

Early Intervention Advisory Council and Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2017

I. Call to order

Jessica Dumas called to order the regular meeting of the EI Advisory Council and Stakeholder Group at 9:35AM on May 17, 2017 at State Library of Ohio.

II. Roll Call

The sign in sheet was passed out. The following persons were present: Carrie Beier, Kimberly Bolin, *Kellie Brown, *Joyce Calland, *Tracey Chestnut, Christine Croyle, *Jessica Cray, Cindy Davis, *Icilda Dickerson, *Jessica Dumas, Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt, Rita Guthrie, *Kim Hauck, Chad Hibbs, Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia, *Sophie Hubbell, Heather Huber, Deanna Jackson, Susan Jones, *Vicki Kelly, Julie Litt, Laura Maddox, Karen Mintzer, Sandy Oxley, Haley Phillippi, Jenni Remeis, Jessica Smith, Pam Stephens, Kay Treanor, Lori Watkins, Susannah Wayland, Lisa Welsh

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Dumas presented the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as presented. The next meeting will be held August 15, 2017.

IV. Open issues

a) Introductions and DODD updates

EI Rules: DeDino informed the group that there was a public hearing for the SOP rule that day and trainings for the SOP rule would be available within the next couple of weeks. He also informed the group that DODD is taking the group's feedback from the previous meeting about all of the other rules into consideration in drafting updated rules. The group was informed that drafts would be shared with them upon completion, and DODD will be very interested in the group's feedback.

SFY18 Service Coordination Grant: DeDino explained to the group that the method for this year's Service Coordination grant would be a little different than last year due to differences between how DODD and ODH administer grants. Links to two new videos that explain the new grant process as well as the new Early Intervention Grant System (EIGS) were sent out in the most recent EI Program Update.

Hearing, Vision, and Hospital-Based Child Find Grants: DeDino informed the group that these current grants were coming to an end and DODD was working on the grants for the upcoming fiscal year.

EI Website: DeDino reminded the group that EI website was launched shortly after the last advisory council meeting. The group was thanked for its input at the last two meetings that led to the successful launch of the website, and informed that DODD has received lots of positive feedback thus far. The family page of the website is still under construction, but completed during SFY18.

Supporting Ohio's Service Coordinators (SOSC) Process: Diane Fox thanked the six counties participating in the pilot for the SOSC process and shared some takeaways from the pilot with the group, including that the pilot counties have provided positive feedback and enjoyed the support provided through the process. Fox informed the group that the next step would be to do another webinar, noting changes that have been implemented as a result of the pilot. She said DODD expects to begin the process statewide in late summer.

FIPP CASE Modules: Kim Hauck informed the group that personnel from the Family, Infant and Preschool Program (FIPP) Center for the Advanced Study of Excellence (CASE) in Early Childhood and Family Support Practices had been in Ohio the previous week to tape some videos for the Parent and Physician modules. She thanked the individuals who participated in the videos. The group was informed that four more modules will be completed next year to round out the series, including the following topics: 1) Service Coordinator role; 2) Resource-based coordination; 3) Documentation; and 4) Child development.

Family Assessment Training: The group was informed that the Functional Assessment trainings with Dr. Lee Ann Jung are going well, and two more rounds of the trainings will be offered.

FFY17 EI Grant Application: DeDino informed the group that Ohio's FFY17 grant application is still posted on the EI website. He informed them that federal funding was not certain when Ohio's application was submitted, but has since been finalized. DODD was pleased to learn that Ohio will receive a slight increase in funds. DODD EI and fiscal staff worked to reallocate the extra funds.

Advisory Council Advocacy Letter: Dumas provided an update about the advocacy efforts of the council regarding the Help Me Grow name. Dumas and Mago, with input from others, submitted a letter to Director Martin advocating for EI to continue to use the HMG name. In addition, there have been changes to House Bill 49 that would allow EI to continue using the HMG name and encourages child find efforts focused on EI and HV, including monies allocated to both.

b) State Systemic Improvement Plan

Taylor Hammond provided an overview of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), in general, as well as a summary of the activities and data analyses Ohio completed as part of the state's SSIP work over the past year. Hammond then reviewed baseline data collected for the state's intermediate SSIP outcomes, including benchmarks set for each indicator and number of counties who reached said benchmarks. Hammond also discussed the ongoing data collection needs. The group was prompted for input regarding percentage of counties who should be meeting each benchmark by the end of the SSIP reporting as well as ongoing data collection methods.

c) County determination discussion

DeDino informed the group that DODD was looking into ways to improve the process for making local program determinations to make it more meaningful for everyone involved. DeDino and Hammond provided an overview of the federal requirements for making local program determinations, Ohio's method for doing so, and OSEP's method for making state

determinations. The group then split into smaller groups with DeDino, Hammond, Melissa Courts, and Cydney Hoffman as the table leaders, to discuss which factors should be taken into consideration for local determinations and which should be removed. After small group discussions, the table leaders shared the takeaways from their group, which included removing COS data from determinations for a period of time, ensuring small sample sizes are properly accounted for, including formal family complaints in the determination decision, and including a mechanism for programs placed in the “Needs Assistance” category to show progress made.

d) Review of Transition document

Cathy Kramer shared and discussed the transition document drafted collaboratively by ODE and DODD with the group, providing opportunities for questions and comments throughout the conversation. After reviewing the entire document, the group was again offered a chance to ask questions and provide feedback. There was a suggestion to tighten up the process in order to better support the Service Coordinator, as the Service Coordinator has several responsibilities related to transition, but is not involved in the IAA. The group also had a discussion about the three-part (Part C, Head Start, and ODE) responsibility of the Transition Agreement and the challenges of initiating the process when three parties share responsibility. It was suggested that something should be added to the document to clarify that, at the local level, a decision must be made about who is responsible for initiating the process (e.g., implementing a rotating schedule). There was a question about whether the transition agreement could span more than one year. The answer provided was that, while the document must be reviewed every year, signatures are valid for the defined length of the agreement.

e) Closing

Attendees were offered the opportunity to provide any updates.

DD Council: Susan Jones described Project TREES to the group and explained that a primary purpose was to determine what it means to support families in EI and to build a base for families for when they leave EI and move forward.

Homeless Education: Susannah Wayland explained the current spotlight on the homeless regarding Part C. There are liaisons in every district to service IDEA Part C homeless infants and toddlers.

V. Adjournment

Dumas adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.