

Early Intervention Advisory Council and Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2018

I. Call to order

Lori Mago called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Anita Armstrong, Jennifer Barnes, Sheana Behringer, Kim Bolin, Julie Brem, Katrina Bush*Joyce Calland, *Tracey Chestnut, *Jessica Cray, Erica Custer, Cindy Davis, *Icilda Dickerson, *Christine Dobrovich, *Jessica Dumas, Jodi Fisher, Brenda George, Taylor Hammond, Arley Hammons, Earnestine Hargett, *Kim Hauck, Chad Hibbs, Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia, Karen Kincaid, Deanna Jackson, Susan Jones, *Lori Mago, Karen Mintzer, Caley Norton, *Jennifer Ottley, Shelly Palumbo, Stefanie Post, Jenni Remeis, Beth Rutter, Jessica Smith, Pam Stephens, Erin Simmons, Melissa Ward-Brown Susannah Wayland, Jane Whyde

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

IV. Open issues

a) Introductions and DODD updates

SSIP: DeDino informed the group that DODD had our call with our Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) state lead regarding the SSIP and that we received positive feedback. DODD's state lead indicated she is always impressed with all of the things going on in Ohio.

First Quarter with New Vendor: DeDino reminded the group that Karen Mintzer from Bright Beginnings had provided an overview at the last meetings regarding Bright Beginnings as the central intake vendor. At that time, referral numbers were shared, but only one month of numbers was available. He shared referral numbers for July through October 2018 as compared to the same months for 2017. While referral numbers have increased, no patterns in regard to referral sources have been detected. DODD will continue to look at referral numbers, including the percentage of children who are referred that go on to be served in EI, in the coming months, and plans to share this information at the first advisory council and stakeholder meeting of 2019. Cindy Davis asked whether the numbers shared reflected only EI referrals. DeDino responded that they did, but that we could also share Central Intake referral numbers if the group was interested in seeing those.

EI Family Questionnaire: DeDino explained that questions from the Family Questionnaire are used for both the state's Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). He informed the group that DODD is working on putting together county reports and will be distributing the quantitative and comment reports in the coming months, as well as posting the quantitative reports on the EI website. He indicated that the numbers are consistently very high and the comments are consistently very positive, which speaks directly to the work being done in the counties. Comments from families are specifically mentioning the impact of evidence-based EI practices, as well. DeDino also mentioned that DODD will be putting

together a work group next month to discuss the Family Questionnaire, including distribution methods and increasing race/ethnicity responsiveness.

EIDS Updates: DeDino indicated that EIDS will be updated along with rule changes, and that some changes will be able to be implemented even prior to rule. The EIDS user group will be involved in testing the EIDS updates. DODD will communicate more details about the changes to EIDS in the coming months.

Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) System: Diane Fox informed the group that approximately 90 people were trained on the NBO.

Opioid Crisis in EI: Fox reminded the group that Dr. Gallen presented a training to about 500 people regarding the opioid crisis. This training will soon be available via webinar for anyone who missed it. Fox indicated she would be very interested in the group's feedback about the webinar, as this is the first time a "Donuts with Di" presentation has been turned into a webinar.

Trauma-Informed Care Trainings: Fox informed the group that DODD is working with Mental Health to offer trauma-informed care for EI regionally. The next step will be trainings regarding infant and toddler social-emotional development.

Transition: Fox mentioned that the group would hear an update about the transition training from DODD and ODE. She also thanked Clinton County being so helpful with the transition training.

Process to Support Developmental Specialists: Fox indicated that the TA and Training team is planning to implement a process similar to the Supporting Ohio's Service Coordinators specifically to support Developmental Specialists and will be putting together a workgroup to plan the process. DODD is hoping to develop a tool to measure best practices for delivering special instruction as an end product.

TA & Training Team Reorganization: Fox acknowledged that while DODD has implemented extensive fundamental professional development opportunities, we need to "level up" to move beyond theory to best practice. To do so, Tiffany Madden (one of the EI consultants) will be primarily focused on professional development going forward. As such, the consultant map was restructured so that Tiffany is responsible for fewer counties as well as to condense travel time for all the consultants.

b) Advisory Council Business (by-laws discussion)

DeDino explained that several years ago, the EI Advisory council was expanded to include a broader group of stakeholders. While the group was expanded, there are still numerous required members that are appointed by the governor. DeDino informed the group that the terms of all appointed members would come to an end on June 30, 2019 and that while he was not sure how the process play out to appoint new members, he hopes that all the currently appointed members will continue to attend and participate in advisory council and stakeholder group meetings. He reiterated that the input and feedback DODD received from stakeholders is very valuable, and the EI work cannot be done without it. DeDino indicated he is working with the state Library to schedule next year's meetings. A member asked whether he foresees an option for people to be

able to join the meetings via webinar in the future, and DeDino responded that we are required to have the four quarterly meetings in person. Finally, DeDino indicated that the appointed members would need to vote on two things: the advisory council by-laws and a policy for reimbursement to parent members. DeDino explained that in the past, because parent members were there representing themselves and their families rather than an agency, they likely were not able to attend on work time, and therefore, had previously been reimbursed for travel and their time. Both the by-laws and reimbursement policies were passed without dissent by voice vote.

