



State Interagency Coordinating Council for Tennessee's Early Intervention System

April 22, 2014
9:00 am – 12:00 pm (CT)

Meeting Minutes

ICC Members in Attendance:

Ned Solomon -TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
Jacqueline Johnson-Department of Health
Karen Pryor-Health Sphere Wellness Center
Amy Jenkins-Siskin
Joey Hassell-Department of Education
Jessica Beaver-Therapy and Learning Center
Kimberly Wingate-University of TN at Chattanooga
Deanna Bell-TN Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Louise Barnes-Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Gail Crawford-Department of Human Services
Rachel Saine-Foundations
Janet Coscarelli-Head Start
Loraine Lucinski-TN Department of Health
Pablo Juarez-Vanderbilt Kennedy Center/TRIAD

ICC Guests in Attendance:

Linda Hartbarger-TEIS
Catherine Goodwin-TEIS
Jill Rigsby-TEIS
Sarah Hunt-Child Development Centers
Margaret Headrick- TEIS
Pat Cooper- TEIS
Jill Rogers-LEAD
Anita Teague-Child Development Centers
Stephanie Phillips-Special Kids and Families
Michelle Fox-Foundations
Elizabeth Hailey-TEIS
Karen Willis-TEIS
Heather Higgins-First Steps
Ron Kwasigroh-Therapy and Learning Center
Susan Rollyson-TNAAP
Terry Lewis-TEIS
Shannon Pargin-TEIS
Rene Bard- TEIS
Joan Kennedy-TEIS
Melinda Dellert-TEIS
Claudia Weber-TEIS
Barbara Thomas-TEIS

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Chase Davenport-Emory Valley Center
Ruthe Threet-TEIS
Emily Harding-TEIS
Kendra Wurm-TEIS
Elizabeth Peters-Sunshine Early Intervention
Vicki Hix-The Henry Center
Vickie Barnes-UT Pediatric Language Clinic
Pam Potocik-LTVEC
Karen Mevis-TN Disability Pathfinder
Connie Bowlan-Special Kids and Families
Amanda Dunlap-MTSU
Jacque Cundall-Department of Health
Vicki Peterson-TENNCARE
Anna Ramsbottom-Emory Valley Center

MEETING:

Opening/Welcome

SICC Chair Jacqueline Johnson opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The SICCC members, lead agency staff, and guests introduced themselves and identified their respective agencies and roles.

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved by Jessica Beaver with Kimberly Wingate seconding the motion.

Approval of Minutes of January Meeting

Minutes were approved by Ned Solomon with Karen Pryor seconding the motion.

Agency and Program Reporting

Early Childhood IDEA Programs (ECIP) Update-Linda Hartbarger

Linda shared that data manager positions are fully staffed in each Tennessee Early Intervention Service (TEIS) Point of Entry (POE) office. Administrative Secretary and Field Supervisor 1 positions have been approved but are currently on hold. Currently five TEIS offices are without administrative support and are utilizing Temporary Services.

A search to fill the Logistics/Procurement position has taken place and a successful candidate has been identified with a start date of May 1. Terry Lewis formerly held this position and is now the TEIS accountant.

The Memphis Delta TEIS office has been with a District Administrator over the last few months but it being managed with the support of Rene Bard and Elizabeth Hailey, District Administrators for the Northwest and Jackson offices, respectively. While a job search has been conducted, a satisfactory candidate was not identified.

Federal funding award amount is 8.2 million. The Part C application was submitted this month to Washington.

Contracts and & Authorization to Vendor-AV Agreements for FY 2014-15-Linda Hartbarger
Contract award amounts should be received by May 18.

Establishment of priorities and goals for the Interagency Coordinating Council-Joey Hassell, Assistant Commissioner, Linda Hartbarger & Catherine Goodwin

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Joey said that there needed to be a quality measurement using good clean measures as we move forward.

He wants to simplify early intervention language by discontinuing use of acronyms pertaining to programs within the department thereby making it easier to understand.

