

EARLY INTERVENTION COUNCIL
Region 10 - Wheatland, Wyoming
November 20, 2006

Those Present: Geri Smith, Morita Flynn, Holly Lebsack, Laurie Westlake, Connie Strayer, Susan Wiley, Betsy Schmick, Terri Dawson, Melissa Deming, and Barbara Jacques-Crane, and Cliff Mikesell.

Guests: Clark Burden, Executive Director- Region 10, Becky Curless- Special Services Coordinator, Kathy Garton- Center Coordinator of Wheatland Early Childhood Center, and Lauren Nordeen- Area Coordinator/Education Coordinator.

Minutes: Terri asked for clarification to the September minutes regarding the By-Law changes made to the language stating that the focus of the Council is 0-5, not birth to 3. She also questioned why there was a need for a motion regarding the clarification of the Parent Role on the Council. Geri stated that it served as formal notice for the Intent to Change the By-Laws and that a motion was appropriate because it would be a New Business item. Laurie made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Melissa seconded. Motion carried.

Program Report- Region 10: Clark Burden presented a brief overview of the Region 10 program (serving 4 counties- Platte, Goshen, Converse, and Niobrara). Laurie commented that the region has done a nice job in meeting Head Start and DD requirements, especially for vision screening, health screening, and service integration. Kathy Garton presented WCFD's implementation of the Advanced Social-Emotional Pilot Project in Platte County.

Connie Strayer also shared that assessment tools will be explored throughout all the Advanced Projects. Networking and support has strengthened throughout the state. There has been a variety of ways that parent involvement has been increased, including specific referral/assessment/staffing information, training and awareness, classroom activities, etc. She also shared with the group that a bill will be brought to the Legislature to amend the "Per Child" \$363.00 per child to continue the project that has been piloted the last year and during this year as well. This additional funding would provide continued support to provide training and technical assistance through the 3 tiered approach to strengthen services to eligible children.

Terri asked about outcomes and assessment from the Pilot Projects and Morita stated that Susan Wagner and Mike Massie would be an excellent resource for her. Laurie asked how this legislation would impact non-eligible children and supports for Tier 1 providers. Morita said that although each program may implement these monies differently, it would allow additional staff members to be hired to serve this population. Terri stated that it all goes back to outcomes and whether staff know what the outcomes are supposed to be...otherwise we have missed the boat. Geri stated that this topic was specifically addressed by YCS at the Lander Training and continued clarification and communication will be provided.

Clark felt that partnerships between Tier 1 providers and Tier 2 providers have been strengthened through this pilot. Lauren explained that WCFD uses ESP and ASQ-SE for outcome measures, although this is not part of the grant requirement.

By-Laws: Geri explained the proposed change to the bylaws and the issues that were discussed during last meeting. The consensus was that parents should only wear one hat on the EIC to make sure we were not watering down the amount of parent representation by picking dual role members. Terri asked if we really wanted to tie our hands in the bylaws rather than trying to keep it as a focus but allow for flexibility. Further discussion will be tabled until we have a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.

Draft of Part C Parent Handbook: OSEP is requesting that the Procedural Safeguards be pulled out of the Parent Handbook so that there are two separate documents. The Procedural Safeguards will be added to the end of the parent handbook, but staff will be able to distribute the Procedural Safeguards with prior written notice for meetings, evaluations etc. without having to distribute the full handbook each time.

The Wyoming Part C Policies will have to be revised as the Procedural Safeguards have to be updated for Part C. Geri passed out copies of proposed changes to the Procedural Safeguards section of the Part C Policies. Geri is requesting that all members respond to her with recommendations no later than Nov. 27, 2006 as they have to be ready for distribution by Dec 1, 2006 to allow for the 60 day public review and 30 day public comment period.

Part B Report (Barbara)

- NECTAC has been reauthorized (National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center). They provide training, resources, and assistance in state strategic plans, etc. They have also presented at the EIC on the role of a stakeholder.
- Center for Exceptional Children has published a comparison of 1997 and 2004 regulations with analysis and comparison.
- UN at Lincoln is doing research on the Preschool Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale and is looking for participants for completing their new scale and sending them back for reliability and validity.

Part C Report (Geri)

- Geri is currently working on the State Performance Plan and the Annual Performance Report. Once a draft is completed, she would like comments and input from the council and will be scheduling a conference call in January.
- Part C Coordinator position is being advertised.
- Self-Assessment for Part C has been completed from each Region. Preliminary results indicate there is an improvement from last year.
- The Web-based database system (Citrix) is on target. Regions are working with Bob Lynch to begin laying the foundation to get everyone into the system. The next implementation phase will be sent out next week.
- The WYDH website is being utilized more to help improved communication and consistency in dissemination of information across regions. This will include

FAQ and Survey results, the revised State Performance Plan, the Annual Performance Report, etc.

- The Parent Questionnaire is now available in Spanish. Once the new database is up and running, there will be an electronic option for completing the survey.
- Geri asked the group if they were aware of any other forms that would be helpful for Regions to have translated into Spanish as well.

Reporting Requirements for Child Outcome Summary Forms:

Last year, the EIC had requested an additional information collection point on the 3 required outcome areas (Positive Social-Emotional Skills, Use of Appropriate behaviors to meet their needs (self-help), and Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills). The Federal requirement is to collect data at entry and exit. In addition to those checkpoints, the programs were requested to complete an annual checkpoint as well. Geri reported that this additional data request was burdensome to the regions and that some of the approved tools for collecting the data are not appropriate for the annual assessments of children.

