

Interagency Coordinating Council

June 13, 2005
12 noon – 1:20 p.m.

Infoline – 4th floor
1344 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT

Approved 8-08-05

Minutes

Laurel Ross, ICC Acting Chair

ARC, Greenwich

Timothy Bowles

Dept. of Social Services

Elizabeth Daly

Office of Protection and Advocacy

Maria Engborg, alternate

Parent

Rita Esposito

REACHOUT, Inc.

Linda Goodman

Department of Mental Retardation

Mark A. Greenstein, M.D.

Pediatrician

Clara Gutierrez

Parent

Jeanette Haines

BESB

Moirra Herbert

Dept. of Insurance

Melvette Hill

Parent

Cynthia Jackson

Children's Therapy Services

Robert LaCamera, M.D.

American Academy of Pediatrics

Jeannie Mazzaferro

Parent

Joe McLaughlin

McLaughlin and Associates

Elise Minor

Parent

DeAnna Paugus-Lia

Dept. for Children and Families

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, Rita Esposito, Linda Goodman, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Moira Herbert, Cindy Jackson, Dr. Robert LaCamera, Jeannie Mazzaferro, Joe McLaughlin, Elise Minor, Lolli Ross, Maria Synodi, Louis Tallarita, Elayne Thomas, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick

ICC Members Absent: Elizabeth Daly, Maria Engborg, Clara Gutierrez, Jeanette Haines, Melvette Hill, DeAnna Paugus-Lia, Diane Wixted

The meeting began at 12 noon.

Introductions: Lolli Ross, Acting ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and 10 members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of April Minutes

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

Public Comment

1. Alyssa Goduti from CT Community Providers Association, a trade association that includes providers working with persons with disabilities, explained their purpose and selected activities. They convene an active B-3 provider forum and engage in lobbying and legislative advocacy on behalf of B-3 providers, sometimes on a parallel track with the ICC. She announced that they would welcome the opportunity to work with the State ICC on joint goals.

2. Debbie Richards from the CT State Department of Education distributed a recently developed brochure for parents on Connecticut resources. English and Spanish versions are available (*att. 1 and 2*)

from the State Department of Education and Birth to Three programs were invited to share them with enrolled families. A copy of each will be posted on the Birth to Three website.

Update on Council Appointments

The Governor's office has been working with the lead agency to update State ICC appointments. Most council members have received application packets to complete, have notarized and return to the Governor's office for review. Omissions have been brought to the attention of the Governor's office so that those members may confirm their intention to continue as ICC members and proceed through the application process as soon as possible. The State ICC section of the Birth to Three statute was recently updated to have Connecticut membership requirements match those in the federal law.

Lead Agency Update

Linda distributed information (*att.3*) detailing the FY06 budget, FY05 expenditures to date, enrollment, federal and state legislation, and dispute resolution activities. The Connecticut state budget was passed on June 7. A COLA for providers will be delayed until October, with a possible retroactive payment to July. Approval was given to conduct a Birth to Three unit cost study which will be contracted out after a Request for Proposals is issued in the near future. The results of this cost study must be reported to the Public Health and Appropriations Committees of the legislature by January 1, 2006. The purpose is to examine the operational costs of providing early intervention.

Revenue from parent fees has been lowered due to adjustments for family size and the initiation of collection after the second full month of enrollment. Enrollments of new children have increased.

Technical changes to the Birth to Three statute passed on June 8, 2005. Changes to the LICC portion of the statute were discussed at the November ICC meeting. Changes to the State ICC section were limited to bringing the required ICC membership into alignment with the federal law. Other recent legislative action included establishment of an Early Childhood Cabinet covering birth through age five. The Department of Mental Retardation, the lead agency for Birth to Three, will be represented on this Cabinet.

Draft federal regulations for Part B of IDEA were just issued and public comments are being solicited. No Part C regulations have been proposed yet. The Connecticut federal application for funding was submitted on 3-22-05. Birth to Three will wait to issue updated Procedures until after final regulations are issued for Part C.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is convening a Summer Institute this August in Washington, D.C. to discuss development of a six-year state performance report. Linda, Alice (the Birth to Three quality assurance manager), and two ICC representatives will participate in this training. Another contiguous training will be held in the same location addressing focused monitoring.

Dispute Resolution activity has included two hearings and three mediations since the April ICC meeting. A request was made to post hearing information on the Birth to Three website in keeping with the practice used by the State Department of Education. Linda agreed that this would be worthwhile and will ensure that this is done in the future.

Quality Assurance information is also being posted on the website, including data from the first four on-site program visits completed in FY05. Visit www.birth23.org/monitoringdata for more information.

The Inclusive Playgroups RFP elicited seven applications for funding. Six were approved and one additional request may be approved pending enhancement with a final required feature.

Trainings on the Birth to Three supervisory observation instrument are ongoing. Credentialing is currently voluntary. Thirteen providers have already applied, and others are beginning their portfolios.

SICC Retreat

Discussion took place re. convening a full-day retreat for State ICC members. Agenda topics will include the history of this advisory body, implications of the reauthorized IDEA and new regulations, and an examination of priorities for the next few years. It was decided that Local ICCs should be invited to participate so that their communication with the State ICC may be more firmly secured. In recognition of the difficulty many LICC Chairs have in gaining release time from their regular responsibilities in order to come to an all-day meeting, it was suggested that an ICC member meet with any LICC that will not be able to send a representative to this retreat so that their input may be included. **Monday, September 19th** was chosen as the retreat date. Suggestions for a facilitator or a location should be sent to Lolli or Eileen.

Meeting Space Alternatives

Possible future meeting locations include the Department of Transportation in Newington or FAVOR, Inc. in Rocky Hill.

Committee work was postponed.

Reports and Announcements

Robin Tousey-Ayers from the CT Department of Public Health announced that their Children with Special Health Care Needs program is moving from a two-center model to a 5 center regional model effective July 1st.

Melissa van Buren announced that the Center for Excellence is ready to begin their second cohort of Early Intervention Specialist trainees. This is a web-based program that is self-paced and is expected to be completed in one year by most participants. The three modules are roughly equivalent to three semesters, with non-degree credit issued from the University of Connecticut. A stipend is available upon completion of all three modules and recipients must agree to serve in the early intervention field for four years after completion of the program.

Lolli announced that children's mental health issues were addressed in several ways during the recent legislative session, with significant changes underway to improve services and options for children and their families. A Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Council is being formed, and Lolli and Tim will share updates with this Council as progress is made. Lolli cited very effective parent testimony to the legislature at a critical juncture as the driving force behind this initiative.

Linda noted changes were made to the School Readiness statute, including a provision for Birth to Three to be represented within those Councils.

Tim announced changes to the Medicaid waiver program, sometimes known as the “Katie Beckett Waiver”, with increased numbers of waivers to be made available. He will share more information at the August ICC meeting.

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 1:20 PM

NEXT SICC MEETING

Monday, August 8th at a location to be announced.

Please RSVP to Kathy Granata at 860-418-6146 or via e-mail to Eileen at eileen.mcmurrer@po.state.ct.us.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

September 19, 2005	State ICC and LICCs Retreat	all day
October 17, 2005	Focused Monitoring Stakeholders	9 AM – 3 PM
December 19, 2005	State ICC meeting	9 AM – 2 PM

*** locations to be announced ***

*** * * * *** Please note the **change of date** for the **December ICC meeting** *** * * * ***
to allow the December OSEP Conference participants to report to the full Council.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wixted, Recording Secretary
With the assistance of Eileen McMurrer, lead agency staff support to the State ICC