

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORDER: Cheryl Holden

DATE: November 21, 2002

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair; Jim Bellotti, CDE; George Chance, DSS; Michelle Douyon-Davis; Toni Gonzales; Gretchen Hester; Marcy Gallagher, DMHC; Rick Ingraham, DDS; Cynthia Jaynes, DADP; Lynn Lorber, OSE; Thomas McCool; Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS; Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D., Theresa Rossini; Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.

Introductions & Announcements

Dr. Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced ICC members Michelle Douyon-Davis, Lynn Lorber, designee for Secretary of Education Kerry Mazzoni, and Marcy Gallagher, designee for Daniel Zingale, Director of the Department of Managed Health Care attending their first meeting. Other ICC members and the audience provided self-introductions.

Dr. Peterson announced that the Behavioral Neurogenetic Research Center at Stanford University and the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have been awarded \$4.4 million dollars by the National Institutes of Health to study early childhood brain development. Information about the study and participant recruitment was distributed (see attached).

Dr. Peterson announced that Dr. Mary Lu Hickman will be retiring as Medical Consultant at DDS in December, 2002. Dr. Hickman served as a strong advocate for children and early intervention and has held positions such as Executive Director at Central Valley Regional Center, Medical Director at Porterville State Hospital and as Medical Consultant at DDS. Dr. Hickman dedicated her career to serving children and adults with special needs and their families. Dr. Peterson invited all present to attend a reception honoring Dr. Hickman after lunch just prior to the committee meetings.

Early Start Monitoring

Rick Ingraham, California's Part C Coordinator, introduced Ken Freedlander, Chief, DDS Early Start Local Support Section, who provided information on the eight data elements and key performance indicators used to ensure compliance (see attached). Each instrument was described and the frequency, scope of inquiry, purpose and follow up actions were explained in detail. Mr. Freedlander also responded to questions from the audience.

In addition to the eight processes described by Mr. Freedlander, Mr. Ingraham reported that the *2001 Early Start Program: Family Satisfaction Survey* was a valuable tool in providing information about program implementation.

Mr. Freedlander responded to questions from ICC members and the audience. He stated that California child count data includes children served by regional centers and local education agencies. DDS collects child count information from CDE, matches the CDE data against the DDS child count and provides an unduplicated final count to OSEP in the annual child count report.

Mr. Freedlander stated that evaluation team members during full scope evaluations include parents, DDS staff, LEA staff, Early Start program providers, ICC members and family resource center (FRC) staff. The purpose of the full scope evaluation is to provide a comprehensive review of local implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). DDS also encourages LEA participation in record reviews that are conducted semi-annually. Semi annual reviews provide technical assistance and identify regional training needs about Part C requirements.

Dr. Poulsen thanked Mr. Freedlander for providing the matrix and invited all interested parties to join the Quality Assurance & Personnel & Program Standards Committee (QAPPSC) for further discussion.

Report from OSEP NECTAC National Meeting

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) National Conference was held in Washington D.C. November 4-6, 2002. Rick Ingraham (DDS), Hedy Hansen, Theresa Rossini, Melody James (CDE) and Dr. Peterson attended the meeting representing California.

Mr. Ingraham reported the National Meeting centered on performance accountability and the process of moving States toward a results and data oriented system of performance measurement. This has proven to be challenging for many states, as the Federal Regulations are "process oriented" rather than "data driven." Mr. Ingraham provided an example of the challenge of measuring "parent involvement." Materials from the National meeting suggested that the key performance indicator of parent involvement is measured by dollars expended on parent involvement programs. Mr. Ingraham explained the measure of funds expended for a specific activity like Early Start FRCs does not adequately capture the extent of parent involvement in California Early Start.

Mr. Ingraham reported that another topic at the National Meeting was the November 5, 2002, General Election. With the Election completed, focus will return to the upcoming reauthorization of IDEA. The Association of Part C Coordinators met in a plenary session to discuss proposals to increase Part C funding for all states and strategies to further utilize additional state and federal resources to support program services. The session also included discussion about the focused monitoring guidance document developed by OSEP which includes priorities and benchmarks in key areas to ensure accountability in Part C systems. OSEP is shifting to a focused monitoring process and will provide intervention to states that fall below the established benchmarks. Mr. Ingraham distributed the monitoring model "*OSEP Monitoring: Past, Present and Future*" (see attached).

Mr. Ingraham discussed the OSEP benchmark that was recently established to increase referrals to Part C programs to 2% of the general population. California's current level is 1.55% of the total statewide birth to three population that are receiving Early Start services.

DDS staff are analyzing Early Start referral data and Mr. Ingraham will continue to provide the ICC with the results of the analysis.

