

SICC MEETING MINUTES

Truman Building, Room 400

April 8, 2011

Members Present:

Pam Thomas
Joyce Sims
Leslie Elpers

Becky Houf
Stacey Owsley
Kathy Fuger

Cindy Mueller
Heather Weddle

Members Not Present:

Amy Kessel
Melinda Sanders
Julie LePage

Molly White
Kathy Quick
Donna Cash

Senator Scott Rupp
Cori Tharp
Wendy Witcig

DESE Staff Present:

Dr. Stephen Barr
Stacey Ismail

Marcy Morrison
Heather Crosby

Tina Lawson
Judy Goans

To review copies of handouts referenced in the minutes below, go to the following website: <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/SICCpage.html> and click on "Handouts" for the April 8, 2011 meeting.

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Kathy Fuger brought the meeting to order at 10:10. Wendy Witcig and Cori Tharp were unable to attend and Kathy was asked to chair the meeting in their absence. Introductions were made.

Approval of the SICC Minutes from January 2011 – Kathy asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 2011 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Stacey Owsley and seconded by Joyce Sims. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion passed.

New Assistant Commissioner - Dr. Stephen Barr was introduced to the group by Kathy. Dr. Barr recently returned to work at the Department and was appointed assistant commissioner for the Office of Special Education in December of 2010. Dr. Barr spoke briefly about the Department's new initiative, Top 10 by 20. This campaign is targeted at Missouri becoming one of the top performing states by 2020. One of the goals of the program is *All Missouri children will enter kindergarten prepared to be successful in school*, which is a specific goal that relates to the First Steps program. The other goals are:

- All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.
- Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.
- The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve Departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.

Dr. Barr stated that it is an exciting time for the Department and support from the field will be needed to accomplish these goals.

Overview of Coordinating Board for Early Childhood – Stacey Owsley presented an overview of the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC) in a PowerPoint presentation. The following links are for the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood website and the contact information for local Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) groups.

- <http://dss.mo.gov/cbec/>
- <http://dss.mo.gov/cbec/eccs.htm>

First Steps families are prime candidates for their leadership skills on the local level. As the CBEC moves forward, Stacey will update the SICCC on their progress.

Mission Moment – Danielle Nelson presented the First Steps Mission Moment to the group with a PowerPoint that highlighted her twins who were born prematurely. She explained the various ways that First Steps had helped them in their development. The council expressed their gratitude to Danielle for coming and sharing her story. Danielle is also pending nomination to the SICCC from the governor's office as a new parent representative.

DESE Update

Financial Report – Pam Thomas presented the financial report to the council. Later in the meeting the department will report more on the planned activities for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) monies. The Department has been using most of the ARRA monies for direct services since December 2010. Revenues continue to be consistent, but a little bit lower than usual for private insurance. The Department will receive an allotment in April or May. Medicaid claiming is down, but that should come back up later this year. The Part C ARRA amount reflected on the table goes up as we draw that money down. The child count is expected to increase about 3-4% due to population increase, but in the last four years we have exceeded what we expected. The SPOEs are doing a good job of child find. On March 30 the DESE appropriation bill was passed for fiscal year 2012 for our state money. A question was asked if mileage reimbursement for providers would be increased due to the rising cost of gas. Pam indicated that there will not be an increase at this time.

Department of Insurance Report - The Department of Insurance is required to share the number of children included under Senate Bill 500 and how many dollars were recouped from private insurance via direct claims option. Molly White, with the Department of insurance, was unable to attend today's meeting but did send a copy of the report to be distributed. A large part of the money that First Steps receives from insurance companies is from those who make a bulk payment of \$500,000. Insurance companies decide on their own whether choose a bulk payment or direct claims. For those who elect payments via direct claims, the Department of insurance is working with insurance companies that continually deny First Steps claims.

Pam also distributed information from the Department of insurance on the Missouri health insurance pool. This program is for temporary insurance for adults and children who are unable to obtain insurance elsewhere. More information on the program can be obtained at the following link:
<http://www.mhip.org/>

EI Teams – Stacey Ismail, First Steps Area Director, presented information to the council on the Early Intervention (EI) team trainings. The EI team Level 4 and 5 trainings will roll out in June of this year.

These trainings are supported by ARRA funds and are scheduled to be completed in November in order to reimburse providers within the timeline for use of ARRA monies. Providers are reimbursed one hundred dollars to attend a full-day training. The Area Directors will also be offering individual team assistance as identified within their regions. EI teams typically meet once a month to support one another in their work with children. Their biggest struggle with teaming is finding time and coordinating schedules to meet. A copy of the EI brochure for community partners was distributed to the group. There is one more EI brochure for physicians that has been developed and is being finalized.

Two SPOE directors and a provider shared their teaming experiences with the council.

Howard Smith, St. Louis SPOE Region 1, spoke from an urban perspective about their experiences with teaming. He explained how their SPOE set up zones for coverage and then held town hall meetings with providers, parents, SPOE staff, and school districts to discuss their plan for teams. Providers were asked to use an online tool to complete a survey that acted as an application to become a team member. From those applications, providers were chosen for teams. Teams were announced in May of 2010, training began in June, and teams were ready to go in July. At that point they decided to move forward and put all new children on teams as they came into the program. There are challenges with some providers in the new model and some still in the old model. There were also some misconceptions in the community about the team model that had to be addressed. SPOE 1 has close to 50% of their children being on teams and SPOE 2 has around 30%. SPOE 1 teams do not cross over to SPOE 2 but some providers do cross over to be on another team. Teams vary from 12-15 providers with the largest having 25-30 people on it. Each team has at least two service coordinators on their team and some have three. Multiples of each discipline participates on some teams. Families are very positive about teaming and like having just one person coming to their home. The teams meet to go over certain information for a family so that they can brainstorm and provide suggestions to the family.