Morita emphatically stated that it was an erroneous assumption that programs would only know if regression was occurring by filling out the COSF form.

Barbara stated that we have been trying to implement this for a year and that it has had mixed results.

Becky Curless said that it is a very time consuming process. It is part of the ongoing programming, but it is cumbersome because it must be compiled from a variety of sources, as the definitions do not fit other data sources. Becky also stated that linking the data would eliminate writing things twice.

Betsy recommended that if the annual assessment is not required, and the information is available through other sources, then the priority should be on having the Early Intervention staff serve the children.

This additional requirement is not in the Part C or B State Performance Plans. However, if the additional requirement is removed, policies and procedures would need to be revised and each Regional Program would need to revise their implementation plan for collecting the Child Outcome data.

Betsy moved and Holly seconded that the policies and procedures requiring the annual completion of the Child Outcome Form be eliminated and the regional programs be asked to revise their implementation plan accordingly. Motion carried.

Geri asked the EIC to form a committee to revise the approved tools (core assessments) list for completing the entrance/exit Child Outcome Summary Form. It needs to be tailored to be more manageable for a reliable data source. It was suggested that the group go back and evaluate what we are trying to accomplish and report from this summary process. Clark reminded EIC that home school and private PreK may not be using a curriculum to measure outcomes. The committee established includes Laurie, Susan, Becky, and Betsy. Geri will also extend an invitation to the other Regional Program directors to ask for additional volunteers especially from Part C.

Setting Targets for the State Performance Plan:

Part C Indicator 4 - Geri explained the monitoring priority for this indicator, and the expectation from OSEP for increasing the baseline % of parents who agree that EI services have helped the family in each of the three sub-indicator categories. OSEP's expectation is that rigorous targets be set for all three areas that would show "significant growth" from now through 2011. Susan Wagner had provided data showing what could be considered statistically significant growth in each area. This handout was provided to the Council.

Holly moved and Susan seconded to approve the new targets. Motion carried.

Part C Indicator 2- The data collected for this indicator for 2004-2005 shows that the State greatly exceeds the targets set last year, which means the targets need to be revised. OSEP has provided guidance to States that they would not expect to see 100% of the children served in the natural environment. However, they do suggest a maintenance target of 95% for those States who have reached that target.

Melissa moved and Holly seconded to revise the target to a maintenance target of 95% or higher. Motion carried.

- Part B- Indicator 8- Barbara explained this monitoring priority of the % of parents reporting schools facilitating involvement from a baseline of 70% with significant targets. Susan moved and Melissa seconded to approve the new target of 75% by 2010. Motion carried.
- Each of the programs will receive their own data from the State Performance Plan back for program improvement purposes. It would be helpful for Susan Wagner to explain scoring differentials for outside audiences.

Mark Your Calendars:

EARLY ON - Early Intervention Parent Conference: Terri reported that it is scheduled for June 9-10 at the Come On Inn in Casper. Topic ideas include advocacy, infant/toddler mental health, and taking care of your self. Stipends will be available for families.

REGION VIII HEAD START CONFERENCE- Oct. 21- 23, 2008 in Cheyenne at the Little America Conference Center. If you have session ideas or presenter possibilities, please contact Betsy (836-2751) or Lauren Nordeen (331-0420).

Determinations (See Handout): Geri explained the "Determination" categories that will be used at the federal and the regional level. The definition for "timely corrections" is correction made within 1 year from receiving notification of noncompliance. She would like a committee to propose a consistent weighted process for establishing determinations for the regional programs based on monitoring results, timely/accurate data, and meeting the SPP targets. OSEP requires this process to include sanctions and supports.

Terri suggested using No Child Left Behind and the rubric developed by the public schools as a resource. This process must be in place by spring.

Morita asked about the availability of technical assistance and Geri said it is being developed.

Laurie suggested getting the criteria first and then tweak what has already been developed for Wyoming. The council will discuss again at a later date once some examples and technical assistance have been identified.

The “Report Card” for the Region was discussed as a means of providing public reporting regarding how a region did in meeting the targets. Although Part B will be grouped by school districts, Barbara would like to do a separate “little” Part B report. There are no requirements for formatting other than it is understandable to the general public and that the report does not contain any identifiable information (child/family). These reports will be available on the website, PIC/PEN newsletter, and the public library. The council will also discuss this issue at a later date once some examples and technical assistance have been identified.

Public Relations Update: Morita shared that there has been feedback from Regions saying that they want Developmental Wheels to continue. Susan said she had a simpler version from Montana to consider. Terri said that PEN has additional money for PR and is interested in providing the wheels to families and developmental centers.

Comments on the SPP/APR:

- Part B- will be sent to members in early December. A conference call was scheduled for Directors and the EIC on Dec. 5 from 8:30-10:30.
- Part C- Will be sent out in early January. A conference call was scheduled for Directors and the EIC on Jan. 8 at 8:30-10:30.

Draft Rules and Regulations: They will not be out Dec 1, 2006 because the programs are closed over the holiday. The concern was not providing everyone with the opportunity to begin making comments right away during the 45-day comment period. The release date is now Jan. 1, 2007.

Next Quarterly Meeting: Mar 21 or 22 in Casper with the location TBA. The following meeting is June 18-19 with the Location TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.