Mr. Ingraham provided a brief review of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) visit to California in June 2002. OSEP has indicated they will return to California in the spring of 2003, to participate in a full scope program monitoring. Mr. Ingraham will provide additional information on the location of the monitoring site when OSEP confirms their plans.

Theresa Rossini reported on the National Meeting from the frame of reference of a parent of two young children with autism. She attended a networking session for parents and compared the differences between states regarding services available for children with autism. Ms. Rossini stated she feels California has superior services for children with autism and was surprised at the frustration expressed by parents from other states.

Ms. Rossini reported she attended a presentation about the current state of autism surveillance. The presentation included a description of the purpose, methodology, and results of the Center for Disease Control's autism surveillance program and described associated research activities.

Ms. Rossini reported she also attended a session on early identification of autism and communication disorders in infants and toddlers. Early indicators of autism spectrum disorders and language-learning disabilities were shared (see attached). Findings from the First Words Project, which screened over 3,000 children less than 24 months of age were presented along with implications for early intervention.

Dr. Peterson reported that he attended a session focused on increasing access to Medicaid funding for early intervention services. He also attended a presentation by Kathy Hebbler regarding findings from the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS). NEILS is following a nationally representative sample of over 3,300 children and families.

Jim Bellotti reported that Melody James attended a session reviewing updates on the process and progress on the reauthorization of IDEA at the national level. Ms. James also attended a session exploring evidence-based approaches for reporting the quality of early childhood intervention practices. Mr. Bellotti called upon Mary Smithberger to share information about the implementation of the desired results system for children and parents in California (see attached).

Hedy Hansen also attended the National Meeting and will provide a report at the next ICC meeting.

Child Care – “Transfer of Knowledge Symposium” Follow-up Report

George Chance, Co-Chair of the FSSC, thanked the ICC for their support of the Transfer of Knowledge Symposium (TOK) held on November 15, 2002, in Sacramento. TOK was modeled after a “Stone Soup” approach, which means that many hands contributed and a tremendous collective and collaborative effort was the result (see attached list of sponsors).

Mr. Chance acknowledged Kay Ryan and Sharon Rae Zone, key staff to the Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC), and thanked them for taking a leadership role in planning the TOK on behalf of the CDPAC.

Mr. Chance asked Sharon Rea Zone to provide a report on the preliminary findings from the conference evaluations. Ms. Zone reported that the planning committee is still compiling the results of the evaluations and the county action plans. She shared preliminary findings indicated that the TOK was a success (see attached).

Nina LaVine thanked those who attended and supported the TOK, and gave special acknowledgement to Terry Colburn and Easter Seals of Superior California, the Infant Development Association and the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention for their outstanding contributions.

Kate Warren acknowledged the success of TOK as demonstrated by the family-centered focus throughout the Symposium. Ms. Warren stated that she felt the FSSC's Position Paper on Child Care provided the impetus for this effort toward increasing high quality, inclusive child care in all California communities.

Patty Moore noted that many of the teams had family care providers and parents participating. Ms. Moore reported that while Senate Bill 1703, Escutia, provided a financial incentive to bring people together and focus on child care, she saw the passion and commitment to provide high quality child care to all children by those who participated in the Symposium.

Mary Smithberger addressed the need for continued follow-up and collaboration. She suggested that the list of participating teams could be used as outreach information to promote other related events. Ms. Smithberger reiterated the need for all of us to consider how we can support continued efforts toward inclusive child care.

Infant Family Preschool Mental Health Initiative

Shelia Wolfe reported that Dr. Penny Knapp asked her to share that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is directly supporting the collaboration between county mental health departments and their interagency community partners in the Initiative counties. DMH is interested in preventative intervention for young children and families even though this is not the DMH's primary charge. With the financial support of the California First Five Commission, DMH, in conjunction with WestEd, continues to expand Initiative activities.

Ms. Wolfe asked individuals, counties or state agencies that are not currently involved but would like to participate, to contact her directly at (916) 492-4026, or swolfe@wested.org.

ICC Planning Meeting

Dr. Peterson thanked Cheri Schoenborn for developing and distributing the planning meeting survey and compiling the results (see attached). It was agreed that this organizational/planning meeting of the ICC will replace the January ICC meeting already scheduled for January 23-24, 2003. A proposed agenda for the off site organizational/planning meeting was also distributed.

Agenda Review

Committee chairs reviewed the November 21st agendas. Dr. Peterson requested that in preparation for the off site, each of the committees discuss issues for their Chairs to share at the off site including: priorities, goals, and objectives for the ICC and committees; organization of the ICC and committee structure; meeting agendas, and meeting schedule.

Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.