

Family Support Services Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 18, 2008
Board of Investment Building Room, conference room 3

Present: Novelene Martin Priscilla Halcro, Lauria Frank, Sylvia Danforth, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Paula Sherwood, Ted Maloney, Sandy McGennis, Sandi Marisdotter, Cris Volinkaty, and Barb Stephanic,

Others: David Kidwell, Terri Session, Leslie Jackson, David Munson, Merlin Gilham, Teresa Rivenes, Erica Swanson, Jackie Emerson, Bill Wells, and Jeff Sturm.

Family Story: David Kidwell's, who's son, David, has been in services with Quality Life Concepts in Great Falls came and spoke. His son was in Part C services and now is 4 and receiving Family Education and Support Services. David was diagnosed about a year and half ago with Autism. David and the family have been doing working with the PLAY project. They found that the play project would help their son with the social activities he would need. Before the PLAY project their son would mirror two word sentences, now after being in the program for a year, he will approach people and say "Hi, I am David." It has been a lot of hard work for everyone, but feels that David got into the program at the right time and is giving him what he needs.

David does have some service concerns, because of how our system works and the schools. It seems to him that services are not available for children after they are 6 and then picked up again at 18. He feels that there are going to be points within this time period that children could use support, one being when a child is 13. The chemicals in the child's body are changing and so there is going to have to be support for the child to help them through this process and learning. Services need to be expanded, bring the child to live a productive life, there are gaps, and now is the time to fill the gaps.

David also spoke about being a military family and some of the things that are unique to life style. Some people who provide services, (not QLC), feel that since they are a military family that they will be leaving in two years, so why put forth the time and energy to program for the child. David wanted to state this is not the case that families are now staying for 5 to 7 years and if they are not getting the service they need then they will ask for a transfer. If the federal government sees that there are a lot of families asking for this from a particular base that it could potential draw attention and make the federal government close the base.

Pricilla from QLC spoke a little about their services on base and some of the challenges they face, due to they speak a different lingo, military insurance and then advocates on base.

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Sylvia made a motion to accept the minutes, Lucy seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

OSEP- Letter of Clarification: Montana received its letter for clarification to the 07 APR on April 7, 2008. DDP had a week to submit to OSEP the clarifications that they needed. The letter was sent April 14, 2008 with the clarification for Indicator 4. The clarification was due to what baseline data which was submitted FFY 06 to compare 07 data. We chose to use the baseline data representative of the whole state and all seven regional Part C provider agencies. Montana also addressed the data rubric that helped OSEP with their calculations for Indicator 14. According to the data rubric for 618 Data-Indicator 14 Table 1- Child Count, Montana was given a 0 in the cell for Responded to Data Noted Requests, which resulted in a 96.6% Indicator Score on the data rubric for Indicator 14. However, Montana provided a timely response to Data Note Request for FFY 2005 data. The issue was cleared up.

Erica went over that she would have to make determination on all seven part C agencies. She is going to wait until Montana receives their determination letter from OSEP. We discussed the process in which determination would be made.

Update from the Child and Family Outcome Conference: Diana and Erica were invited to present at the conference that was held in Baltimore the last week of Aug. The presentation was based on the Family Outcome and how Montana had parent involvement. The conference also showed what the data looked like from state's APR on reporting for Child Outcomes (Indicator 3). The Early Child Outcome Center (ECO), has also put in for a grant to do further research on the Child Outcomes, and invited state's to submit a letter of interest to participate if they are funded. Erica did submit a letter, but is not sure when they will notify states. Ted spoke with Kathy Whaley from NECTAC, and she stated that Diana and Erica did a nice job of presenting and that Montana is on the cutting edge of things.

Child Count- New Tables- Race/Ethics: Erica went over the tables for the child count that will be collected for the FFY 2008.1 She noted that the Part C providers will be doing their count the middle of November instead of the December 1, like the past three years. This is new from OSEP, they are allowing states to select within the time frame of October 1 through December 1st the time they would like to conduct the count. The tables themselves have not changed, but there has been more clarification on collection of data. Points that were covered:

- States must use the same data for reporting settings data that is used in reporting the Child Count for that year. Note further the total count and crosstabulations by age and race must match those provided in the Child Count (Table 1).
- In providing data for this collection, the State is to submit complete and unsuppressed data.
- If, according to the IFSP, the only early intervention service that is delivered is service coordination, report the child in the setting where most of the service coordination is provided. If this information is not specified in the IFSP, report the child in the other setting category.
- The procedures for collecting, aggregating, and reporting race and ethnicity, as described in the new guidance, must be implemented by no later than the report of

the 2010 Child Count data. Although not required to do so prior to the 2010 report, States that are collecting and aggregating their data as specified in the new guidance may, as early as for the 2008 Child Count, report aggregated race/ethnicity data using the seven categories listed on the form.