Linda stated that one of her unit priorities is to have quality staff would align them within the strategic priorities of the department.

State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)-Catherine Goodwin

Catherine shared that the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has now released the second proposed State Performance Plan (SPP)/ Annual Performance Plan (APR) package, which includes the new Indicator 11 for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Comment period ends April 24th. The Division of Special Populations does not plan on submitting comments/ feedback. When the first proposed package was released April 2013, the Division gathered a number of stakeholders to review documents and submit comments. OSEP has communicated that the final package when issued will not change substantially from the documents released on March 25th. If anyone would like a copy of the newest package documents they can email Catherine at Catherine.Goodwin@tn.gov,

The March 2014 SPP/APR package (including the SSIP) provided a lot of clarification and additional details compared to the first package. There are three main phases for the SSIP. A broad overview of the SSIP phases was shared, focusing particularly on the current Phase 1.

Year 1 FFY 2013-14	Year 2 FFY 2014-15	Years 3-6 (through FFY 2017-18)
Phase 1: Analysis	Phase 2: Plan	Phase 3: Imp. & Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Data analysis</u> • <u>Analysis of state infrastructure</u> • <u>State-identified measurable results</u> • <u>Coherent improvement strategies</u> • <u>Theory of Action</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Infrastructure development</u> • <u>Support to TEIS and/or EI provider for implementation of evidence-based practices</u> • <u>Evaluation</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ongoing implementation</u> • <u>Reporting on progress</u> • <u>Plan evaluation</u>

There were numerous comments and concerns expressed by SICC Council members and others in attendance regarding OSEPs removal of "family" language in the March 2014 SPP/APR proposed package. The language in the new package for the SSIP focuses on measurable improved results for children. Concern expressed was that parents are such an integral/in-separable component when looking at child-level improvements. The child cannot be looked at in isolation from the family. If the focus is solely on the child then early intervention will be taking a step backward. There were also comments made about the importance of the child's environment (home, community settings and therapeutic settings) which impact/ influence child-level progress. Catherine and Linda spoke to the concerns expressed. Family participation and involvement are integrated into the TEIS Guiding Principles and is a priority in Tennessee. Children do not receive IFSP early intervention services in isolation. The family member is always present and is involved in their child's early intervention. The Early Childhood Outcomes Indicator 3 and Family Outcomes Indicator 4 continue to be a part of APR reporting requirements, so there will be continued focus on families within the early intervention system.

Catherine added that SSIP will be a focused topical area related to child-level improvement. Data analysis has yet to be conducted relative to early childhood outcomes (ECO). There has been discussion around the analysis of ECO data at the program level (intervention across home, community etc.). Based on comments expressed during the meeting this type of analysis will most likely be conducted. SSIP work will begin in May.

Another comment was raised regarding the development of a SSIP around the measurement for determining successful implementation of early intervention services leading toward child-level progress and the need for the use of a common/standard instrument for such a measurement. As part of the SSIP, there is an evaluation phase so there will be a tool or measure identified to assess progress on SSIP strategies implemented. Discussion led to the fact that Tennessee does have state developmental standards – TN-ELDS (Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards) that cover birth through five years of age. These standards have been aligned with the state's Common Core. These are not an assessment, but rather a state approved standards for development. Linda commented that we are in the process of taking the TN-ELDS and having them cross-walked with the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Toddlers (AEPS) which is an early childhood screening tool and curriculum.

The March 2014 SPP/APR package provides additional language about the involvement of stakeholders within the three phases of the SSIP. This includes parents, SICC, Early Intervention Service Programs (TEIS) and/or Early Intervention Service Providers (ex. EIRAs, vendors). When the actual SSIP focus area is determined, then stakeholders will be identified and how best to obtain feedback/input will be determined.

ICC Business

ICC Representative Update

There are still nominees awaiting appointment in the Governor's office. Four new members present today were Pablo Juarez, Dr. Kimberly Wingate, Amy Jenkins and Rachel Saine.

