

South Carolina State Interagency Coordinating Council
Minutes
August 19, 2010

Members and Guests

Jennifer Buster, Tina Cooper, Kyle Craigo, Melissa Curtis, Norma Donaldson-Jenkins, Mary Eaddy, Scott Falcone, Diane Flashnik, Elaine Gentry, David Goodell, Laurie Hafner, Jennifer Dennehy-Jennings, Karen Larson, Sonya Lopes, Brenda Martin, Monica McConnell, Laura McCraw, Carmen McCutcheon, Kristie Musick, Jackie Richards, Sharon Ringwalt, Ginger Ryall, Sandy Schmitz, Philippa Sellers, Gail Shelley, Teri Todd, Danny Varat, Erika Watts, Sheila White, Rosemary Wilson, Dan Wuori, Andrew Young.

Introductions

Dr. Danny Varat made introductions.

Review and approval of minutes, June 10, 2010

Council reviewed and approved minutes of the June 2010 meeting with amendments to Dr. Floyd's name

Public Comment

No public comment was received from individuals who are not members of the council or those participating by conference call.

Announcements:

Dr. Varat requested that each collaborating agency forward a copy of their BabyNet state budget requests to him via letter no later than September 3, 2010

Lead Agency Update

Policies and Procedures: Policies and procedures submitted to OSEP on June 30, 2010, have been approved by OSEP. Four minor revisions will be required, as well as minor revisions to the FFY 2010 grant application also submitted in June.

Partnering Agency Updates

Department of Disabilities and Special Needs: It was announced that the DDSN Board voted in mid-August to continue to serve BabyNet-eligible children with delays in only one domain through September 30, 2010. Dr. Wuori announced that in response to state inquiries regarding the Maintenance of Effort assurance required in the OSEP grant application, states must either maintain effort, document that the state has sustained significant loss of funding, or consider revision to the state's eligibility criteria. Discussion on this option has already begun with the collaborating agency directors of DDSN, DHEC, and SCSDB. Such change would require a 60-day public comment period to include public hearings, and then be submitted to OSEP for approval prior to implementation. Child find requirements in IDEA must continue to be met.

Department of Education: the proposal for teaching certificate in early childhood education for children ages birth to six has been submitted to the Office of Teacher Certification, and will be presented to the Board of Education in October, 2010.

Department of Health and Environmental Control: Ms. Martin asked Dr. Wuori the status of the DHEC contract with BabyNet. DHEC announced it would be conducting intra-agency monitoring and issue its findings internally to DHEC personnel assigned to BabyNet. It was announced that the HHS Evidence-Based Home Visiting grant had been awarded to Children's Trust, and that DHEC would be releasing the needs assessment after September 1st.

Head Start: partnerships with local school districts and early care and education providers. As local districts have experienced state budget cuts, enrollment at Head Start programs seems to be increasing. Dr. Sellars requested that Head Start information be shared with families of BabyNet-eligible children during transition planning.

Department of Insurance: No report.

Department of Mental Health: Monica McConnell, representing Louise Johnson, provided SCDMH Early Childhood Referral Contacts across the state, and asked that Ms. Johnson be contacted should any referral be turned down.

South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind: Mr. Falcone provided updates on the restructuring of SCSDB Outreach/Early Intervention services following the retirement of Lynda Smith, Elizabeth McGown, and Carol Mabry-Garrett. Elaine Gentry will now serve as the BabyNet Program Manager, and he will serve as the ICC representative for the agency. All Parent Advisor contracts have ended; special instruction services for BabyNet-eligible children with vision and/or hearing impairments will be provided by certified teachers already employed by SCSDB.

General Supervision

Dr. Ringwalt and Kristie Musick reviewed the General Supervision requirements for a state Part C early intervention system, and the work to date among the BabyNet Program Managers regarding making findings of non-compliance (see attached PowerPoint presentation and table). ICC input regarding selection of indicator(s) for focused monitoring and identification of sanctions should instances of non-compliance remain uncorrected for more than a year will be gathered via conference call (date and time to be announced).

SCICC Strategic Plan

Dr. Ringwalt will facilitate completion of the SCICC Strategic Plan via conference call (date and time to be announced).

Office of the State Auditor

Drs. Varat and Wuori announced that the report of the recent audit of DHEC by the Office of the State Auditor had been released, with findings in the areas of General

Supervision, draw-downs and advances of funds, and sub-recipient monitoring for co-mingling of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds for Part C. The audit of DHEC occurred as part of the regular state audit cycle, but with the ARRA funds such audits will likely occur each year.

The next meeting will be held in Columbia on October 14, 2010 in Columbia from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. with location to be announced prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Ryall
Kristie Musick