

Early Intervention Council



Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting	Wyoming Early Intervention Council	Date	January 12, 2022	
Chair/Facilitator	Kelli Pedersen	Time	1:00pm	
Location	Google Meet	Scribe	Janelle Smolinski	
Members In Attendance	Last	First	From	Represents
	Bush	Dr. James	WDH	Medical Officer
	Davis	Jen	Governor's Office	Other
	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

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Members Absent	Shannon Cranmore, Senator Wasserburger, Wendy Gamble, Dr. Bush, Jen Davis, Jamin Johnson, Kim Caylor
Guests	Judy Juengel, Ragen Latham, Brittany Thaler, Sarah Fitzgerald, Jamie Beastrom, Shawna Pena, Jennifer Hiler, Amy Reyes, Sara Serelson, Kelli Pedersen, Mavis Earnshaw, Debra Hibard, Alisha Rone, Janelle Smolinski

Discussion Items

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The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm am by Alisha Rone, Wyoming (WY) Early Intervention Council (EIC) Vice Chair.

Reading of the mission by Judy Juengel

Reading of the charter by Judy Juengel

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

Judy Juengel, Wyoming Department of Health, BHD, EIEP, Part C Coordinator – Jamen is no longer with the state, I will be in touch with PH to see if they will replace that position on the council. No word from Senator Wasserburger in a while, I will touch base on his availability. We appreciate your participation when possible.

Mary Kugler, Head Start Representative- Collaboration with Head Starts from around the state on vaccine mandate. Deadline for mask mandate was Jan 31st as well as all staff and children 2 and above to start wear masks. The letter we have written talks about having community needs considered when mandates come out. There is a stay on this Mandate. We were joined by 27 other states. We are expecting information at any point. We will keep you up to date. Large loss of employment across the state for Head Start due to mandate.

Janelle Smolinski, Wyoming Department of Health, BHD EIEP, Contract and Data Specialist – All Part C ARPA contracts are with our AG and we hope to move them forward quickly.

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Jamie Beastro, Family Service Coordinator, Region 3 – Finished up our December 1 count which was a little low from last year but still at 21. Last week I attended the Early Childhood Summit with WDE.

Shawna Pena, Public Health, Rural and Frontier Health, interim unit manager for EMS- Gearing up for our CSBG Grant, the goal of the Grant is to help people out of poverty and more self-sufficient. Some of the Head Starts are our grantees. They want us to work closer together but are not getting much guidance on how to do so.

Jennifer Hiler, Wyoming Department of Health, BHD, EIEP Unit Manager- EIEP is now fully staffed. EIEP joined the WDE summit as well. On day two there was a great overview of the Early Learning Standards that are out. Everyone will be getting a hard copy. Hoping they will be put to good use. Myself, CDC's, and Dept. of Ed will be represented at the Council for Exceptional Children PD training in Florida. WEll initiative under EHDI is trying to improve intervention.

Sarah Fitzgerald, EHDI Program Co-Coordinator- What does early intervention look like for kids with hearing loss and late onset hearing loss. Through WEll, since January 2020, we are making sure the work we are doing is sustainable and easy to follow guidelines and protocols for these kids. Manuals are being developed for families and providers.

Amy Reyes, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Early Learning Specialist- Working on a 3rd cohort of letters ECE, just rolled out. Collaboration with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We are focusing a lot of efforts on after school tutoring projects. Working with Nicky on UW ECE modules that will roll out soon for micro credential. Opening an RFP, by March/April, for a TANF sight. We had 14 sights funded in this two year cycle.

Sara Serelson- WY Children's Trust Fund Executive Director- Working on 9 community mini grants focused on building protective factors. Continuing with ACES training and mandatory reporting training. Specific supports for grandparents raising kids. Getting ready for our tool kits to come out in April for Child Abuse Prevention month.

Brittany Thaler, DFS, Program Analyst- Overseeing the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood only visitation grant we were awarded back in August. Looking to expand and reinstate the Home visitation network.

Mavis Earnshaw, Policy and Planning Advisor, WY Dept. of Insurance- We are trying to get a handle on the Federal Mandates just coming out regarding at home testing. Working to make sure more families have health insurance in Wyoming and those numbers were up this year for the first time in a while.

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Debra Hibbard, DFS- Policy and Program Manager- Family 1st is working on a prevention plan serving families in their homes. Prevention Plan is in a good place, sending out to providers to review next week. We are still working on the Family Forums on Fridays, if you would like to attend let me know.

