

Family Support Services Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 12, 2009
Board of Investment Building Room, conference room 2

Present: Diana Colgrove, Michelle Danielson, Denise Brunett, Becky Krezelak, Ron Herman, Priscilla Halcro, Lauria Frank, Sylvia Danforth, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Ted Maloney, Sandy McGennis, Sandi Marisdotter, Cris Volinkaty, and Barb Stephanic,

Others: Teresa Rivenes, Peggy Moses, Erica Swanson, Jackie Emerson, Tim Plaska, Jeff Sturm, and on the phone Terri Session, Kally Miller, Leslie Jackson, Novelene Martin, and Sherry Taylor.

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and changes were suggested by Ted that the information on indicator the APR 5 &6 - that the targets that were set were in the wrong order. Erica will make corrections to the minutes. Cris made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes, Lucy seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

Therapies: Erica received e-mails in regards to having a discussion about therapies and how other Part C providers are dealing with the amount of children in services, communities that have a lot of therapist/those areas that there are shortages. The agencies across the state negotiate with therapist on a price for services. Agencies are also using therapists as consultants for the services to help with the cost. Ted made note that the statues state- IFSP team determines what the need of the child are and the services needed to meet those needs. It does not say how much one must pay for services or how often, but again it is up to the IFSP team. Erica will ask other states what they are doing and review the old guidelines that the State had and make some revisions. She will have them ready for the next meeting.

Cochlear Implants were also disgusted to see what other agencies are doing about the intensive therapies that the child may need and mapping?? Ted's understanding of policies and procedures is that therapy must occur, but the choice of therapist is not a requirement of IDEA. Sandy McGennis is going to see if there are therapists in Montana that can do Mapping of the implants. Erica will see what other states are paying for. Erica is also going to look to see if Part C pays for hearing aids under assistive technology. CHIP is now helping pay for hearing aids, so if a child does receive this insurance they can now get it through them.

Update on Montana's Comprehensive Improvement Plan (9/30/08): Erica reviewed the highlights of the latest version of the Plan and noted the completed objectives and updated status. For the next meeting Erica and Ted will update the plan and asked the group to review the plan to see if there are items missing that could be placed on the plan for the remainder of the year.

Child and Maternal Health: Mary Lynn Donnelly and Corliss Scott came from the Child and Maternal Health Program to discuss what their program does and how they are or can partner with Part C providers in some services that they provide. The program is for children and youth that have special health care needs. It is federally funded through the Maternal/Child Block Grant and is located in the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. It has a group of programs within it. They include the newborn hearing screening program, the metabolic screening program or heal stick program, and the now suspended Birth Defects Registry. The mission of Children's Special Health services is to develop systems of care. A system of services is a family-centered network of community-based services that is designed to promote the health and well-being of children and their families. They have six performance measures which define a system of care for children and youth with special health care needs. Children's Special Health Services have three regional pediatric specialty clinics, they are: Western Region Pediatric Specialty Clinic, which is located in Missoula, North Central Region Pediatric Specialty Clinic, which is located in Great Falls, and Eastern Region Pediatric Specialty Clinic, which is located in Billings. If you need more information you can call 1-800-762-9891, in Helena, 406-444-3622 or at their website www.cshs.mt.gov.

Child Count:- Erica went over tables 1&2 for the child count that was submitted Feb. 1, 2009 and compared it to last year's table 1&2 that was submitted Feb. 1, 2008. Montana saw an increase in the total number of children served for the snap shot in time. The total for Nov. 13, 2008, was 731 compared to December 1, 2008 count of 633. So Montana saw an increase of 98 children. There was also an increase in the ages that are served in Montana. Birth to 1 was up by 15 (136), 1 to 2 was up by 7(215), and 2 to 3 was up by 76(380). Erica stated that WESTA (DAC) is reviewing our data to see what technical assistance states might need to be able to collect the seven race/ethics for child count. Table 3 was submitted November 1st for the FFY 07; the table collects data on those children who exited Part C for the year. Erica shared the items that they were required to do data notes on and will provide the following year's child count so people can do some comparison.

