

# Early Intervention Council



## Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	Wyoming Early Intervention Council	<b>Date</b>	July 13, 2021	
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Kelli Pedersen	<b>Time</b>	9:00am	
<b>Location</b>	Laramie, WY	<b>Scribe</b>	Judy Juengel	
<b>Members In Attendance</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Represents</b>
	Beastrom	Jamie	Region 3	Provider
	Earnshaw	Mavis	Wyoming Dept. of Insurance	Health Policy analyst
	Hibbard	Deb	Dept of Family Services	Policy Manager
	Kugler	Mary	Wyoming Child & Family Development, Inc.	Head Start Agency
	Pedersen	Kelli	Parent Rep	Parent Rep
	Pena	Shawna	Public Health	Rural and Frontier Health
	Reyes	Amy	WDE	TANF
	Rone	Alisha	CDC Casper	CDS/Providers
	Serelson	Sara	Wyoming Children's Trust Fund (WCTF)	WCTF
	Wagner	Helena	Head Start	Collaboration Office
	Warren	Wendy	Wyoming Institute of Disabilities (WIND)	Personnel Preparation
<b>Members Absent</b>	Shannon Cranmore, Senator Wasserburger, Wendy Gamble, Helena Wagner,			

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	Kathy Escobedo, Dr. Bush, Jen Davis, Jamin Johnson
<b>Guests</b>	Christine Demers, Judy Juengel, Kim Bock, Amy Reyes

## Discussion Items

**July 13, 2021**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Alisha Rone, Wyoming (WY) Early Intervention Council (EIC) Vice Chair.**

Reading of the mission by Mary Kugler

Reading of the charter by Alisha Rone

### **Self- Introductions and Role of Guests and EIC Members and Updates**

Amy Reyes, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Early Learning Specialist- working on spending down the ESSER funds. Working on the Striving Readers grant- 15% needs to go to early childhood. Also trying to get TANF sites funded with additional dollars.

Alisha Rone, Child Development Center (CDC) Director, Child Development Services of Wyoming (CDS) President- exited 160 kids to KG. Getting ready for screenings. June and July summer school. Have 5 children in Part C who are deaf/HH. Working with Christie Fritz who is working on a master's program and needs classroom hours with this population. Contracting with school district for TOD and CDC+. At the beginning of summer we had a young staff member pass away from breast cancer.

Bradley Bakken, EHDI Program Co-Coordinator- Sarah will present this afternoon. Thanks to Alisha with CDC Casper- 18 months ago we opened up a pediatric audiology clinic in Casper. It is going really well and filled a big need. We hired an amazing audiologist and are able to provide family to family support.

WYCHAP- the application for hearing aid funding is online through Hands and Voices

Kim Bock, Part B/619 Coordinator- Received the report from the 619 statewide monitoring conducted by WE.

We have 30 days to review the information, then we will meet and discuss next steps/

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Sarah Fitzgerald, EHDI Program Co-Coordinator- will be presenting later.

Christine Demers, Part C Coordinator- will provide updates later.

Jamie Beastron, R3 Family Service Coordinator (FSC). R3 has been fully open for the past year. Home visits are going well. Lots of collaboration with the interagency team. Sources of Strength- high school program- working with teenagers on coping mechanisms, The 21 Alliance Wellness Collaboration Group- teamed up with them for a Color Run at the beginning of school to try and bring agencies together. Transfer these skills to home visits with parents. Public health has not been able to get into homes as easily.

Gearing up for August screenings.

Kim Bock, Part B/619 Coordinator- I don't have anything to report right now. Will update later in agenda.

Kelli Pedersen, Parent- thinking of parents who may be delayed in getting a diagnosis for their child. Grateful to have been diagnosed right away to get services for my daughter.

Mary Kugler, Head Start Representative- work with WY Child and Family. Trying to get back into normal services and enrollment numbers. Recruiting- please let people know our doors are open. Offering incentives for vaccinations- a lot of hesitancy- not being able to ask but we are opening up to full services without masks.

The Office of HS in DC- says January 2022 everything should be back to normal. When making referrals please consider Head Start.

Mavis Earnshaw, Policy and Planning Advisor, WY Dept of Insurance- currently working on ARPA funding and the No Surprises Act.