c) EI Rules Update and Activity

DeDino and Fox gave a presentation regarding the EI rules, including where DODD is in the process and next steps. They explained that the rules work started over a year ago, as DODD sought ideas on what was working and what changes were needed. After receiving broad input, smaller work groups were formed including one focused on each new rule and one specifically for new EI forms. After several drafts, the rules went through the clearance process. They were posted for two weeks and sent to OSEP for feedback. DODD is now taking all of that feedback, answering questions, and updating rules accordingly. Once these updates are complete, rules will go through the governor's common sense initiative. The final step will be sending the rules to JCARR, then they will be again posted again for public comment. DODD is hopeful the rules will be filed with JCARR prior to the end of the year and posted for public comment for 30 days. DeDino and Fox provided an overview of the changes that will be implemented with new rule. They indicated that rule will not be implemented in January as DODD originally intended, but will likely go into effect in the Spring of 2019.

After the overview, DeDino and Fox explained that DODD wants to ensure the field is trained on the new rules and feels supported prior to implementation and that they would like the group's feedback on how to do so. The group split up into small groups to discuss: 1) How should the changes be communicated; 2) How should the training be implemented (including format for trainings, timing of trainings, etc.). After discussions, the group came back together and reported out the main ideas they discussed. Some of the suggestions included monthly calls with TA consultants where counties can ask questions; a webinar prior to the in-person trainings so questions can be brought to the in-person trainings; ensure whoever is providing the in person trainings provides a consistent message; create guidance documents for all forms; make forms dynamic (include embedded comments); keep an ongoing FAQ list; and utilize a rolling implementation (where forms go into effect one date, and all counties must use them by a later date).

d) Part C to Part B Transition Training Update

Karen Kincaid (DODD), Shelly Palumbo (DODD), Jennifer Barnes (ODE), and Anita Armstrong (ODE) gave a presentation regarding the purpose of a guidance document DODD and ODE created jointly to support successful transitions from Part C to Part B. The presenters also gave an overview of the training that will be provided in addition to the guidance document.

e) FFY17 Annual Performance Report

DeDino sent a draft of the FFY17 Annual Performance Report to the group for review the previous week. Taylor Hammond provided a high level overview to the group. She indicated that the percentages for the compliance indicators (TRS, 45-Day, Transition) all remained very

high (all over 95%). The percentage of children receiving the majority of services in Natural Environments again increased to nearly 99%. There was a decrease in the percentages for all of the child outcomes indicators, but Hammond explained that this is likely due to increased data quality and that this is the first year the vast majority of children included in the COS analyses had both their entry and exit scores completed using the COS statements (whereas the past several years, some children had their entry COS completed with the COSF form). As such, Hammond explained that the SFY17 data can be used as a pseudo-baseline for Ohio's Part C COS data. The group held a short discussion about this and agreed the decrease in these indicators is likely due to increased data quality. They also acknowledged that, while the COS process has improved significantly and they expect continued improvement in this area with the new IFSP form, they still feel that the process still has issues subjectivity and personal interpretation. Hammond indicated that there was an increase in the percentages for all of the family outcomes indicators, which have already been historically high. For the child count indicators, the percent of children being served birth to age one decreased, but the percent of children birth through age three being served increased. Finally, Hammond indicated there were no resolution or mediation sessions.

DeDino shared with the group that the state will soon need to start having conversations about targets for the performance indicators for the next SPP/APR. The current targets go through the FFY18 APR which is due in February 2020. However, the next SPP/APR, assuming the package stays similar, will be for FFY19 through FFY24, and FFY19 begins July 1, 2019. Hammond stated that the state needs to consider targets that are ambitious, yet achievable.

f) Closing and Partner Updates

DeDino indicated he had one additional update and that DODD would be unable to commit to distributing \$1 million in local outreach funds as has been done the past two years, but that DODD is continuing to look at outreach and what makes the most sense. Kim Hauck confirmed that DODD can commit to distributing \$500,000 for local outreach funds for the next fiscal year, but DODD is not yet sure whether that will be distributed separately as outreach funds or whether it will be included in the Service Coordination grants. She indicated the group can discuss that further at the next advisory council meeting. A member asked about the responsibility of child find and DODD responded that that is something that will be considered if outreach funds are not distributed to counties. Karen Mintzer indicated that Bright Beginnings' biggest goal is to partner with local programs and providers to figure out what they need and come up with specific strategies.

Mintzer added that BB has been working with ODH and DODD on a one page summary of the program as well as other promotional materials. She indicated there is funding for statewide components and that Bright Beginnings is interested in what the counties are interested in such as social media and promotional items. She also explained that Bright Beginnings is very interested in developing statewide materials that can be individualized to counties or regions, and that state materials, such as the EI brochure, are being used in the meantime.

Jennifer Ottley informed the group that the licensure bands for education have changed. Higher Education programs now need to determine how to tailor their programs based on the new bands.

There is concern in the field regarding what this means for infants and toddlers, and a workgroup will likely be formed to discuss.

DODD also informed the group that there will be an Early Childhood Systems Conference March 25 through 28 and encouraged the group to mark their calendars now.

V. Adjournment

DeDino adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.