

Family Support Services Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting, September 18, 2020

Attendees: Bonnie Ramage, Hollin Buck, Nicole Goeddel, Sandy Cade, Elissa Erickson, Laura Christiaens, David Munson, Kathy Rich, Abby Harris, Cathy Jury, Kathy Kelker, Jeannie Keller, Jackie Mohler, Jessica Unruh, Leslie Lee, Mo Williams

FSSAC Strategic Planning

Goal 1. Family Engagement: Families are engaged and valued as partners and leaders in early intervention.

- Funds allocated to develop Family Story library: professional videos of family stories for multiple audiences: families, early intervention collaborative partners, professional organizations, higher education, administration officials, legislative members. Include discussion questions.
- Family Voices pilot to measure family engagement for the FSSAC.

Goal 2. Workforce: Montana has an early intervention workforce that is competent, confident, and has capacity.

- Comprehensive System of Personnel Development framework with universal learning modules being developed in conjunction with WestEd. ECP to be landing site for modules. WestEd team to begin gathering information from the FSSAC, Part C Leadership Team, and Family Support Specialists.
- Multidisciplinary Teams and how to engage the greater community of early intervention professionals including pediatricians and family practitioners to promote early identification and the provision of early intervention services in Montana. Work Group: Karen Thornton, Laura Christiaens, Hollin Buck, David Munson and any other interested Family Support Specialists or FSSAC members such as Daylinda Radley to meet and identify steps to champion this effort.

Goal 3. Commitment: Communities make early childhood a priority and act to support children's early development and build capacity in families.

- Parenting Montana website being updated to include developmental screening information and contact information for Part C regional providers. Sandy will provide launch date and promotional video.
- ECFSD strategic planning coming up with an effort to align the programs within the division and support the work of each. Work

Group of Kathy Rich, Leslie Lee, Sandy Cade, Wendy Studt and Bonnie Ramage to provide additional information and strategies.

- Engage one of the major universities to perform a Child Outcomes Longitudinal Study. Kathy Kelker and David Munson to research.

Goal 4. Coordination: The early childhood system is coordinated to support effective family assessment, system navigation, care coordination, and use of data.

- Collaborate with early childhood programs to improve transitions from Part C identifying what families need to know (information) as well as supporting the family's emotional needs as they move from one system into different systems. Work Group of Abby Harris, Hollin Buck and potentially Danni McCarthy to work on this long-term outcome.
- FSSAC membership – a few empty spots around our table and gaps in representation such as a tribal member with experience in Part C and a pediatrician or physician. Laura Christiaens has a suggestion to tribal representation and will share with Bonnie Ramage. Karen Thornton recommended writing a letter to the MT Academy of Pediatrics and requesting an individual to be a liaison between the Academy and the Council. Kathy Rich is interested in being a member of this work group.

Goal 5. Governance: Montana's FSSAC is structured to achieve its mission of helping families help their children achieve success.

- Survey to FSSAC members to identify and rate the composition of the Council. Wendy will create the survey.
- Adjust by-laws to be reflective of composition as surveyed and determined by the FSSAC members.
- Each member will try on for size: what everyone is bringing to the table from their respective professional roles for the January meeting.

OSEP Updates

- Leslie Fox resigned as Montana's State Lead and taken a position with WestEd. Vinetta Freeman is Montana's new State Lead.
- The Office of Special Education Programs is initiating a new monitoring system for Part C and Part B, Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0, using a three-year cycle of collection, monitoring, and technical support both virtually and in-person. Montana has been chosen to be in the first cohort. Administrative team members will be meeting with OSEP on September 30, 2020 to begin the process.

No public comment received.

Next meeting dates:

- January 22, 2021, 9:00 – 11:30 AM, virtual
- March 26, 2021, 9:00 – 11:30 AM, virtual
- June 11, 2021, 9:00 – 11:30 AM virtual