

State Interagency Coordinating Council

December 4, 2023 Minutes

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

American School for the Deaf, West Hartford

Cynthia Jackson

ICC Chair/Provider

Leona Adamczyk

ICC Vice Chair

John Lamb

Dept. of Public Health

Tiffanie Allain

Parent Representative

Donna Maitland-Ward

Dept. for Children and Families

Maris Pelkey

Creative Interventions, Provider

Elaine Balsley

Reachout, Provider

Nicole Cossette

Office of Early Childhood

Senator Ceci Maher

State Senator

Shonda Easley

Parent representative

Sharon Marie

Dept. of Aging & Disabilities Services

Ginny Mahoney

Dept. of Social Services

Anne Giordano

Education Connection, Provider

Louis Tallarita

SDE-Homeless Children

Renee Kleinman

SDE-619, Pending

Julie Hall

SARAH Inc, Provider

Enrique Pabon

Early Head Start

Ann Milanese, M.D.

American Academy of Pediatrics

Representative Liz Linehan

House of Representatives

Tammy Venenga

Dept. Of Developmental Services

Mary Beth Bruder

UCEDD

Lisa Opert

Parent Representative

Robb Dunn

Parent Representative

Caitlin McNamara

Parent representative

Joshua Vaughn

Parent Representative

Shakira Wade

Parent Representative

Jennifer Dowty

Department of Insurance

Kristina Gilbertie

Rehab Associates, Provider, Pending

ICC Members Present: Donna Maitland-Ward, Julie Hall, Enrique Pabon, John Lamb, Lisa Opert, Anne Giordano, Robb Dunn, Maris Pelkey, Renee Kleinman (pending appointment), Caitlin McNamara, Bethanne Vergean (on behalf of Mary Beth Bruder), Cynthia Jackson, Elaine Balsley, Shakira Wade, Tiffanie Allain, Kristina Gilbertie (pending appointment), Nicole Cossette, Sharon Marie, Shanda Easley

ICC Members Absent: Joshua Vaughn, Ann Milanese, Ginny Mahoney, Tammy Venenga, Jennifer Dowty, Ceci Maher, Liz Linehan, Leona Adamczyk, Louis Tallarita

Meeting called to order at 9:10 AM by Cindy Jackson, ICC Chair

Introductions: Members introduced themselves.

Public Comment:

The Bureau of Education services for the Blind is going to host two trainings in the spring. One for preschool and one for Birth to Three. More information to come.

Old Business:

September 2023 minutes approved.

Updates from Committees since September 2023 meeting:

Legislative/Fiscal Committee: Elaine Balsley provided an update. She discussed questions related to PCG Rate study, but PCG will join the meeting at 10:00. She asked about the suggestion at the last ICC meeting to add a column to the annual report that included number of providers by town. Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, reported that an additional column will be added before it goes out to the Governor and legislators.

Education and Outreach Committee: Lisa Opert provided an update. She reported that the committee had not met since September's meeting. The focus of the last committee meeting was the concerns about 211 Birth to Three referrals; regarding wait times families were having when calling 211 to make referrals, as well as the possibility that some referrals were not getting to programs.

System Support/Personnel Development Committee: Anne Giordano provided the update. She reported that the committee had not met since the September meeting.

New Business:

CPAC Family Connections Update: Adriana Fontaine reported that Family Connections received 62 referrals and 51 families accepted parent mentors. Parent Mentors consulted with other families on transition from B23 to Preschool, IFSP, eligibility, and SPARKLER. CPAC attended outreach events and supported Benchmark and Sarah, Inc.-KIDSTEPS with transition. CPAC held 6 events for professionals. Adriana discussed CPAC's support group; families can register through their Facebook page and newsletter and the information is going to be added to the blog.

Dates for 2024 ICC Meetings

February 5th

April 1st – Family Focus Meeting

June 3rd

October 7th

December 2nd.

All meetings will be held at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) in West Hartford, CT from 9:00AM to 12:00 PM.