Deb Hibbard, DFS- Family 1<sup>st</sup> Act of 2018- working hard to keep families together. Once per month host a community forum on Fridays at 10am. At forum updates are provided on what's happening in the community. Applied for McVee grant and hope it happens. Focus on maintaining relationships and establishing a great home visiting network.

Helena Wagner, Head Start Collaboration Office- no substantial updates.

Wendy Warren, Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Coordinator- Telehealth mini grant that we have available for families- we were able to provide devices. Seems the real need is data so our great team at WIND is not only devices and how to support families at

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telehealth appointments. We would like to have families apply it would just be for additional tools to use.

Sara Serelson- WY Children's Trust Fund Executive Director. Got forwarded invite about 10 min ago. Nice to meet those who I haven't previously worked with. Rounding up 30 parent cafe meetings across the state. We have been doing mandatory supporter training which is a combination of mandatory reporting and protective factors. Thanks for letting me join.

## **Standing Updates Provided by Judy Juengel, Contracts and Data Specialist**

Contracts are mostly complete with the exception of a couple of stragglers. It was a rough contract season with Part C going back and forth on federal funding and Part B needing to add some language to satisfy some issues regarding corrective action. Working on the Part B 457 report which encompasses all children who were evaluated and/or received services in the previous school year. Then we will begin working on the Part C fall data.

## **Updates from Kathy Escobedo, Unit Manager- see handout**

### **Call for additions to agenda- none.**

Review of minutes

Alisha moves to accept the minutes as presented.

Mary seconded the motion.

Motion passes.

### **Public Comment- None.**

### **New Business**

#### **Part C Application Discussion- Christine Demers, Part C Coordinator**

We were close to not being able to apply for federal funds.

In the end we were able to indicate that we met the assurances and submitted the application.

We received \$12,000 more so we had to re-do our budget.

Child outcomes- will provide more money to centers to buy materials.

The federal government has given a lot of money to early childhood this year. We will discuss the use of those funds later.



## Part C Target Setting by Susan Wagner, Data Driven Enterprises

Indicator 2- Services in Home or Community Based Setting

Trend is going down.

Alisha supports the target of 95%. This is getting harder and harder to reach.

Christine- the downward trend started before COVID.

Why do people think this is going down? More services are being provided in centers- why?

Alisha- increases in drugs and staff not feeling safe contributes to this.

Community settings are more difficult. Hard to get toddler to focus in the library, etc.

COVID- R9 used a mobile unit and that worked well.

Providing services in centers is more safe. Better outcomes due to child and family attention. The downside is not being able to see what is going on at home.

Question- do families come to the center?

Yes, we provide transportation or incentives or we take the mobile unit to them.

DFS- we did see referral trends decrease. Less referrals for drug use, more for neglect of not having resources available.

Kelli- when my daughter was getting services we did sometimes request services at the school.

EIEP- we always encourage providers to re-visit the location of services.

**The group agreed that 95% is okay for the target.**

## Family Survey- Ind 4

Percent of families who report:

Know rights

Community needs

Help kids develop and learn

Know rights- in 19-20 WY met target

Do we want future target to be 94% or 95%?

Set expectations high.

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Discussion about the best method to do surveys.  
Ask Laurene about how to increase surveys on the reservation.

Timeline- the earlier the better- Feb-May

Jamie, FSC R3- it's challenging for parents to remember what services their kids are receiving.  
Families forget the FSC piece.

Jamie favors the March-May timeline

The other piece is homes in Crook County don't have WIFE so we have the paper surveys.

Issue- doesn't always load correctly on phones.

Jamie explains the survey is about services/center as a whole.

She supports the target of 95%.

**95% is what the group voted.**

**4B:**

% of families who report services helped them communicate the child's needs

Proposed targets:

94%

95%

Christine suggests 94%

Question- is there a way to re-word questions?

We did get this from a national survey.

Some questions are over our parent's heads. Could we provide an example with the question?

Alisha and Jamie support a target of 94%.

DFS is writing policies at 8<sup>th</sup> grade level- forms for families are now being written at a 4<sup>th</sup> grade level

Christine- strategy- have committee to look at the survey and make it more parent friendly.

