State Interagency Coordinating Council for Tennessee’s Early Intervention System

July 25, 2017
9 a.m. – 12 a.m. (CST)

Meeting Minutes

ICC Members in Attendance
Ned Solomon – TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
Karen Pryor – Health Sphere Wellness Center
Amy Jenkins – Siskin Children’s Institute
Jessica Beaver – Therapy and Learning Center
Jacqueline Johnson – Dept. of Health
Jessica Mullins – Dept. of Mental Health
Rachel Saine – Foundations
Kim Wingate – UTC
Belva Weathersby – Head Start
William Hines – Tenn Care
Vickie Trice – TDCI
Rebecca Aslinger – Parent Representative
Mary Rolando - DCS

ICC Guests in Attendance
Linda Hartbarger – TEIS
Joan Kennedy – TEIS
Catherine Goodwin – TEIS
Jill Rigsby – TEIS
Jill Rogers – LEAD
Anita Teague – CDC
Elizabeth Hailey – TEIS
Georgia Garrett – TEIS
Regina Bowman – TEIS
Shannon Pargin – TEIS
Rene Bard – TEIS
Anne Johns – TEIS
Claudia Weber – TEIS
Barbara Thomas - TEIS
Serena Blanton – TEIS
Jenny Patterson - TEIS
Meeting
SICC Chair Amy Jenkins opened today’s meeting with introductions of SICC members, guests and lead agency staff.

Approval of April Agenda and Meeting Minutes
Agenda was approved by Karen Pryor and Belva Weathersby. Minutes were approved by Jessica Beaver and Vickie Trice.

ICC Business
SICC Chair Amy Jenkins opened up discussion for approval of a designee/proxy for ICC members if they are unable to attend a meeting. It was decided that an amendment would be brought to the October ICC meeting for a vote. Amy and Will Hines will confer on the language and submit to TEIS leadership prior to the October meeting.
For a legislative representative the Department of Human Services (DHS) may possibly have an interested person in State Senator Ferrell Haile. He has accepted the invitation and hopes to attend future meetings.

Early Head Start Update
Belva Weathersby shared the evolution of Early Head Start.

TEIS Agency Reporting – TEIS Updates
Linda Hartbarger
• The register for a second Education Consultant 3 (Direct Services Coordinator) was opened in July.
• Linda met with Assistant Commissioner Theresa Nicholls and Executive Director of Student Populations Allison Davey to discuss submission of a request for additional Social Counselor 2 (Service Coordinator) positions for the 2018 legislative session in 2018. Four part-time positions were re-classed to full-time Social Counselors that were placed, one per office, in the Nashville, Murfreesboro, Knoxville and Memphis TEIS offices.
• The position of Account Technician 2 in the Central office Fiscal Services Unit has been filled by Stephanie White.
• The register has closed for the first Educational Consultant 3 (Direct Services Coordinator) which is a reclassified position, Program Monitor 2, in the TEIS Central office. Rene Bard has accepted the first Direct Services Coordinator (Educational Consultant 3) position who will work with the 36 Early Intervention Resource Agencies (EIRAs) to focus on results driven accountability and quality improvement in the delivery of early intervention services to TEIS eligible children.

Joan Kennedy
• Part C award letter for 2017-18 was submitted April 21 and received an award of 8,770,535 which is $6500 more than last year.
• Part C funds are frozen until 2019 with sequestration a possibility in 2018-19.

Dave Williams
• Dave: “We are serving the smallest people with the biggest needs”
• Dave presented data analysis showing an uptick in referral growth across the state.
• Caseloads are averaging 91 children per Service Coordinator.
• The Department supports caseloads of 50-55 for each TEIS service coordinators.
• To serve that number, TEIS would need to hire 80 additional service coordinators.
• Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies are also needed in certain parts of the state, especially Memphis.

Jill Rigsby
• Jill did a poster presentation at July OSEP conference.
• For the first EI credential program “graduates” a total of 48 certificates were awarded.

Rene Bard
• Rene will be working on the results and quality piece to assist Early Intervention Resource Agencies (EIRA).

Shannon Pargin
• New Early Intervention Degree at the University of Memphis will launch in the fall of 2017. This will be to prepare students to become Service Coordinators and Early Interventionists. Infant Courts are currently in Davidson and Fentress counties for infants/toddlers in DCS custody. The state legislature approved additional infant court projects, and Tennessee will have a total of ten across the state. Locations of the additional projects are not yet known.
The Infant Court, based on the Safe Babies Court Team Model from Zero to Three, is a specialized court that brings focused attention to the specific needs of infants and toddlers with a goal of mitigating the impact of adverse early childhood experiences
through a twofold approach: (1) achieving a safe and nurturing permanent home for these infants as soon as possible; and (2) providing training and support to parents, caregivers and professionals involved with infants to promote healthy brain development and positive mental health.

