

Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council (La - SICC)

Thursday, July 13, 2023

1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.

Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street

Rm 1-100– Louisiana Purchase Room

**MINUTES**

Welcome– SICC Chair/Kahree Wahid

* Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm

Roll Call – SICC Secretary/Tracy Barker

* Quorum not met
* Members in attendance: Tracy Barker, Susannah F. Boudreaux, Jennifer Hannon, Ursula A. Oustalet Meaux, Tawnya S. Moore, Ann K. Phillips, Bambi D. Polotzola, Kahree Wahid

Review and Approval of April Minutes – SICC Chair

* no quorum

Reports (see attached)

* Executive Director Report – Alishia Vallien

The Executive Director Report was sent via email.

* Lead Agency Report – Caroline Nailor-Oglesby, MAEd, Director

Caroline Nailor-Oglesby shared a PowerPoint presentation. She began by introducing herself. She gave updates and her vision of the SICC and supports she would need from the SICC. Updates from EarlySteps were shared. Louisiana Part C has been identified as Needs Assistance in meeting IDEA Part C requirements. IDEA Part C grant application was approved July 1, 2023.

COVID Updates - In 2021, OSEP issued guidance on in-person early intervention services returning back in the home. It is the family’s decision as to where they would like services provided. EarlySteps will no longer use Telephone Screenings that were put in place to screen during the pandemic as of August 15, 2023.

Nailor-Oglesby discussed the purpose of the ICC. She needs feedback on EarlySteps policies and practices, SSIP activities, recruitment, child find and public awareness, and preparation for DMS 2.0 visit. Her plans are to send out bulletins, training and technical assistance, quarterly meetings, family training and internal monitoring. Caroline has done telephone interviews with families.

Dr. Marilyn Thornton, Executive Director of FHF Greater Baton Rouge, shared financial concerns about providing services in rural areas.

Catherine Miller, LA DeafBlind Project for Children and Youth Family Engagement Coordinator, wants to work with members of the SICC.

* Regional ICC Reports

Caroline Nailor-Oglesby will send Regional Reports electronically.

* SSIP Sub-Committee Reports
* Family Assessment

Monica Stampley, Co-chair, gave a report. They met on July 10, 2023 about what to do moving forward. They are waiting to get all fidelity tools back to ensure that all information is current. They are going to look into training new people on the fidelity tools. All practitioners should have participated in the DEC Recommended Practices training.

* Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities

April Hearon gave a report. The group did not meet. They are completing ongoing activities. They are tracking the effectiveness of home visits and looking at coaching home visits and restructuring the work group. They will work on setting goals to determine where their next focus needs to be.

* Team-based Practice Supports
  + No updates

Speaker: Gina Readore, mother, Biomedical Facilitator

Gina Readore has two sons who benefited from EarlySteps. Ms. Readore was previously a health care provider. She was familiar with EarlySteps from that perspective. Gina mentioned by sitting in on the SICC meeting she really sees the passion that the team has for children. Readore mentioned that some parents were reluctant to receive EarlySteps interventions. Some parents had misconceptions about EarlySteps. After seeing how her boys benefited from EarlySteps, she is truly an advocate now. Gina discussed the different services her boys received and how they benefited. Her son went from nonverbal and being taught how to hold a pencil to now excelling in school. She believes her boys would not be where they are not without the EarlySteps foundation. Gina talked about her experiences as a homebound teacher and going into dangerous neighborhoods. She applauded the efforts of EarlySteps workers. The Chair expressed gratitude to Gina Readore for sharing her story. She suggested using parents to give testimonies to other parents who are resisting services due to lack of trust. Bambi stated the Mrs. Readore made some really good points about referring parents to other trusted parents within the community setting.

Other Business

Bambi discussed the GODA Conference.

Public Comments

No public comments

Adjournment

Meeting concluded at 2:14 PM.