

Interagency Coordinating Council

August 8, 2005
9 AM – 1:20 p.m.

CAFAP
2189 Silas Deane Highway
Rocky Hill, CT

Approved 12-19-05

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

Moir 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, Linda Goodman, Dr. Mark Greenstein, Dr. Robert LaCamera, Jeannie Mazzaferro, Joe McLaughlin, Lolli Ross, Maria Synodi, Louis Tallarita, Melissa Van Buren, Myra Watnick, Diane Wixted

ICC Members Absent: Elizabeth Daly, Rita Esposito, Clara Gutierrez, Jeanette Haines, Moira Herbert, Cindy Jackson, Elise Minor, DeAnna Paugus-Lia, Elayne Thomas, Robin Tousey-Ayers

The meeting began at 9:20 AM.

Introductions: Lolli Ross, Acting ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the State ICC meeting. Council members and 12 members of the public introduced themselves.

Approval of June Minutes

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

Public Comment

Joyce Lewis from Key Service Systems, a Birth to Three provider agency, spoke about the intention of CT Children's Medical Center not to renew their contract as Birth to Three providers for the new fiscal year due to fiscal constraints. She cited concern for the 95 enrolled families being serviced by CCMC and 59 others who are currently awaiting eligibility evaluations in the North region who will consequently incur disruption and delay due to the loss of this provider agency. She has written to Governor Rell (*att. 1*) and is seeking ICC support for an emergency intervention to keep CCMC active as a provider. Lengthy discussion ensued. Ultimately, the consensus was to not take immediate action at this time but to continue discussion at the next

Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Monday August 22 at 1 PM via phone conference. It was noted that the rate study results will be available in February, 2006, and that the impact of changes in eligibility and changes in payments to programs have had a great impact on everyone.

Lead Agency Update

Linda distributed information (*att. 2*) detailing the rate study that will begin soon. Programs are being asked to provide detailed information on their program costs so that accurate information on what kinds of funding is truly needed to run an effective early intervention system may be provided for consideration to those in a position to make fiscal decisions in the legislature.

Net invoices for FY05 totaled \$24.5 million plus \$3 million in insurance reimbursements. State funding for FY06 will be \$23.6 million.

Enrollment levels for FY05 were comparable to those of FY02. They have remained fairly stable after the significant increase of FY03, then precipitous drop in FY04 after implementation of a number of system changes including billing enrolled parents.

The new federal application for funding included recognition of OSEP's requirement that Birth to Three eliminate requests for postponement of a hearing, either by the family or the System. No extensions are allowed, and decisions must be issued within thirty days of the request.

Detailed FY05 accumulative data were shared in attachments 3 and 4.

Focused Monitoring Update

Alice will participate in a national meeting later this week in Washington, D.C. Connecticut will convene its focused monitoring meeting on October 17. The Focused Monitoring and State Performance Plan may be combined into a single document.

Future ICC Meetings and Retreat

A list of future State ICC meetings was distributed (*att. 5*). Arrangements have been made for the September ICC Retreat at the Keeney Memorial Center (*att. 6*). The Retreat will begin at 9:30 and continue until 3:30 to address current and long-term priorities.

State ICC Appointments Update

A new staff person has been assigned the duties of coordinating council appointments within the Governor's office. Lolli thanked everyone for having completed the application for appointment despite its length. Several new members remain to be appointed.

National Part C Funding and State ICC Activities

National Part C funding levels were announced (*att. 7*) with several ICCs from other states calling for lobbying to educate those who make funding decisions on the national level. Discussion ensued, with the consensus that Lolli should express an interest in getting involved on behalf of our state's ICC. Connecticut took the deepest cut nationally of all states and territories.

Reports and Announcements

Melissa Van Buren shared news of a small grassroots effort among higher education to coordinate services and professional development for children on the autism spectrum. Meetings are ongoing and will have an increasing focus on coordination. Linda announced that the

Department of Mental Retardation will be hiring an Autism Coordinator for services to individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder with or without mental retardation.

Maria announced that the State Department of Education has issued new draft Autism Guidelines for public comment during the next 12 months. They may be read on the SDE website under Special Education, Publications. SERC has hard copies.

The last legislative session saw numerous accomplishments, including a name change for SERC. This valuable state resource has its name changed from Special Education Resource Center, to State Education Resource Center.

There are still two or three openings for a State ICC member to be sponsored for participation at the national OSEP conference in Washington, D.C. this December. Interested members should contact Lolli or Eileen for more information.

The Council then took a break to pick up lunch. Committee work was postponed in favor of discussion of the upcoming conference call and next steps. It was decided that the call would be used to (1) prepare to meet with Rep. Denise W. Merrill re. concerns about Birth to Three System funding, and (2) plan the ICC Retreat objectives

Announcements continued with Tim Bowles' distribution of information on children's behavioral health services and proposed reforms to HUSKY A, including a slight expansion of the Katie Beckett waiver.

Deb Resnick gave a presentation on the Observation Tool developed here in Connecticut at a national CSPD conference.

Maria announced that the State Department of Education is piloting a web-based preschool special education training aimed at Birth to Three providers and preschool special education personnel. It is comprised of three modules, and feedback from everyone is invited to be sent to Maria Synodi.

Lolli then called for a **Motion** to adjourn. Linda made the Motion to adjourn; Bob seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 1:02 PM

NEXT SICC MEETING

Monday, December 19 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