Changes to the Race/ Ethnicity definitions are:

- Hispanic/ Latino- A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

To report Hispanic and Latino there are some guidelines:

- Respondent first identifies whether she/he is of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity,
- Respondent then identifies with one or more of the race category options.
- Hispanic/Latino is an ethnic type, not a race category.
- Each who identifies as Hispanic/ Latino ethnicity should be reported as Hispanic/Latino in aggregated reporting of race/ethnicity, regardless of the race groups) she/ he identified.
- Black or African American- A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander- A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- Two or more races- A person having origins in two or more of the five race categories listed immediately above.

To report two or more races there are some guidelines:

- Respondent is to identify in one or more of the five (minimum) race category options.
- Respondent who identifies more than one race category should, for aggregate reporting, be counted as two or more races- unless ethnicity is Hispanic/Latino, which trumps any and all race designations.
- The aggregated reporting is an unduplicated count. Any given person is counted in only one of the seven aggregate reporting categories.

When Race/ Ethnicity is not Identified:

- Parents/guardian should be allowed to self identify ethnicity and race unless not practical or feasible.
- If race/ ethnicity information is not provide-provider should ensure that the non response is a refusal, rather than an oversight.
- If the information cannot be obtained through family after having been afforded ample opportunity, the provider should provide the ethnicity and/or race information through observation identification.

The FSSAC and Providers voted that we should do the Child Count for 08 with the new guidelines.

Discussing Indicator #5 and 6 (Child Count Data) on APR: Ted provided information about indicator #5 and 6 to come up with some strategies to reset out targets for the SPP. There were four documents handed out: Indicator 5 and Indicator 6; which reviewed the data that was presented in the 07 APR, Montana State performance Plan Proposal to revise performance Targets for SPP indicators 5 and 6, outlined why Montana should change the targets for these two indicators and some options in ways we could look at setting the targets. The last handout was of those states that have the same eligibility

criteria. It looks at what their targets were, the average of those targets, and what their actual data looked like compared to the targets they set. The council and providers voted to reset the targets. The targets will be set for indicator 5 for 2009, 1.29% and for 2010, 2.04%. Indicator 6 for 2009, 1.39% and for 2010, 2.14%. Erica will write a request to OSEP change Montana's targets.

Update on Montana's Comprehensive Improvement Plan (July 1, 2008): 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 have updated 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 upcoming year.

OSEP Update: Erica let the group know that Jackie Twinging-Martin is no longer Montana's federal contact for OSEP. The new person is Ken Kienas, he has been the state contact for Part B in Montana for at least 12 years.

CELL: Erica went over the CELL project that Dan from OPI had applied for and received. Montana was one of eight states to receive this project (Maine, Vermont, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania). It is for technical assistance and is not a project that comes with federal dollars. What CELL is a research-to-practice technical assistance center funded by OSEP. Other who are involved with this project are Ovelena Hawks Puckett Institute, American Institutes for Research, Pacer Center, and University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. CELL's Goals are:

- Synthesize research evidence on effective early literacy learning practices and interventions.
- Develop evidence-based practices from the findings of research.
- Implement and evaluate the use of these evidence based practices.
- Conduct general and specialized technical assistance promoting the adoption and use of evidence-based early literacy learning practices.

CELL has a web-page that has some terrific materials on it for parents and professionals that can be right now. The webpage is www.earlyliteracylearning.org

Terri Sesson, from Hi-Line Homes shared what they have been doing with the Hopa Mountain Program. She stated that they receive some very nice quality books to provide to families. It cost nothing for the agency or the parents. Hopa Mountain is doing another round to select organizations to participate.

DDP Update: Jeff went over with the council and providers a document "DDP Funding Concerns in Child and Family Services: Part C, FES, and IFES". Joan is going to present this to the Governor's Budget. If more money is not put in the Governor's Budget the only thing that was accepted from the EPP process was a 2.5% increase for Providers.