Niki Clover, SPOE Region 6, discussed the rural area. Their process was different than the St. Louis region as they don't have the number of providers to choose from as they do in the urban area. SPOE 6 has two teams with ten members on each team. Their teams are going well.

Libby Sanders, Special Instructor for Ability Network, said that their region just started the teaming model in February of this year. She said the parents she works with say that they like the new team model because they appreciate being respected for their knowledge of their own child. Any of the team members can be the primary in the Missouri team model. The SPOEs will try to try to match the primary with the child's issues, but they also have to take into account the geography in rural areas. It does take a while to build an EI team caseload. The Department is looking into developing a plan to have ongoing support for teams.

Libby Sanders asked that Leslie Elpers be recognized for her hard work on behalf of children and providers in the First Steps program. Leslie will be leaving her position on the council when the Governor's office announces her replacement. The SICC members expressed their gratitude to Leslie for her work with the First Steps program.

Membership Update – Wendy Witcig was recently approved by the governor's office for another term ending on June 30, 2015. Danielle Nelson and Kimberly Riley are both still waiting for their final approval from the governor's office. The Department hopes to have both of them formally appointed by the September meeting. Cheryl Phillips was approved by the governor's office, but she withdrew her

application. Dr. Carlotta Kimble is waiting for one final piece for her appointment and she will then replace Leslie Elpers as a provider member. Lisa Robbins was appointed to the council as a provider in 2002 and then re-appointed as a provider in 2007. Pam thought that she had read somewhere that Lisa was appointed for a second term specifically because of her expertise in autism spectrum disorders. If that is the case, Dr. Tracy Stroud with the Thompson Center would be an appropriate replacement for Lisa. Dr. Stroud has already been nominated for a provider position. Kathy Fuger's position is also expiring this year. The personnel preparation position on the SICC is part of the administration on developmental systems. It links higher education resources with community needs on developmental disabilities. Kathy indicated that the person who takes over in her position must come from the Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities, which is the University of Missouri-Kansas City – Institute for Personnel Development. The Department will need to double check on Kathy's position and Lisa's position, specific to the personnel preparation slot and the provider working in the autism field.

Alternates are also needed for several state level appointed SICC members including: Amy Kessel, Julie LePage, and Molly White. The SICC bylaws also include strict language about attendance at SICC meetings. The bylaws state that members who have two consecutive absences or a total of three absences in the same calendar year can be terminated from the council. We have also talked in the past about a pool of alternates for parents. If we had a pool of parents from each RICC they could become a parent cohort group. It was suggested that maybe a parent could select another family member to be their alternate. It was stated that alternates do not have to go through the background check process. Of note the bylaws have not been reviewed since 2005. Pam suggested that maybe someone from NECTAC should be contacted to see if they could help review our bylaws. A question was asked if a former SICC member can serve as an alternate for a current SICC member. Pam will check and update the SICC at the next council meeting. This topic will be added to the SICC old business for the September meeting.

2010 Outcomes Handout – The draft 2010 Outcomes handout was distributed to the council. The suggested changes from the January meeting were incorporated into this handout. A few minor changes were suggested to the new handout. Joyce Sims will make the changes to the document. The council thanked Joyce and Wendy for their work on this project.

Subcommittee Reports – Kathy discussed the role of the new subcommittees that were formed at the SICC retreat in September of 2010. Becky Houf was added to the communication and outreach or families subcommittee. Heather Weddle will check with Lisa Robbins to see which subcommittee she would like to be on and e-mail Judy. A question was asked how we can reasonably get work done on these subcommittees with everyone busy and less money available. The council needs to decide what we want to do and what is reasonable. We had a couple of task force in the past with specific activities that were handled with conference calls. Maybe it would be best to schedule some conference calls and identify a task or activity that needs to be done. Both of these topics for subcommittees are broad. We need open conversations with a realistic view of what we want the subcommittee to do. There should be a report at each council meeting on the status of each subcommittee. Propose that each subcommittee have a call and see what works for them and makes sense to them and then they can report on that when we meet next time.

The Communications and Outreach or Families subcommittee decided to change their name to just the Outreach subcommittee. The council needs to make sure that everyone is on the same page on what is communicated to the field. The council discussed that there needs to be some interfacing between the

RICC and EC groups in the state. Mike Abel, with Kathy Fuger's office, will send information on the ECCS committees to send out to the SICC and SPOEs.

Dr. Kimble was asked to join the provider subcommittee. It was decided that the provider subcommittee needed to hold a conference call also to identify their task or activity that needs to be done. Pam will set this call up as well.

Old Business – Joyce Sims expressed her concern with the Part B transition process for the 30/60/30 timeline for ECSE. Pam explained that there was a webinar recently on transition and the Q & A is available on our website. The link to this webinar information is below:

<http://dese.mo.gov/webinar/Webinar1-25-11-SE.htm>

Kathy asked for a motion to adjourn. Leslie made the motion and Cynthia Mueller seconded. Motion passed.