

Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council (La - SICC)

Thursday, April 13, 2023

1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.

Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street

Rm 136 – Thomas Jefferson Room A & B

**MINUTES**

**Welcome**– SICC Chair/Kahree Wahid

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Kahree Wahid at 1:09 pm.

**Roll Call** – SICC Secretary/Tracy Barker

Members present were Tracy Barker, Marc F. Garnier, Jennifer Hannon, Joy J. Pennington, Bambi Polotzola, Brenda Sharp, Kahree Wahid, Susannah F. Boudreaux, Marc F. Garnier, Jennifer Hannon, Soundra T. Johnson, Ursula A. Oustalet Meaux, Ann K. Philips, and Kathryn Smitherman

**Review and Approval of January Minutes – SICC Chair**

Minutes approved with the following amendments

* Add Kathryn M. Smitherman’s last name (page one)
* Kahree’s (name misspelled on page two)
* April’s name is misspelled on page three (there should be an “a”)
* Bambi made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections
* Mark Garnier seconded the motion
* motion passed

**Reports (see attached)**

* *Executive Director Report* – Alishia Vallien
  + Alishia Vallien’s report was included with handouts and was emailed.
  + Ms. Vallien informed the committee of the Sickle Cell Commission not being able to meet quorum. She suggested a virtual option to attend meetings may alleviate this issue. Vallien asked the committee for assistance with contacting their legislators to express how important the option of being able to meet virtually is. She asked members to call legislators to support SB201. She also led a discussion on HB367, Rep. Phelps bill that provides relative to pupil appraisal and services for children transitioning from EarlySteps to services provided by the local public school system upon their third birthday.
  + Bambi made motion to accept Alishia’s report
  + Jennifer Hannon seconded the motion
  + Motion passed.

* *Lead Agency Report* – Brenda Sharp

Electronic versions of all reports were emailed and hardcopies were distributed at the meeting. Due to the length of the Federal Application for funds it was only sent out via email and can be viewed on the website.

* State Systemic Improvement Plan Update
* DEC Recommended Practice training offered in March. Approximately 197 practitioners attended.
* Family Cost Participation Report
* Year to date, approximately $355,000 has been collected.
* Collections are usually $500,000. Collections have increased with enrollment. There has been a trend in increased enrollment.
* Annual Performance Report

Annual Performance Report was submitted February 1, 2023.

* 1. Staff has been preparing for Differentiated Monitoring and Support. There will be regularly scheduled phone calls and possible on site visits. They do want stakeholder participation.

COVID update - Louisiana has an extremely low rate of infants vaccinated. Because of this, it is recommended that home visits still require masking.

**Other updates**

* Staff turnover
  + Brenda Sharp gave an update on turnovers and hires. Caroline Nailor-Ogelsby starts as Program Manager April 17, 2023. She is from St. James Parish and wanted to move back home. She has been through the federal monitoring process.
* Julie Foster Hagen, Assistant Secretary, did regional “Roadshows” regarding ending of public health emergency and resulting “unwinding” of changes to waiver services that were made during the pandemic.

**Tefra Implementation Update:**

* Over 400 children applied and were approved as of January 4, 2023.
* 218 birth to three year olds have been approved since July 2022

Brenda will report on TEFRA numbers each quarter.

**Mary Hockless asked:** Will there be funding for equity initiatives? If so, will we have to address only the issues stated in the annual report?

**Brenda answered:** As of now, there is no additional funding. They have included equity initiatives in all our plans.

**Bambi asked:** Why are the numbers low in Regions five and six?

**Brenda answered:** Outreach needs to be done in Region six. In Region five, numbers are low due to devastating hurricanes. People have left and have not gone back.

* Tracy Barker made a motion to accept the report.
* Mark Garnier seconded motion.
* Motion passed.
* Regional ICC Reports - There was no report for one and 10. The other regional reports were emailed and hard copies were distributed at the meeting.
* SSIP Sub-Committee Reports
* Family Assessment
  1. Monica Stampley gave an update.
  2. She started by expressing gratitude to Ms. Brenda Sharp for all she’s done for the state and children.
  3. The Family Assessment workgroup met several times this quarter via Zoom, email, and phone conversations. They mostly discussed the rollout of the fidelity tool.
  4. The whole group met Jan 23rd to discuss what the “roll out” would possibly look like.
     1. They decided to wait until the first DEC training information was released.
     2. As of February 2023, all SPOE and FSC agencies completed the fidelity tool training.
     3. The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2023. They will continue to plan the rollout of the fidelity tool and review a draft letter that will be sent out with the group's recommendations.
* Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities, April Hearon
  1. The group is finalizing a list of alternative community locations where services can happen. Next steps will be to develop talking points and provide resources to providers, Support Coordinators and Intake Coordinators. Their future goal is to update one of the current online modules for orientation for new providers. They are continuing to review the equity plan.
* Team-based Practice Supports (did not meet)
* A motion to accept the report was made by Tracy Barker.
* Joy Pinnington seconded motion.
* motion passed

**Kristie Curtis, EarlySteps Community Outreach Specialist Region 4, Parent**

Kristie is the mother of three boys. She shared information on her family and her position as an outreach specialist. Two of her three sons benefited greatly from EarlySteps. One was born with down syndrome in 2003. Bryson received speech, physical, and occupational therapy and had a special instructor. EarlySteps services helped him to reach milestones like holding his head up, grasping, sitting up, scooting, standing, feeding, and walking to name a few. At age three, he transitioned out of EarlySteps. Aiden received speech and physical therapy for three years. At four months old, he was not holding his head up. He was referred to EarlySteps. Aiden is now a 15 year old honor student in high school. He is researching colleges to attend. Ms. Curtis shares her story with families in Region four. She now works to help families to connect services their child or family members need.

**Public Comments** - none

**Adjournment**

* Motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Hannon.
* Tracy Barker seconded motion.
* Adjourned at 2:11 pm