



**April 16-17, 2013**

**St. Augustine, FL**

**Members Present:** Kim Carr, Jennifer Evans, Penny Geiger, Pat Grosz, Johana Hatcher, April Katine, Matt Moore, Lourdes Quintana, Debbie Russo, Gail Underwood, Kathleen Vergara, Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado, Ilene Wilkins, Jeannie Carr, Susan Donovan, Angel Finch, Nathaniel Forbes, Cynthia Fuller,

**Members Absent:** Katherine Dagenais, Shan Goff

**Members Absent with Notification:** Jeanne Boggs

**Non-members Present:** Carole West, Lou Ann Long, Annalise Campisi, Ellie Schrot, Liza Smith, Paula Kendig, Brenda Ham, Harry Fogle, Stephanie Holmes, Sharon Hennessy, Doris Tellado, Beverly Jones, Patrick Carr, Jean Bowles, John Lee, Althea Puzio, Sue Cannon, Theresa Hutchins, April Smith, Emily Taylor-Snell, Katie Williams, and Tameka Footman

**Conference Call Attendees:** Sharon Paul, Lorraine Allen

### **April 16, 2013**

#### **Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) Campus Tour**

Members toured the beautiful campus of FSDB. Members were able to observe several classrooms including a middle school science class, a kindergarten class, a first grade class, and two pre-school classes.

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Patricia Grosz, Chair  
Motion to approve January Meeting Notes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve January Committee Meeting Notes. Motion from Gail Underwood to amend Committee Meeting Notes. Discussion that Gail Underwood's comments at the January meeting were made as part of the public comment period but then carried over to the PDATS Committee Meeting for further discussion.

Movement to table discussion until after PDATS Committee Meeting. Final motion will be presented on Wednesday morning.

Welcome and Introduction to all members and guests. Katie Williams introduced herself as the new FICCIT Liaison and handed out Parent Information Packets to Family Resource Specialists and others who had requested them.

*Emily Taylor-Snell got stuck in traffic on her way to the meeting. Agenda re-arranged and agency reports given in the place of Ms. Taylor-Snell's presentation. The presentation rescheduled for 9:00 AM Wednesday morning.*

## **Agency Updates:**

### Department of Children and Families:

#### *Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening*

- Debby Russo– please see attached written report

#### *Office of Child Welfare/Prevention*

- Johana Hatcher- please see attached written report
- Handed out the *Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-Being: A Network for Action 2013 Resource Guide*.

#### *Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health:*

- Jennifer Evans
- Project LAUNCH Update:  
State Young Child Wellness Council 4/19 at Winewood 9:30-4:00  
Grant Director Hired-Kathleen Roberts  
Environmental Scan final edits this week  
Children’s Health and Wellness Awareness Day is May 9th

### Department of Education:

#### *Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS):*

- Monica Verra-Tirado and Carol West - please see attached written report.

#### *Homeless Education:*

- Lorraine Allen – please see attached written report

### Office of Insurance Regulation:

- Cynthia Fuller reported that the Florida Legislature was working on two key bills related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or (as is referred to in the legislature) the PPACA bills.
  - SB 1842/HB 7155 are bills to clarify the role of the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR, the Office) and the Consumer Services Division of the Department of Financial Services (CSS-DFS) with respect to insurance policy regulation. The key features of the bill permit the Office and CSS-DFS to review policy forms and consumer complaints and if corrections cannot be negotiated with a carrier, HHS will be notified of violations for HHS to take action. The other key regulatory feature will be a two-year suspension of OIR’s obligation to review and approve rate filings. Rate change filings will be required, but HHS will determine the reasonableness of those rates. At the time of this report, the Legislature was still considering the final changes to this legislation.
  - SB 1816/HB 7169 are the two key bills related to Medicaid expansion. House and Senate remain sharply divided over the core decision – whether to accept or not accept Medicaid expansion funds.
- Again, the Office would note that HHS continues to issue new and proposed rules that affect benefits of a policy that will reflect the requirements of new policies made by the ACA. The Office continues to monitor HHS guidance on what will govern the scope of a “habilitative” benefit that most affects our children with chronic medical conditions and special needs. HHS is expected to clarify the scope of these benefits in the near future.