**4C:**

95% or 93%

Judy- 93%

Shawna- 95%

**Majority voted 95%**

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How to improve:

We need both paper and electronic.

Ask families what they prefer.

Mary- accountability- regions are struggling- how can we help those struggling with those who had success?

Possibly recruit a parent rep from the reservation or a provider for the council.

The group thought this was a great idea.

Mary reported that at Head Start, the reps from the reservation have backed out of meetings for the last two years.

We are trying to figure out how to get them to our meetings.

Accessibility and equality is a big push.

Consider a QR code to scan to access the survey.

Adding education or household income to the demographics section of the survey.

Are we able to offer incentives- Christine will check.

Indicator 5-

Birth-1 with IFSPs

Proposed targets

2.90

2.50

2.00

Alisha does not like this indicator. We can't produce children to be on an IFSP based on population.

There is no identification rate in the Part B indicators.

Alisha suggests changing it to screening rate.

OSEP explains this is a judgement on the system. A strong system has good identification system for kids. Jamie agrees. R3 did not meet the target.

If kids are on an IFSP they have a diagnosis.

Past 10 years we have reached out to neighboring areas to make sure referrals are coming to the center.

Jamie votes for 2%

National average is 1.7%

Christine votes for 2%

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Ind 6- Birth to 3 with IFSPs

Recent 5.71% target 5%

Targets

4.50

5.00

National average 3.7%

Argument for selecting a target below BL:

8 regions didn't meet it

Target is well above the national average

Birth rates vary

Kelli- small towns vary even more year to year.

These questions shouldn't depend on birth rate fluctuations.

Can we remove indicator 5 and 6 from the report card? And add screenings instead?

**4.50 is the agreed upon target.**

Barriers

Improvement ideas from Shawna on outreach- changing report card output to reflect the story more

WY Part C Determination- Christine

WY received Needs Assistance

OSEP makes determination based on the indicators.

Results- we didn't perform well on child outcomes

Compliance- met every target

Very low return rate due to COVID

This affects performance.

Services were also affected.

Needs Assistance- no corrective action, but we do need to improve or it can affect the grant.



Consider the plan for assessments during COVID- we need a back up plan so this doesn't happen again

Sarah Fitzgerald and Mona Moscatelli presented on the Wyoming early childhood initiatives/updates on the group work.

The ASTRA training is good information on procedural safeguards for parents.

## **American Rescue Plan- Priorities for Spending**

How to spend funds?

Ideas:

Divide up to the regions in an additional per child amount payment

Combination- use some for a per child amount payment and the rest for something else

Money for families

Accessibilities

Training

Alisha- use the money to provide direct services.

Suggestion- ask for applications indicating what they will do with the funds.

Maintain statewide inventory- EHDI- replace equipment that can no longer be repaired by the manufacturer

Combination of per child amount and EHDI equipment

Transportation from the center- gas cards?

Hotel rooms- pay in advance

DFS is using COVID funds to buy gift cards for gas and food.

Will discuss on Directors call as well

## **National ITCA Update**

See handouts

Next year 10% of funds need to go towards underserved populations

10% of the budget could pay for transportation for pacesetters in underserved populations

Go towards underprivileged, high risk populations, those with at risk behaviors

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## Upcoming Meetings:

August 24<sup>th</sup> 2:30-4:00 Zoom meeting to set targets on child outcomes

Work group on parent survey

- returns rate
- 508 compliant
- demographics
- best practices prior to survey

How to collect screening numbers

Next in-person meeting:

### **October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

October 12<sup>th</sup>- afternoon

October 13<sup>th</sup>- morning

Casino? Wind River Reservation? Or Prairie Rose in Shoshone-Ft Washakie

Contact Laurene about sending people to attend the meeting

### **January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Cheyenne**

January 12<sup>th</sup>- afternoon

January 13<sup>th</sup>- morning

### **April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Gillette**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- afternoon

April 13<sup>th</sup>- morning

### **July 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Casper**

July 12<sup>th</sup>- afternoon

July 13<sup>th</sup>- morning

On the agenda for October, include parent survey workgroup

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## Delta 360

Meeting room/chocolate/ espresso was good  
Best wishes to Kathy on her retirement.

Motion to adjourn by Shawna  
Seconded by Jamie

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.