Alisha Rone, Child Development Center (CDC) Director – Natrona Country update, Child count Part C 144, Part B 280. Covid is up here. We derived 40 twin beds to children in need through the 40 winks projects. Sitting in with Judy on the SSIP plan. We participated in ACES training in January, highly recommend. Partnered with them to create a HOPE manual for Part C families that are life-flighted to Denver, so they have resources, as well as newborns.

Kelly Pedersen, Parent rep.- nothing to report

Role needs to be filled, Maternal and Child Health-

Standing Updates

Ragen Latham, Operations and Projects Administrator- Listened to a PH meeting this morning and COVID numbers are up across the state. We are under resourced on rapid tests, we went from 20,000 to 3,000 test available in just a few weeks. The federal government is making a million a month which will not cover demand. Mentioned that the rapid tests are not sensitive enough to catch this current variant.

Kim Caylor, Part B/619 Coordinator- Not present

Judy Juengel, Contracts and Data Specialist- Officially the Part C Coordinator as of November 8th.

Call for additions to agenda- none.

Review of minutes

Alisha moves to accept the minutes, at 1:42pm, as presented.

Mary seconded the motion.

Motion passes.

Public Comment- None

Old Business- None



Part C Family Survey- Judy

This committee was asked to pick through the questions of this survey to see if the questions are giving us the information that we need and see if it is parent friendly. I got a lot of input and made those updates. I have a few additional questions. And then we will call it final. I decided to get it professionally translated this year since we made so many changes and to insure accuracy. It should take about a week and we should be ready to go with the survey by February 1st.

Families struggle with question 5. What services are children receiving?

Jamie- valuable to keep however parents don't always remember the difference between the services. I always advise parents that if they are unsure what services their kids are getting to ask.

Ragen- could we prime the parents with the services they get?

Alisha- we are scripting to parents what services their kids get to insure accuracy.

Judy- we will keep it.

Judy- question about where children are receiving services. In 2024, OSEP is increasing requirements as for what demographic information we collect on the parent survey. Wyoming already has that on the survey, which means Wyoming is ahead of the game moving forward.

The next question- Are IFSP services available all year?

The reason I highlighted it was that we have never had anyone say they are not? Do we want to keep it?

Ragen- I can see the safe guard of this question.

Jennifer- I agree, we should continue to collect this information.

Judy- We will keep this year and revisit next year if needed.

Any questions on the remaining questions? None

Working with Data Driven, who distributes this survey in many states and reviews results. They provided feedback to me that I think is important. If you think about the questions it isn't really getting at if early intervention is the cause of that or if it is something else? They recommend adding a few more questions from the ECTA Center Family Survey

Highlighted lines were Judy's suggestions.

Knowing your rights and advocating for your child- (Is there one you think should be added?)

How helpful has early intervention been in...

- Giving you useful information about services and supports for you and your child?
- Giving you useful information about your rights related to your child's special needs?
- Giving you useful information about who to contact when you have questions or concerns?

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- Giving you useful information about available options when your child leaves the program?
- Explaining your rights in ways that are easy for you to understand?

Judy was leaning toward question three, empowering parents and helping them feel confident caring for their child with difficult behaviors.

Communicating your child's needs-

How helpful has early intervention been in...

- Giving you useful information about your child's delays or needs?
- Listening to you and respecting your choices?
- Connecting you with other services or people who can help your child and family?
- Talking with you about your child and family's strengths and needs?
- Talking with you about what you think is important for your child and family?
- Developing a good relationship with you and your family?

Likes that they are hearing the family's voices.

No one opposed adding one or two.

Helping your child develop and learn?

- Giving you useful information about how to help your child get along with others?
- Giving you useful information about how to help your child learn new skills?
- Giving you useful information about how to help your child take care of his/her needs?
- Identifying things you do that help your child learn and grow?
- Sharing ideas on how to include your child in daily activities?
- Working with you to know when your child is making progress?

Alisha- Wasn't there a question on this survey asking about resources?

Judy- I have received information and resources that will help me support my child's development?

Alisha/Ragen- Maybe adding a few examples to that original question will keep it from being redundant.

Alisha- I know you said no demographic information. Is there a way to add one question on poverty or low to moderate income? This gives us a good idea of the needs of parents outside of just special education. It helps with communications to parents.