Child Development 211 (211CD) Advisory Committee: Nicole provided an update on 211CD. She reported that she had requested data from 211 last week due to providers reporting that they are seeing a decrease in referrals. Lead Agency has not received the data back. Next steps will be Rebecca and Nicole to meeting to discuss next steps for 211. Followed by meeting with Elisabeth/Sophia to discuss monitoring. Nicole reported that she has escalated the issue with senior leadership within the OEC. 211 Advisory Committee will review procedures and give input for the referral process. Nicole reported the timeline for the committee and reported it would be similar to Mission/Vision statement; meeting at least monthly or possible bi-monthly to start. Secondary to reviewing procedures, the committee can discuss what data should be in RAIN to help streamline the process in the future. Nicole reported that meetings with the Committee would be in early January. Council members or providers were encouraged to email Cindy or Nicole/Rebecca if interested. Nicole requested that, if interested, please contact her in a week or two so a doodle poll can be sent out.

Cost Report/Personnel/Time Study: Zane Wyrick, Senior Consultant at PCG joined remotely and provided an update on the rate study. He reviewed the timeline of the rate study, and he stated that the final report will be released mid-January. He also discussed what can be expected including a professional and paraprofessional rate, and a potential for a tiered rate structure proposal.

Lead Agency Report: Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, reviewed the Lead Agency Report. See below. Nicole stated that the next annual performance report is due January 1st. Indicator 4 (family outcomes) is still pending and has been moved to later in the year. Waiting for data from our vendor which should be provided next week. Will be posting for public comment within the next week. Nicole also asked for volunteers to review the report which will also be posted on the website. She also reported that public reporting tables will be added to the website. Nicole stated that Indicators 1, 7, and 7c will be going out to programs for verification of non-compliance. Programs will need to verify and show corrections if needed. Nicole reported that we are spending down ARPA and do not have to return any to OSEP.

Nicole reported that B23 did receive a COLA and the lead agency is working out the methodology to get it out to programs. Once that is determined, there will be another amended contract; it is likely that the reimbursement will be provided to programs as a one-time payment. She also reported that there will be a new line added on the January invoice for the COLA. Once Nicole has approval she will share with ICC and Providers.

Nicole updated on Easterseals. The program was officially closed September 30, 2023, due to the company canceling their contract with the OEC.

Nicole updated the ICC on the Federal Part C Application. She reported that the lead agency does not have the federal contract yet, therefore, it is not yet known what the federal allocation will be. She reported that the Part C application is always based on the year prior and the lead agency is building off FFY223. The current timeline: Draft on February 26, review application. Will go to public comment March 25, April 9 and April 23 public hearings. Comments are due by April 24, and the lead agency will submit April 26. This could all change based on when the application is due.

Nicole shared that Mary is predicting a \$324,000 deficit. She is waiting to see what happens over the next few months. If needed, Nicole and Mary will meet with the commissioner to discuss possibly moving funds within the OEC budget.

Cindy asked about the status of the ICC Video and where it is in the timeline. Members of the Video Committee met with O'Donnell Group to discuss what they were looking for. Nicole shared that funds need to be added to O'Donnell and a PC1 needs to be completed. Cindy shared with parents to let her, or Nicole, know if they are interested in sharing their story about their participation on the ICC for the video.

Committee Report Out

Legislative/Fiscal:

Chairs: Elaine Balsley, Julie Hall, and Shanda Easley

Elaine shared the committee's concerns of receiving the rate study information in early January as it is a short legislative session. She questioned whether the information should or could be included within the annual data report. The committee discussed the rate and a tiered rate proposal related to level of training rather than by discipline.

System Support/Professional Development:

Chairs: Anne Giordano and Robb Dunn

Anne shared that the committee discussed the importance of the rate study. They welcomed Jenna Tenore to the committee, who is the new director at Sarah, Inc. KIDSTEPS. They discussed how the Professional Development Grants is for staff enhancement and not just for retention. Discussed ideas for possible trainings on methods people are using including Project Play and MEISR.

Communication/Education & Outreach:

Chairs: Lisa Opert and Maris Pelkey

Lisa shared that they discussed a family handout for referrals, including timelines, who to contact if there is an issue, and QR code for list of programs by town. There was discussion about the ICC video for the B23 website, and parents expressed interest in being in the video. Discussion also included possible interview questions and where the video will take place, including the natural environment if possible. She shared that the committee also discussed their previous idea of having a family meet up at Camp Harkness but it was suggested to do a meet up at the Children's Museum in Niantic. It was further discussed that the museum in Niantic is part of the state's network of children Museum which consists of 5 different museums across the state, Niantic, Manchester, West Hartford, Newtown, and Norwalk. She shared that they also discussed bringing back playgroups.

Meeting ended 12:00 PM

Next Meeting

Date:	Monday, February 5, 2023
Time:	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location:	American School for the Deaf, West Hartford