DDP Update:

- Federal Stimulus money: Montana will get an additional \$2,139,843 dollars over the next two years. The first part of the money will be sent to the states by the end of March and then the second portion of the \$ will be given to states in October. The state has not received any guidance from the Office of Special Education (OSEP) on how the money is to be spent. Part B did get some guidance so based off of theirs it looks like the money could potentially be spend on Professional Preparation Training, data systems, and then a % of the money to be put into services. OSEP did not allocate \$71,914,050 of the stimulus money and is speculated that the money was set aside so that OSEP could do some projects that it has not been able to support for some time. Things like General Supervision Enhancement Grants (GESG), and other projects that support Part B and C.
- The Governor has committed \$600,000 to DDP for Part C services that will come out of the tobacco monies. In HB 2, is stating that we would not have to spend this money down the first year to get it into our base, but that in two years we

- would still see the money in our budget. Jeff is not sure how that will work or how they will keep track of who has used the money and then make sure that it gets back into the right budget.
- E&D clinics looking at getting Medicaid match with the State General Fund. The money would be fully matched as long as the service is tied to a Medicaid services. The way to get the match is by giving every person that goes through the clinic an application for Medicaid even if they do not fill out the application they just must be given one. The other thing is if the person is eligible for our waiver that they must be put on the wait list. Even if a person is on the wait list they can still refuse to accept services if they wish. These two things will allow for a Medicaid match.
 - Autism Waiver- a work group has been working on this project for over a year and a half to get Montana on the track for getting additional resources to provide autism services in the state. During Leg. The money that DDP had received was taken away from them due to the money was not approved by Leg. DDP did end up getting its budget restored for the autism waiver, but it will come from different departments within DPHHS.
 - Respite was another item that was brought up during Leg. There has been some changes to the way respite is delivered. The change came from allowing families to use the “Uncle Joe” respite to having to hire an employee of an agency. DDP has two ways families will be able to purchase respite they are either through an agency or self directed model. Jeff still feels there are a lot of pieces to put together. The self directed will be in place by July 1st. DDP has four agencies who would be interested in helping with the self directed 2 are in-state and 2 are out of state.
 - Waitlist is not being addressed.
 - Still waiting on legal to review the RFP for Region III Part C services.

OSEP Update: Erica let the group know that Jackie Twinging-Martin is once again our State contact for OSEP. OSEP will be providing states the opportunity to clarify their data from the APRs that were submitted Feb 1st. They are anticipating these notices will go out in the beginning of April and then will allow the state one week to submit the clarifications that are needed.

State Application: Erica let the group know that the State application for Funds for next FFY is out for public comment for 30 days and for public review for another 30. She let them know how they could obtain a copy of the application and to let others know as well. The application is due to OSEP in May.

First Step: Erica thanked those that had reviewed the First Step Manual and provided her with comments to improve the document. She would like anyone else who would like to submit changes do so via electronic and get those to her by March 31, 2009. She will then add those changes to the document and get it to Dan to review one last time, and then by the beginning of April get it to PLUK.

Misc. Congratulations to Novelene Martin she is now our official chair for the next coming year!!! And Congratulations to Laurie Frank for being our co-chair for the next year. THANKS again Diana for doing such a super job for the last four years of being our chair!!!! We would also like to welcome our new additions to our council they are Denise Brunett representing Children's Special Health Services and Becky Krezelak representing Head Start, if either of you have question please let any of us know and we would be happy to help!! Some other things with membership.... Novelene will be wearing a few hats for us, besides being chair, Region I representative, she will also be the representative for Children's Mental Health and Diana has agreed to stay on and will be the Parent at Large representative. So, we still have a few vacancies which Erica is working on they are: Legislator Representative, Parent IV, Parent V, Medicaid, Managed Care and Health Policies & Service Division representative, Public Awareness, Homeless representative, and Child & Family Services.

Agency Updates/Reports:

Sandi Marisdotter-Family Outreach has three children in Autism Waiver. They were having a hard time finding direct staff workers for this waiver, but now have everyone hired.

Barbara Stefanic-She will be retiring by July 1st!!! Preschool over in Laural has grown and is seeing a lot of success.

Sandy McGunnis- There is going to be an In-depth weekend skillshop for Signing Exact English. It will be held in Helena this year on April 24-26, 2009. If you would like more information you can contact Emily LaSalle at elsalle@msdb.mt.gov or 406-461-1294. You can also register on line by going to www.seecenter.org.

Sylvia Danforth- Congress just past money for lifespan respite this process has taken 6 years to make this happen. It will provide states the opportunity to set up some info-structures, so Montana should keep their eyes and ears open for opportunities to access this money. DEAP just went through their Comprehensive review for the year and it was a pretty intense process for such a small provider, but things went well.

Laurie Frank- Angel started Preschool!!!!

Priscilla Halcro- QLC has started the Autism Wavier as well.

Cris Volinkaty- CDC has four children in the Autism Waiver. Waiting on Leg for the Respite Bill which got passed in the house and to see what the next steps will be. They have hired a Pediatrician Psychologies in Bozeman.

Lucy Hart-Paulson- Things are going very well for the new program at U-M for the Speech Path. Program. There are 100 students from all around the state. They are hoping to have the Masters Level part of the program in the fall

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED MAY 21ST !!! HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!!