Election of ICC Chair

ICC members voted on Chair now represented by Jacqueline Johnson and Vice-Chair now represented by Kimberly Wingate.

Member Agency/Program Updates

Louise Barnes shared that there would be a respite conference in the fall for caregivers. Registration is available online through ARCH (Access to Respite Care and Help) web site. The Tennessee Respite Coalition is hosting the 2014 National Lifespan Respite Conference in Nashville, TN from October 7-9, 2014 at the Marriott at Vanderbilt University. The theme, "Get in Tune with Respite," reflects Nashville's musical nature and encourages learning and sharing how respite can promote harmony for families in caregiving situations.

Susan Rollyson shared that there is an upcoming fall conference at Embassy Suites in Franklin. The Culturally Effective Care Summit will take place on September 19. They are in the process of forming a collaborative w/Medicaid and Children's Hospitals across the state. A care coordination summit for providers was held in early April.

Kim Wingate shared that they offer a dual license program. Also they have submitted a federal grant for services to support birth through 5 pending approval.

Janet Coscarelli says that Head Start programs are back to where they were before budget cuts were made to the program. Early Head Start programs and child care centers are participating in a partnership funding opportunity through a national grant offer. Applications will be on a competitive basis with funding for TN at 9 million. TAEYC has an upcoming annual conference in Chattanooga, October 8-11 at the Chattanooga Marriott. Walter Gilliam and Linda Smith will be featured speakers. Gilliam is the Assistant Professor at the Child Study Center, Yale School of Medicine and Smith is the Deputy Assistant Secretary with the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Gail Crawford said they have has to make cuts in grants that have affected several programs as well as technical assistance and training being reduced. DHS will begin to participate in a Learning Table to pilot a system of improvements taking place in May.

Karen Pryor shared with the group that they have hired additional Physical and Occupational Therapists to better meet the demands of serving children in counties including Williamson, Davidson and Bedford. The pairing of early interventionists with physical therapists is to have some uniformity and overlap in areas where they want to connect with children who do not qualify for TEIS services based on their percentage of a delay.

Jessica Beaver announced that they received a three star rating on a recent assessment. There will be a conference in May focusing on adults with special needs and caretakers.

Ned Solomon shared that the Council on DD is part of the new national Supporting Families grant that is looking at ways to serve ALL families that experience developmental or intellectual disabilities. It is currently estimated that, nationally, only 25% of families with ID or DD are receiving formal government services. That means that 75% are basically doing it, successfully or unsuccessfully, on their own. In Tennessee, it is much closer to 15% getting services; 85% not.

Jacque Cundall spoke about the EHDl Conference held in April and attended by Claudia Weber and Joan Kennedy. The next Newborn Hearing meeting is on May 1 from 9-3 p.m. at the Department of Health. Newborn Hearing program is having audiologists partner with physician's offices across the state to follow up on children identified with a hearing loss. TEIS offices process referrals to Claudia to make sure children aren't falling through the cracks.

They are also offering a new program entitled Guide by Your Side that has parents working with other parents. H & V Virtual Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Guide Project connects families with D/HH Guides who have a variety of backgrounds and experiences without regard to geographic location by utilizing virtual technology, text chats or electronic communication. The Virtual D/HH Guides have been trained through the H&V Guide by Your Side Program (GBYS) core curriculum and are committed to the Hands & Voices philosophy of unbiased support to families.

Jill Rogers announced an upcoming Best Practices Conference entitled Innovative Therapies in Pediatrics on May 9-10, 2014 in Memphis. It is designed for pediatricians, family physicians, nurses practitioners and other healthcare professionals interested in advancing their knowledge about innovations in the treatment of children.

Public Input

No input given.

Topic requests for next meeting

The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and Strategic Priorities.
Janet Coscarelli would like Vanderbilt to speak about an increasing number of drug addictions regarding infants and children and the effects it has on later motor control and judgment functions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next ICC Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

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