Mary Rolando

- Seven courses about ACEs/trauma-informed practices for students who intend to work in early childhood and two courses for general curriculum are being developed at TSU. These will be available to every Board of Regent school beginning June 30 2018.
- The Alberta Family Wellness Initiative (AFWI) mobilizes knowledge about early brain development and its connection to lifelong physical and mental health, including addiction. We bring together stakeholders from many callings to collaborate on health solutions that will directly impact families and individuals.
- The FrameWorks Institute was founded in 1999 to advance the nonprofit sector's communications capacity by identifying, translating and modeling relevant scholarly research for framing the public discourse about social problems. Despite years of research and public discourse about child development and related issues, there is considerable evidence to suggest that the public, policy makers and the media still do not understand the crucial issues underlying this debate, nor do advocates and policy makers know the best way to incorporate the science of early childhood development in order to promote positive change for children. Since 2001, FrameWorks has been working on this topic — most recently in collaboration with the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, the National Forum on Early Childhood Program Evaluation, and the Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University. This multi-year, multi-discipline study is exploring how communications about early childhood development (ECD) influences public attitudes and policy preferences. Experimental research is currently underway which examines the impact of exposure to central elements of the core scientific story about early childhood development - as developed by the collaborators - on people’s support for programs and policies associated with the developmental perspective. Beginning in 2009, with funding from the Norlien Foundation, FrameWorks began a cross-cultural study comparing patterns of thinking in Alberta, Canada about early childhood development, and child and family mental health with those documented in the U.S.

Angela Webster

- AIMHiTN endorsement kick off was held on June 26–27.
- Infant Mental Health (IMH) Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health (IMH-E®) is an internationally recognized credential that supports and recognizes the development and proficiency of professionals who work with or on behalf of young children, ages zero to three, and their families. It is based on a set of competencies designed to support and enhance culturally-sensitive, relationship-focused practice within the framework of infant mental health. An applicant demonstrates acquisition of these competencies through education, work, specialized training, examination, and reflective supervision experiences. Individuals may begin applying for
endorsement in October 2017. Fees for applicants the first year may be waived via funding provided by the Department of Health.

- AIMHiTN invites individuals, students, and organizations to become members of the association by applying online. 

Catherine Goodwin

TEIS’ Annual Program Determination

Part C Monitoring Coordinator Catherine Goodwin shared that under the Individual’s with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is required to make annual state determinations related to meeting IDEA requirements. There are four determination categories: 1) Meets Requirements, 2) Needs Assistance, 3) Needs Intervention, and 4) Needs Substantial Intervention.

Tennessee’s determination for FFY 2015-16 was “Needs Assistance” for a second year. TEIS achieved a results driven accountability (RDA) score of 75%. This determination category reflects a percentage of at least 60% but less than 80%. Half of the RDA score was based on compliance data for which TEIS received the full score. Half of the RDA score was calculated using results data (Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) for which TEIS received a half score.

The area impacting the state’s determination was ECO data specific to 1) data quality: completeness of ECO data reported compared to the state’s FFY 2015 exiting data, and 2) child performance: comparison of TN’s 2015 ECO data to TN’s 2014 data and the comparison of TN’s 2015 ECO data to other states’ 2015 data.

TEIS continues to experience year–to–year fluctuations with its ECO data. These fluctuations are expected to continue for a few years due to ongoing improvements to the processes for collecting ECO data. The most recent improvement began July 1, 2016 with Early Intervention Resource Agencies (EIRAs) completing the Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System for Infants and Toddlers (AEPS) to collect developmental assessment information for both ECO entrance and ongoing ratings (i.e., every six months). This improvement anchors ECO to a single developmental assessment instrument for every collection point.

Public Input

Kim Wingate shared that early childhood students in the dual-license residency program can be placed in homes per state approval which is still pending. Additionally there is an early intervention course online.

Jacqueline Johnson shared that the Department of Health (DOH) would partner with TEIS to monitor birth defects of the Zika virus in affected children at two, six and twelve month intervals.

Adjourn

Adjournment at 12:00 p.m.

Next SICC Meeting

October 24, 2017
9 a.m.–12 p.m. (CST)
Second Harvest Food Bank of Mid TN