

Meeting: Family Support Services Advisory Council (FSSAC)
Date: May 3, 2013, Friday
Time: 8:30 – 12:00
Location: 111 N. Sanders, Room 107
Helena, MT 59604

**Family Support Services Advisory Council (FSSAC)
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet
Phone Attendees: Ann Treece and Amy Olsen

FSSAC Chair Laura McKee welcomed Advisory Council members, providers, and visitors and shared opening remarks. Members and visitors introduced themselves and shared who they represented on the Council. Laura Copp updated her address.

Agency Updates:

Angela Thompson, STEP, shared information on professional development opportunities STEP is providing in collaboration with ECI. She also shared an update on Autism Wavier expanding to 12 slots for STEP and the creation of an autism team streamlined including two full-time program design and monitoring and one full-time children's case manager.

Lucy Hart-Paulson discussed implications of Routine-Based Interview (RBI) and Routine-Based Early Intervention (RBEI) and the impact of this approach on traditional services.

Cris Volinkaty added a meeting to be held May 10, Friday, at CDC in Missoula to discuss the relationship with therapists in the future of Part C services. Wendy shared information on Dr. McWilliam's return visit to Montana and the need to help clarify all roles in the Early Intervention process and the need for services to be in natural environments. August 7 will be the Stakeholders Meeting to guide implementation of RBI/RBEI practices followed by two days of professional development for Early Interventionists. The development will be held in Helena. David Munson gave an update on how ECI has implemented RBI/RBEI stressing delivery of services in the most natural environment.

Sylvia Danforth asked if the Montana Part C Program Highlights Power Point could be shared with providers and also inquired if it could be on the FSSAC website. GREAT JOB, WENDY!!

Jenn Banna, PLUK shared information on the P6 Project: Pediatric Practice Parent Partner Pilot Project. Welcome to the FSSAC, Jenn.

Denise Burnett provided information regarding focused training for children with special health care needs. Specific information is available on the DPHHS Website.

Rick Thompson shared information regarding the Best Beginnings activities in a couple areas. Hi-Line Homes recently had an Occupational Therapist (OT) and a Speech/Language Pathologist (SLP) who have moved into the area. Rick and crew are supporting both by offering office space and assistance with Medicaid billing. Hi-Line Homes continues to find challenges with hiring respite and hab aides in competition with the Bakken employers. The agency has found lots of kids; however, following through with services has been difficult for some families.

David Munson has partnered with STEP in providing joint marketing materials in the areas they serve. Child Find is increasing numbers of children served. Training in Billings by Dr. Erin Barton from the University of Colorado about coaching/teaching parents on working with young children with significant behaviors will be held June 13 and 14. There is no charge for the training and Wendy will forward the information to all on the Council.

Norma Zelzer shared an update on the Early Intervention (EI) Module, the electronic data-base for IFSPs, transition documentation, and Child Outcomes Summary Forms.

Leigh Ann Holmes talked about the work being done to avoid duplicating services and better identifying who needs to be taking the lead in service delivery.

Legislator Jean Price shared her contact information and discussed her work on obtaining Medicaid support for Orientation and Mobility Service for individuals with blind and low-vision needs. After July 1, it is anticipated that the Medicaid rules/payment will be sorted out.

Laura Copp shared information regarding Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) enrichment weekends and Family Learning weekends which are filling quickly. Enrichment weekends are geared toward children. Sign workshops are being set up in Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula. If you see a need, let Laura know as she can provide support for Family Support Specialists (FSSs).

Mike Mahoney has created a staff development/staff training position to aid in reducing staff turnover and develop better prepared staff. Mike and his team are utilizing Helena's local TV station to provide program information in twenty minute blocks once a month. He extended an invitation to all to participate.

Paula Black of Family Outreach is moving forward with RBI/RBEI promoting all Family Outreach offices to have one nationally certified staff. A Butte staff member will submit her video for certification appraisal and a Bozeman staff member is preparing to attend the Certification Institute in Chattanooga in July. Staff members using RBI and RBEI are finding it to be a very family friendly, focused program.

Family Story:

Liz Cummings, mom to Charlie and Max who have both been in the developmental disabilities system for six and half years in two states, shared her family's journey. Max has a rare immune disorder and qualified for services under the criteria of professional judgment. This was critical as the family was able to intervene before his skill loss/delay was significant. He no longer qualifies for services. She shared her experiences with the RBI process and the value/friendliness of that process has really made a difference. Charlie is on the autism spectrum and Liz shared the story from the Kalispell Daily Interlake newspaper of the mentor relationship between Charlie and a local young man with autism. The value of the relationship has been critical to Charlie's development. In response to an earlier statement regarding high turnover rates amongst FSSs, she also expressed concern over the loss of a FSS and the difficulty in starting a new relationship with the next FSS.

Part C Update:

Wendy Studt, Part C DDP Coordinator, shared information regarding upcoming changes to the Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan (SPP). The APR will be moving to an electronic submission format with the previous fiscal year's data populated within it. The SPP will be more focused upon outcomes and a new Indicator 11 has been added (Attached to the minutes is a copy of the proposed Indicator 9). Wendy will be requesting a list of all interested in participating in Dr. McWilliam's professional development

days. Dr. Mc William will be sending out finesse to all attendees to obtain information to fine-tune his presentation to meet our specific needs and interests. Wendy and Laura McKee will be attending OSEP's Leadership Conference in late July. The Developmental Disabilities Program will be creating a state-wide campaign to increase awareness of Part C, Child Find and Early Intervention.