Ragen- ESSID's group was wanting the same information.

Judy doesn't have an issue adding that question. She will consider it.

Is there a different wording we can use instead of "demographic"?

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Shawna- It is an optional question, does not need to be answered if they do not want.

Judy- We could look to add an income bracket.

Any final thoughts on the Survey? None

Break- 2:15pm-2:20pm

Overview of State Performance Plan Part C

Data Review- 7/1/2020-6/30/2021

Indicator 1 Timely Service-

- FFY2020 100% Performance 100%
- FFY2019 100%

Indicator 2 Natural Environments

- FFY2020 Performance 88.34%
- FFY2019 Performance 92.94%

Indicator 3A Child Outcomes: Social Emotional (below age expectations)

- FFY2020 56.03%
- FFY2019 30.43%

Indicator 3A Child Outcomes: Social/Emotional (within age expectations)

- FFY2020 76.00%
- FFY2019 66.53%

Indicator 3B Child Outcomes: Knowledge and Skills (below age expectations)

- FFY2020 71.06%
- FFY2019 38.04%

Indicator 3B Child Outcomes: Knowledge and Skills (within age expectations)

- FFY2020 60.00%
- FFY2019 45.82%

Indicator 3B Child Outcomes: Action to Meet Needs

- FFY2020 77.88%
- FFY2019 72.11%

Indicator 4 Family Involvement (Parent Survey)

- Know their rights FFY2020 96.55% FFy2019 97.53%
- Effective Communicate child's needs FFY2020 95.85% FFY2019 97.53%
- Help their child develop and learn FFY2020 96.20% FFY2019 98.14%

Indicator 5 Child Find (birth to one with IFSPs)

- FFY2020 2.31%

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- FFY2019 1.92%
 - Target 1.92%
- Indicator 6 Child Find (birth to three with IFSPs)
- FFY2020 Data 5.87%
 - FFY2019 5.71%
 - Target 4.32%
- Indicator 7 45 Day Timeline
- FY2020 99.72%
 - FFY2019 99.44%
 - Target 100%
- Indicator 8 Transitions
- FFY2020 95.74%
 - FFY2019 99.32%
 - Target 100%
- Indicator 8B Transitions
- FFY2020 100%
 - FFY2019 100%
 - Target 100%
- Indicator 8C Transitions
- FFY2020 92.58%
 - FFY2019 100%
 - Target 100%
- Indicator 9 Hearing Requests
- FFY2020 100%
 - FFY2019 100%
 - Target 100%
- Indicator 10 Mediations
- FFY2020 100%
 - FFY2019 100%
 - Target 100%
- Indicator 11 State Systemic Improvement Plan
- Entering new phase of the SSIP for FFY2020-FFY2025
 - Wyoming's state identified measurable result: Increase the percentage of infants and toddlers who exit the Part C program services demonstrating age-appropriate positive social-emotional skills by 4.0% over a period of five years.
 - Three Coherent Improvement strategies: Professional development, Evidence-based practices, and assessments
 - Group discussed the PIWI model that is used in other states, we will continue to look at models and develop a plan for Wyoming.

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- Developing a coaching model-creating a system of trainers and scaling up.
- Establishing a Part C SSIP workgroup.

Thoughts?

Alisha- a few examples this group talked about is having hands on coaching. Come into our Centers and see the extreme behaviors that we have. We really need people to coach these providers on how best to support them and the family. We discussed doing a monthly meeting that parents could Zoom in and talk about ideas on how to handle behaviors with their kids with a facilitator. To keep them from feel alone.

Judy- Thank you Sara connecting me with the parent rep!

The council has agreed to move forward.

Update on MOE discussion

Recap: back in August we had 2 million cut from our Part C program. That made us out of compliance with our MOE. We are required to put the same amount of money in we spend the previous year. We notified OSEP they allowed us to reset our MOE because we did not have a good tracking system set up. We need to be asking for the local public funds that you are receiving and expending in your programs. Some states are asking for a budget at the beginning of the Fiscal year and then update at the 6 month and end of year to use that for our overall MOE. We can get that information from Data Driven so we will not be asking for additional information.

Discussions and format of April meeting/topics: Topics: Part C application and budget, possible virtual tour of Gillette CDC.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 12th- 1pm-4pm Via Google Meet

Motion to adjourn 3:13pm by Mary.

Seconded by Alisha

Meeting adjourned at 3:13pm