**State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)**

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** VirtualZoom Meeting

**Members Present:**

Mike Billings

Susannah Boudreaux

Leslie Doyle

Jennifer Hannon

Kathryne Hart

Antiqua Hunter

Colleen Klein-Ezell

Angela Lorio

Rodney Lyons

Ursula Oustalet Meaux

Chriscella Metoyer

Joy Pennington

Ann Phillips

Bambi Polotzola

Brenda Sharp

Libbie Sonnier

Kahree Wahid

**Kasey Lytell** *(proxy for R. DeLaSalle)*

**Hiedi Bourgeois** *(proxy for Tawyna Moore)*

**Members Absent:**

Marilee Andrews

Tracy Barker

Rebecca *DeLaSalle (Proxy present)*

Marc Garnier

Soundra T. Johnson

Tawnya Moore *(Proxy present)*

**Others Present:**

Melanie Washington

1. **Call to order**: at 1:00 PM by SICC Chairperson, Kathryne Hart
2. **Roll Call and Introductions**

**Quorum Present**: 19 of 23 Committee members present (12 required)

**Louisiana’s Be Engaged Birth – 12 Framework Presentation: Dr. Antiqua Hunter and Ms. Amanda Colon :** Dr. Hunter and Ms. Colon provided information to build the capacity of the SICC members and stakeholders about the BE ENGAGED initiative and provided a high level overview of the BE ENGAGED Birth – 12 Framework. (Slides are available).

1. **Old Business**
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes from Past Meetings**:Minutes of the **July 8, 2021,** quarterly meeting were reviewed.

**Motion to approve July 8, 2021, minutes by Angela Lorio. Seconded by Libbie Sonnier. Motion Carried**

1. **New Business**
2. **Executive Directors Report:** **Melanie Washington**

**SICC Membership:** Welcome Susannah Boudreaux (SICC/OPH appointee). Susannah Boudreaux has transitioned from Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) to Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) in the Office of Public Health. Welcome Rep. Rodney Lyons.

SICC Meetings for Calendar Year 2022 have not been scheduled at this time. The SICC members will decided on in-person, virtual, or hybrid via email poll.

Executive Director has been appointed to the Early Literacy Commission, Council for Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers and the Community Responder Model Task Force.

**B. Lead Agency Report:** **Brenda Sharp** *(see attached report for full details):*

Brenda gave an update on the impact of Hurricane Ida on EarlySteps program and program staff. ES made adjustments to allow staff from unaffected regions to support and provide resources to effected regions. FCP was also suspended for families affected by the Hurricane.

**Annual Performance Report (APR):** Due February 1, 2022 and will cover 2020-2021 reporting period. This reporting period will reflect most of the COVID impact. Results and preliminary results were reviewed for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 APR data. Targets for 2020-2025 were set using guidance from OSEP and statewide stakeholder input, mainly collected through RICC meetings.

**Colleen Klein-Ezell made a motion to accept the APR Target Recommendations for 2020-2025. Ursula Oustalet Meaux seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**State Systemic Improvement Plan:** Due February 1, 2022 (no longer April 1). SICC Professional Development Committee, led by Toni Ledet, is holding two to three meetings to provide input on the recommendations for ES Provider training module content.

**State of the Region:** *See emailed report (note: \*region 4 meetings date has changed to November 17th)*

**Budget and Finance:** Brenda Sharp submitted her 2022-2023 budget recommendations to LDH, including a request for rate increases for the ES system. However, LDH is coming up with a strategy for rate increases by program and set them in a systematic format going forward. There is no rate increase in place at this time for ES providers.

**Joy Pennington motioned that Brenda Sharp make a request to LDH to increase ES provider rates by 5%. Angela Lorio seconded the motion. Motioned carried.**

**Cost Participation Report:** Collections are down ($95,361.55) due to suspension of FCP for families affected by Hurricane Ida and statements were sent out late to ease the burden on these same families.

**Phasing Back Updates (Ongoing**): The home visits have been limited to 4 visits per day in parishes where there is a 10% or greater COVID positivity rate. Masks and social distancing still required. Majority of parishes are well under 10% so after the October 27 order, home visiting restrictions will be revisited.

**American Rescue Act Funds:** $3,037,000 approximately. Three priority areas for using the ARPA funds: increasing access to early intervention, improving family engagement, and improving program quality. There is a detailed breakdown available in the lead agency report about total amounts and line items. The spending plan is currently in motion.

**Child Count:** October 2021 – 4962 (actual numbers are closer to 5000)

*Discussion: Kathryne Hart brought up census statistics (via Lighthouse) regarding children birth to five in Region 1 who are deaf/HH and those who are blind/VI. She explained that the numbers of children in that region with just those two disabilities outnumbered the total of children participating in ES in that region. Brenda Sharp offered more information, explaining that Lighthouse considers certain circumstances as disabled that aren’t necessarily considered for ES services.*

**C. SSIP Committee Reports**

**a. Family Assessment Workgroup (Monica Stampley) –** There was an orientation of the fidelity tool for SPOES and FSC agencies. Two new SPOE’s and nine new FSC agencies as part of their scaling up activities. Next meeting is October 21, 2021.

**b. Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities (April Hearron) –** This group considered a new fidelity tool but will stick to the current one. They put observations on hold during the height of COVID. Next steps will be to set up new guidelines for completing the observations. The next meeting is October 20, 2021.

**c**. **Team Based Practice Supports** –Brenda Sharp (RC for Region 3 – Lutcher Area): This workgroup will reach out to agencies who have been using fidelity measures for the past two – three years to send in their observations. This will be part of the reported data for progress of the SSIP.

1. **Other Business**
2. **Agency Updates**

Leslie Doyle presented slides on how LDOE will use ARPA funds and requests to provide an update in January on the Early Learning and Development Standards.

Children’s Medicaid Options Program (TEFRA-like program) – The department will now implement the program as a state plan. Any child eligible for the program will be able to receive services that are included in the EPSDT program. Also, there will not be a waiting list for this program because it is a state plan. The plan is to begin in January 2022. If anyone is interested in the rules, they are available in the state register.

1. **Public Comments**

None.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Bambi Polotzola, seconded by Kahree Wahid. Motion Carried.**