf and
Hearing Impaired*

ICC Members Present: Tim Bowles, Rita Esposito, Linda Goodman, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Jeanette Haines, Moira Herbert, Cindy Jackson, Dr. Robert LaCamera, Jeannie Mazzaferro, Lolli Ross, Louis Tallarita, Elayne Thomas, Rep. Jack Thompson, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick, Diane Wixted

ICC Members Absent: Elizabeth Daly, Clara Gutierrez, Joe McLaughlin, Elise Minor, DeAnna Paugus-Lia, Maria Synodi, Robin Tousey-Ayers

The meeting began at 1:00 PM.

Introductions: Lolli Ross, ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and 9 members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of August Minutes

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Housekeeping

Council Member Attendance: FY06 attendance records were reviewed and seven members recognized for having participated in every State ICC meeting during last fiscal year. A request had been received for consideration of allowing "excused absences" for approved reasons. Lolli reminded the group that revisions to the Council By-Laws had recently been completed wherein consideration of this feature had been discussed and rejected. The rationale was that every member's voice

is important for the role of advising and assisting the Lead Agency, which is the Council's statutory responsibility. When a member is absent, that important voice is silent. The revised by-laws state that three consecutive absences are reason for removal and replacement of the absent Council member. This was designed to facilitate upholding the spirit of the law which stipulates certain seats for certain representative stakeholders that the lead agency should regularly have access to for advice and assistance.

New Member Orientation

This has been placed on hold until the new birth to Three Educational Projects Coordinator is hired to serve as lead agency staff support.

Reviewers Needed

The FY06 Annual Report will soon be available for review in draft form prior to printing in December. Volunteers for this task included Diane, Lolli, Moira, Myra and Mark. This booklet serves as the State ICC report to the Governor.

Lead Agency Update

Linda distributed information (*att. 1*) on the Birth to Three budget, including submission of a budget option to OPM for additional funds. FY06 insurance revenue totaled \$3.3 million and parent fees averaging approximately \$50 per month net. \$2.2 million per month was paid to contracted programs.

Referrals were slightly higher in July, August and September than in previous years during these months. The Service & Support Office conducts daily reviews of families waiting more than 48 hours for assignment to a program for the eligibility evaluation or intake assessment. As of October 13th, the longest wait in what was formerly called the North region was a child referred on September 28th. The Norwalk and Westport area is still lagging, with 63 children awaiting program assignment, the longest since July 21st in Weston. The Wheeler Clinic was selected as a new program in the North Region. A new Request for Proposals was approved and is posted on the Birth to Three website at www.birth23.org. Proposals are due on December 15th from agencies interested in serving families in the Norwalk area.

Birth to Three personnel updates include the addition of Peg Boyajian as associate accountant and Pat Edwards as financial clerk. Kathy Granata has been appointed to the position of fiscal administrative officer. Interviews continue for a Research Analyst and additional Educational Projects Coordinator, plus a new Administrative Assistant to fill Kathy's vacant position.

Expanding Birth to Three eligibility has been included within the top 10 recommendations to the Governor by the Early Childhood Cabinet. Projected fiscal impact data is being reviewed by the Research and Policy Council of the Cabinet.

IDEA: The Annual Performance Report is due February 7, 2007 and the ICC will be asked to review new information at its December 11th meeting.

No new dispute resolution activity since the August 14th ICC meeting. One written complaint was received in early August alleging that medical information was improperly obtained and has moved into the response phase.

Four programs were selected to receive on-site monitoring in the first half of FY07: Early Connections North, St. Vincent's (both related to Child Find, IFSP within 45 days of referral), Jane Bisantz and Therapy Solutions (both for Service Delivery, timely services), and SARAH (for Transition, percent of transition conferences held on time).

Discussions of services for children on the Autism spectrum and their families continues. Birth to Three management met with Roger Frant from the State Department of Education, and will meet with Tony Maida from Cooperative Educational Services to explore new options.

Reports and Announcements

The Communications Committee continues to explore enhancements to the ICC page on the Birth to Three website. Members are reminded to submit a photo (clear head shot, please) and a quote about their role on the Council to Eileen as soon as possible for posting on a "Meet the ICC" segment. Future activities will include development of an ICC Mission statement and possibly a brochure.

Jeannie Mazzaferro, Ph.D. and Vice Chair of the Council announced that this is her final meeting. She is resigning due to increasing family responsibilities, and thanked everyone for their support and collaboration.

Mark asked for a status update on the DMR name change process, citing an international debate on this same issue. Linda reported that the Department has held public forums to receive input from the wider community, which has been mixed. It is thought that if indeed the name is changed that it may move away from a diagnosis-specific name. Linda will provide additional updates to the Council as they become available.

Louis announced that the current SERC training calendar includes a workshop scheduled for February 29, 2007 on the topic of the effects of homelessness on young children.

Diane announced that CDHI is forming its legislative agenda for the coming session, which may include a name change and tweak of the interpreting statutory language.

Jeanette announced a very successful preschool consultants training was held last week. Favorable response and great attendance may lead to a decision to repeat this event. She thanked Deb Resnick for disseminating the training announcement and information to Birth to Three providers.

A question was raised regarding the availability of trainings on the topic of services for young children who are both visual and hearing impairments. Jeanette noted that a training is held each September on the topic of services for children with multiple disabilities, including those who are deaf and blind. Mark mentioned a trainer from Vermont whom he recommends. Jeanette noted that BESB is currently discussing her availability to come to Connecticut.

Rita raised the topic of provider safety when traveling to unsafe neighborhoods for early intervention visits. Discussion ensued, including collaboration with the local police department for safety training techniques and possible escorts. It was noted that it is sometimes a significant challenge to remain both family-friendly and to stay safe. Other models were discussed including those of the Visiting Nurse Association and domestic violence shelter practices. Lolli volunteered

to discuss the topic with Karl Kemper from the Department of Children and Families to learn how their staff handle this challenge.

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

NEXT SICC MEETING

Monday, December 11 at CAFAP, 2189 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT

Please RSVP to Lana Raymond at 860-418-6035 or via e-mail to Eileen at eileen.mcmurrer@po.state.ct.us.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Feb. 26, 2007

April 9

June 11

August 13

October 15

December 10

Please plan to attend.