

South Carolina State Interagency Coordinating Council

Minutes

June 10, 2010

Members and Guests

Tom Barden, Beth Bunge, Beverly Buscemi, Jennifer Buster, Mary Eaddy, Shannon Erickson, Scott Falcone, Richard Ferrante, Susan Floyd, Laurie Hafner, Martha Hinson, Jennifer Dennehy-Jennings, Dawn Kearney, Brenda Martin, Laura McCraw, Melody McGlaughlin, Kristie Musick, Beth Odom, Jackie Richards, Ginger Ryall, Philippa Sellers, Gary Simpson, Lynda Smith, Teri Todd, Danny Varat, Cheryl Waller Erika Watts, Sheila White, Dan Wuori, Laurie Yates, Andy Young.

Introductions

Dr. Danny Varat made introductions. Representative Shannon Erickson and Kristie Musick joined the meeting by phone.

Review and approval of minutes, May 6, 2010

Council reviewed and approved minutes of the May 2010 meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment was received from individuals who are not members of the council.

Announcements

Dr. Varat announced that the Legislative Audit Council request has been accepted, and introduced Tom Barden, who provided a briefing on the process utilized by the LAC, who work at the request and direction of members of state general assembly. Mr. Barden stated that LAC members will be attending future BabyNet I.C.C. meetings; other LAC staff will include Andy Young and Gary Simpson. Mr. Bardin explained that all audit reports are ultimately council reports, not staff reports (final findings are determined and approved by the full council). LAC staff will need information regarding the structure the BabyNet system, which will include both individual and group interviews. Additional information to be requested will likely include finance data for last 3-4 years, regulations, and guidance, including information regarding state budget cuts, MOE documentation, and any corrective action plans that may be in place. Legislators do have access to work papers; legislators will be briefed on progress and tentative findings, will publish final report, which will likely include:

- Source of funds for past 3 years
- How these funds were spent
- Whether funds were spent in accordance with state and federal law
- Maintenance of effort requirements/documentation
- Program reviews conducted by the federal government

The Office of the State Auditor is also currently working to conclude a (prior) audit of the BabyNet program, with the final report anticipated by the end of June. This will be forwarded for discussion at August ICC meeting.

Lead Agency Update

- **Inter-Agency Work Sessions:** Several recent inter-agency meetings have been held as we work to draft a 3rd proposed revision of the policy manual.
- **3rd Draft Posted for Comment:** A 3rd draft of the proposed revisions to the BabyNet Policy Manual has been posted on SC First Steps' website for public comment. Ms. Musick provided an overview of the proposed changes and encouraged members and guests to review and provide additional input. The final draft will be submitted for approval to the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on June 30, 2010. Dr. Wuori noted that there will be continuous review and revision as more input is provided, and feedback from OSEP is received. He added that several states have experienced success in their implementation of policies similar to those proposed and provided an email exchange (with the Part C Coordinator in Florida) noting their successful use of the Primary Service Provider model.
- **FFY08 State Determination**
The OSEP determination for South Carolina's Part C system for FFY 2008 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) was announced as 'Needs Improvement, Year 2,' with special conditions related to additional reporting. The state's progress report due May 14, 2010 under the special conditions of the prior grant award has been submitted to OSEP.
- **Provider Contracts**
BabyNet Provider contracts for FY 2011 – 2015 were issued; primary changes relate to providers indicating the areas in which they will provide services and a requirement that providers defer referrals for service to families for which they are not "in network" for an available insurance source.

Partnering Agency Updates

Dr. Varat reported that the Governor has vetoed \$200 million from the state budget that had been predicated upon the receipt of federal funds which now appear unlikely. Dr. Varat requested BN partner agencies to submit a letter to the ICC as to how this will impact them as the ICC needs to be informed by partner agencies of their budget status as changes occur.

SCSDB: Lynda Smith: SCSDB's Primary concern with proposed policy changes are training supports that will be needed by staff.

DHEC: Brenda Martin: Working to review the proposed policy changes and will have additional input next week. The agency is continuing to work out implementation details.

DDSN: Dr. Beverly Buscemi: Current MOA to be extended for 90 days, while awaiting approval of new policies from OSEP. Review of public comment received between May 28th & June 17th will be reviewed at an inter-agency leadership meeting on June 17th.

SDE: Susan Floyd: BabyNet transition has been smooth. SDE would like to have input into eligibility changes as needed.

HS: Philippa Sellers: Local MOA for child find. HS cannot evaluate children for Part B eligibility, nor can HS write IEPs. Look at HS as service system option for children who are Part C eligible.

DMH: The Department of Mental Health held a meeting with Dr. Varat in early June to address concerns about the Department's participation in the BN system. Additional policy guidance is being developed for staff and DMH will provide an update at the next meeting.

SCICC Strategic Plan

Ms. Musick will clarify the purpose of the strategic plan at the August ICC meeting.

SCICC Bylaws

Updated bylaws revisions developed in 2005 were adopted by acclimation. Dr. Varat explained that these would be used by the Council as a starting point from which to develop additional updates reflecting the desires and work of the present council.

The next meeting will be held in Columbia on August 19th, 2010. Location and time will be announced prior to the meeting. Dr. Varat noted that the October meeting would be in Greenville at the Center for Disability Services.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Ryall
Kristie Musick