

Interagency Coordinating Council

December 11, 2006
10 AM – 1:35 p.m.

CAFAP
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT

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

Joe McLaughlin

McLaughlin and Associates

Elise Minor

Parent

DeAnna Paugus-Lia

Dept. of Children and Families

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: Elizabeth Daly, Rita Esposito, Linda Goodman, Jeanette Haines, Moira Herbert, Cindy Jackson, Dr. Robert LaCamera, Joe McLaughlin, DeAnna Paugus-Lia, Lolli Ross, Maria Synodi, Louis Tallarita, Elayne Thomas, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick, Diane Wixted

ICC Members Absent: Tim Bowles, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Clara Gutierrez, Elise Minor, Rep. Jack Thompson,

The meeting began at 10:20 AM.

Introductions: Lolli Ross, ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and 7 members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of October Minutes

Bob made a Motion to approve the minutes as written. Elayne seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Housekeeping

1. ICC representation on the Family Support Council was discussed. Cindy will consider volunteering for this responsibility.
2. A new ICC Vice-Chair is needed. Elayne will give this consideration.
3. Diversity on the Council was discussed. Current members are predominantly female and Caucasian, which does not represent

the overall Connecticut population. Alternative participation methods such as a conference call-in or laptop link were cited as possible methods for improving meeting access and participation by members who may find it difficult to travel to the meeting site. Tom Coakley described a training provided by Democracy Works that could be beneficial for identifying and taking next steps. The ICC Communications Committee will explore options.

Family Support Network

Jennifer Carroll, statewide coordinator of the CT Family Support Network (FSN), explained that they receive funding from the Birth to Three System to provide support for parents enrolled in Birth to Three and they would like to increase and improve communication with the State ICC. They are currently developing their 2007 legislative agenda, including promotion of Birth to Three eligibility expansion. Jen offered to provide regular updates to the Council from the FSN. The Council overwhelmingly expressed appreciation of the work done by FSN and asked for regular updates. Jen was invited to join the Legislative Committee.

Possible Eligibility Expansion

Linda distributed Appendix A (*att. 1*) from the Early Childhood Education Cabinet's proposal to the Governor entitled, "Ready by 5 & Fine by 9" listing action item updates and the top ten recommendations. Item #9 recommends that Connecticut "Expand eligibility categories in the Birth-to-Three Program [sic] to include mild developmental delays and environmental risks. This and the other recommendations are currently being evaluated for cost implications and may or may not be included in the Governor's proposed budget. The System also submitted a budget option for a similar expansion. Linda noted that questions to be addressed include how to define "mild" delay and how to increase provider capacity to serve much larger numbers of children. Currently Birth to Three eligibility determination requires use of a standardized instrument that produces a standard deviation. Consideration could be given to dropping this requirement in favor of a criterion based on months of delay. This could empower evaluators to better use their clinical judgment, especially when a standardized score may not accurately reflect a child's abilities.

Systems of Care Presentation

Tim Marshall, Clinical Manager III at the Department of Children and Families described the Kidcare legislation that took effect in 2000 to address the needs of children with a diagnosis or diagnosable mental health condition exhibited for longer than 6 months aged birth to 21 years. There are 26 community collaboratives that meet monthly to identify gaps in the system and promote a family-driven practice model consisting of natural family supports. Tim distributed a schematic (*att. 2*) of the statewide model and shared the webpage from the DCF site (*att. 3*) at www.ct.gov/dcf. The Council thanked Tim for sharing his information. Lolli will work with Tim Marshall and Tim Bowles from DSS and the ICC to develop a mailing for Birth to Three providers outlining opportunities for collaboration.

The Council took a break to pick up lunch.

Lead Agency Update

Linda distributed information (*att. 4*) on the Birth to Three budget and expenditures. Rates paid to providers increased by 2% on October 1st. Referrals have been steady. Capacity in the North is expected to improve now that Wheeler Clinic has begun accepting referrals from towns that had previously experienced a delay in program assignment for eligibility determination. Some towns in the South are beginning to experience delays, while the West is experiencing less severe

delays than previously. The current request for proposals is designed to address the need for increased capacity in the Southwestern towns of Connecticut.

New staff have joined the Birth to Three System, including Heather Phillips, our administrative assistant (ph. 860-418-6155); Anna Gorski who will assume the responsibilities of ICC staff support and track program compliance; and Tom Shepherd, research analyst on the quality assurance team.

Dispute Resolution activities included 2 complaints: one regarding a proposed reduction in services and one alleging that an oral/motor need is not being adequately addressed.

Quality Assurance activities included four on-site program monitoring sessions completed during the first half of FY07. Alice Ridgway distributed a preliminary draft of the State Performance Plan (*att. 5 & 6*) and requested input regarding strategies to achieve the 14 indicators.

The ICC report to Governor Rell containing FY06 data was distributed to Council members and is posted on the website at www.birth23.org/publications.

Reports and Announcements

Elizabeth Daly from the Office of Protection and Advocacy announced a forum scheduled for December 13 from 10 – 1 at the Legislative Office building to address the Use of Time Out, Seclusion and Restraints within educational settings. The intent is to raise legislative awareness of current practices that conflict with State Department of Education procedures so that legislation may be introduced giving these policies statutory enforceability.

Lolli then called for a **Motion** to adjourn. Myra made the Motion to adjourn; Elayne seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 1:35 PM

NEXT SICCC MEETING

Monday, February 26 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@po.state.ct.us.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Feb. 26, 2007

April 9

June 11

August 13

October 15

December 10

Please plan to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wixted, ICC Recording Secretary