From the FSSAC Bylaws: *The purpose of the Montana FSSAC is to advise and assist the lead agency to plan, develop, and implement Montana's comprehensive, statewide, interagency system of early intervention and family support services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The Council may advise appropriate agencies in the state with respect to the integration of services for infants and toddlers and their families, regardless of whether the infants and toddlers are eligible for Montana's Part C services or for other services in the state.*

Brainstorming Session:

What is your vision of Early Intervention in Montana? Share the needs and the wishes for yourself and/or the agency you represent.

- Embracing RBEI and its effect on collaboration, its philosophy (integration and self-advocacy)
- Joint training based on needs such as parents as mentors, transition out of Part C and how to coordinate with all parties – policy issue? Integrated into IDEA
- What do we know about what others are doing and what is the best way? Together we can be more efficient
- FSSAC meetings to allow time to discuss and create plans
- Ron is key to assisting Part C and all others around the table with insurance issues
- How do we get qualified staff to move to more rural parts of the state? Loan forgiveness? Work with higher education bodies to make it lucrative to practice profession in rural parts of the state. Explore and promote different funding opportunities from the Federal government for these types of endeavors.
- Understanding Part C – how to get that information out without overwhelming current staffing patterns of agencies. If numbers increase, how do providers support this fiscally?
- Collaborating across agencies is really important. Best Beginnings Councils? Collaborating within our services with families.
- How to get word out to promote the positive impacts about Part C and Part B Services. In an effort to balance negative testimony, how do we gather speakers to share positive experiences and promote to the legislature? Public education is effective – more referrals
- Get parents on the Council
- Support parents in home – teaching self-advocacy and parenting skills
- Agencies need to have staff qualified to meet the needs of families – prepared. How can providers' financial needs be met to serve families? Waiting seems to be self-defeating. Innovative way to meet financial and staffing needs? Use a proactive rather than reactive approach.
- How will we meet demand if our numbers increase?
- Include nurses and physician assistants and public health providers with information about Part C
- Look at higher education and how do we inform in the medical fields about Part C?
- Provide information during discharge when baby is released from birthing facilities
- How to inform NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) staff about Part C and how to follow-up with families
- Streamline and simplify the vocabulary about Part C
- How to promote more collaboration between the State and providers?
- Focus on how to talk to your baby (see <http://languagefix.wordpress.com/2008/09/30/4-the-hart-risley-30-million-word-gap-study/> for brief overview)

- Impact of screens on children (infants and toddlers, too) – language development, social-emotional skills, etc.
- LENA (see <http://www.lenafoundation.org/>) and “20,000 Words a Day”
- Medical referrals – good sources, streamline referral system (5 questions)
- Education regarding screenings for medical community. Person to person with physician plus feedback about services if a child has enrolled
- Continuous building of relationships with medical community and maintenance of those relationships
- State public relations campaign approach using marketing – be aware of other states’ media. Include information about immunization to dispel false data about immunes + autism
- Early referrals – 97% of children have a well-child check. What established tools can we promote to include developmental milestones?
- Medical referrals – primary referral sources – do they know Part C? Provide education and information to Indian Health Services on all reservations.
- Seamless services and transitions
- Use of evidence-based practices
- Extension of state-wide systems with buy-in and forethought
- Work together on creating simple/efficient systems
- Promote systematic training/professional development and accessibility
- Ask families about their challenges and how to meet their needs
- Identify specific training needs/desires
- Work on immunizations – promote with families, FSSs participate in training regarding immunes and lead screening
- Health and Safety component – car seats, health and safety awareness
- Testifying at legislative hearings – promote ideas and awareness
- Do we have a liaison from the Governor’s office to assist us and be our connection?
- Bill proposal – loan forgiveness for those working in early intervention in rural locations around the state
- Information from Jenn Banna: we need to consider cultural competency across all of our ideas. There may be states similar to ours in nature that has already tackled some of the issues we are working on to be able to use and learn from their experiences.

Additional questions to be answered at our Strategic Planning Meeting:

*What can the FSSAC do to support this vision?

*What action steps are needed to promote our Council’s Early Intervention vision? Any work committees to initiate work prior to the Strategic Planning Summit?

Dates for Council Leadership Strategic Planning Summit to set annual short and long term goals:

Tuesday, August 13 and Wednesday, August 14

DDP Update:

Example of language to appear in Providers’ contracts regarding data collection:

Part C agencies will submit all data requested by the department using the department provided forms, enabling the department to collect and organize data systematically.

- The recording of information on key quality characteristics of Part C processes for analysis and historical record over time will be completed in a user-friendly format.

- The collection of quantitative and qualitative data will guide determination of effectiveness and how to maintain and improve that effectiveness.
- The analysis will establish a factual basis for making evaluations and decisions regarding changes, improvements to systems and policies.

Public Comments: none

Meeting was adjourned.