

Early Intervention Advisory Council and Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2020

I. Call to order

Nathan DeDino called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Meredith C. Alexander, Jody Vice Beall, Carrie Beier, Maria Breno, Tracey Chestnut, Christine Dobrovich, Katherine A. Greenawalt-Cherry, Kim Hauck, Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia, Grace M. Kolliesuah, Sarah LaTourette, Lori Mago, Josie A. Morningstar, Jennifer Ottley, Jenni Remeis, Jamie S. Sanders, Erin Simmons, Susannah Wayland, Kristen L. Wheeler

III. Introductions and overview of the purpose of council

Since this was the first meeting for newly appointed Advisory Council members, DeDino provided an overview of the Advisory Council and its purpose. He explained that the Council was a requirement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and members represented a diverse group of stakeholders. He told the group that the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has found stakeholder feedback from the group to be invaluable during the years the department has served as lead agency. DODD frequently asks the council for feedback on proposed policies, trainings, and other initiatives.

After the overview of purpose of the council, DeDino informed the group that the council has typically had co-chairs, with one of the co-chairs being the parent of a child with a disability. He indicated that Erin Simmons had expressed an interest in serving as the co-chair representing the parent of a child with a disability while Lori Mago had said that she would like to continue her service as co-chair. DeDino asked the group if any other member was interested in serving as a co-chair. No other member expressed an interest. Council members unanimously elected Mago and Simmons as co-chairs by voice vote.

After the election, DeDino introduced an activity for the group. Meeting attendees were asked write answers to the following questions and place them on large poster boards:

- What would you like to learn about Early Intervention?
- How will you pass information from council to the people you represent (and vice versa)?
- What is something specific that you can do to improve Ohio's EI system through your participation in this group?

Afterwards, the group discussed the responses.

IV. State updates

DeDino and Diane Fox then provided updates from DODD. DeDino discussed upcoming federal reporting. He mentioned the federal Annual Performance Report that would be submitted by February 3 and the Part C application that would be posted no later than March 1 and submitted by May 1. He told the group he would e-mail members when the application was posted on the EI website. DeDino also discussed the SFY20 budget investments in EI service coordination and

local outreach and a new EI nutrition services contract in several rural counties. He shared about an inter-agency agreement with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for referral of children reported to ODH because they had a test indicating an elevated blood lead level. With the new rules and forms implemented July 1, 2019, DeDino explained that DODD state staff had completed eight regional rule “road shows” around the state to explain significant changes to the rules. Additionally, DODD has provided multiple guidance on topics as well as technical assistance “tips” to support successful implementation of the new rules. Fox shared information about a rubric created to review family-directed assessment tools. This rubric has been posted to the EI website. Fox also talked about a new five webinar series about neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and its effect at different stages of development. Fox discussed with the group that the developmental specialist rule is up for its five year review and DODD has been engaging with a work group to discuss changes. One outgrowth of these discussions has been the exploration of creating a “Principles of Special Instruction” to support the professional development of developmental specialists. Finally, Fox discussed work on the EI comprehensive system of personnel development plan.

V. Central intake updates

Karen Mintzer from Bright Beginnings then provided an update on Bright Beginnings’ work as the central intake vendor for the Early Intervention program. Mintzer discussed recent numbers of system and EI program referrals, including the turnover rate of system to program referral. She also discussed the referrals from ODH for children with elevated blood lead levels. She shared recent outreach with EI partners and stakeholders through the new Help Me Grow website and e-newsletter. Finally, Mintzer discussed various public awareness efforts and materials. The group had an opportunity to offer opinions about photos that will be used in EI promotional materials that Bright Beginnings is developing. Members expressed an interest in using diverse families and some members offered to share photos of their children that had been used in outreach for other initiatives.

VI. Annual Performance Report (APR) overview

DeDino then led the group in an overview and discussion of the state’s Annual Performance Report. Since there were a number of new members, DeDino explained each of the indicators. He also discussed that the APR is a federally required report that every state must submit to the US Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The indicators cover a variety of aspects of states’ implementation of the requirements of IDEA. DeDino explained that each July, OSEP makes a determination of each state based on data reported in the APR. Half of a state’s determination is based on the three compliance indicators (45-Day, Timely Receipt of Services (TRS), and Transition). The other half is based on the Child Outcome Summary scores reported in Indicator #3. In recent years, Ohio has received a determination of “meets requirements,” the highest rating. DeDino sought and answered questions related to the APR. He then explained that the Advisory Council is required to submit a report to the governor. It can either write its own report or use the state’s APR. By voice vote, the members unanimously agreed to use the APR as their report.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.