### Agency for Healthcare Administration:

- Gail Underwood - please see attached written report

Office of Early Learning:

- Matt More – no report available

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council:

- April Katine – please see attached written report

Head Start/Early Head Start:

- No representative present – please see attached written report

**Public Comment:**

Ellie Schrot wanted to publically thank Margaret Hooper and DDC Council for all their hard work. Pat Grosz announced that National Help Me Grow meeting next year will be held in Tampa.

Member Updates

- No updates

**Break**

**Committee Meetings:**

The Provider Development and Training Supports (PDATS), Marketing, Partnership Development, and Executive Committees met for the remainder of the day.

**Early Steps Fund Development Strategy:**

Focus group facilitated by Cindy Kane and Grace Armstrong with the Nonprofit Leadership Center of Tampa Bay.

**April 17, 2013**

**FICCIT Meeting Continued**

**Florida Outreach Project Presentation**

Emily Taylor-Snell - presentation available on FICCIT website

**Early Steps State Office Update:**

Penny Geiger, Bureau Chief – presentation available on FICCIT website

**Public Comment:**

Ellie Schrot encouraged FICCIT members to take an active role in contacting legislators to advocate for increased Early Steps funding. Ellie distributed two Legislative Alerts, available on FICCIT website.

**Northeastern Early Steps Presentation**

April Smith handed out presentation slides (presentation available on FICCIT website) but instead of presenting, she invited two parents to speak to the group.

Misty is the parent of a 5 year old son with vision loss who is currently enrolled at FSDB. Misty works as a Parent Liaison at FSDB and part-time as a Service Coordinator for the North Eastern Early Steps Program. She spoke about how the FSDB Parent Infant Program and the Northeastern Early Steps support each other through seamless referrals and similar eligibility requirements and operate together for meetings and assessments.

Another mother of a daughter 2 year old daughter with speech and eye contact issues spoke about how Early Steps has helped her daughter. She explained that her family was very impressed with the services they have received and how responsive and flexible Early Steps has been to her family's needs. She thanked Early Steps for their exceptional work and reported that her daughter is improving now and she will be transitioning soon.

### **Committee Reports:**

All Committee Reports are attached below.

#### Highlights from Reports:

- PDATS:
  - o January Committee Notes were successfully amended.
  - o Lourdes will send Optimizing Funding report by John Lee to all FICCIT members to gather questions.
- Partnership Development: Matt Moore made motion for Jennifer Evans to have dual authority for the FICCIT Facebook page. Motioned approved.
- Marketing:
  - o Johana Hatcher made motion that the Council consider raising the child care stipend for FICCIT parent members from \$6 per hour to \$10 per hour. Motion approved. Cynthia Fuller explained that it depends on the FICCIT budget and asked that Early Steps State Office (ESSO) consider the raise and Council will wait to hear back about approval.
    - Another issue was raised about the FICCIT parent member reimbursement for work time at \$6.25 an hour.
    - Motion amended to ask ESSO to respond to child care reimbursement and parent time stipend rates. ESSO will advise FICCIT if an increase will be feasible. IF so, the FICCIT Palm Cards will be re-printed with new rates on them. Sue Cannon will work with Penny Geiger on resolving these issues.
  - o Johana Hatcher made motion to change Facebook name from "Save Early Steps" to "Early Steps Saves." Motion passed
- Executive Committee: Request for FICCIT parent members to be nominated for the 2013 National ITCA Parent Leadership Awards. Deadline to submit nominations to Katie Williams is May 7<sup>th</sup> for review by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Sue Cannon will send to FRS's for regional nominations.

**Meeting adjourned.**

### **UPCOMING FICCIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS 2013**

July 9-10	Tallahassee
October 15-16	Ft. Lauderdale

# Agency Updates

## Florida Department of Children and Families

### *Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening*

#### **RULES**

Food Hygiene Rule: At long last the Department will be filing Notice of Change with an anticipated adoption date in mid- to- late summer. This rule codifies practices and procedures that have been in place since 2010 when the Department assumed these duties from the Department of Health.

Background Screening Rule: workshops have been scheduled for this small rule that mirrors the requirements in statute for summer camps to complete level 2 background screening prior to caring for children and also puts into place a process for registering a camp to begin identifying them. The Department estimates there may be over 30,000 summer camps that operate each year.

Gold Seal Rule: The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee met and mandated all agencies report as to the status of overdue rules. The Department's Gold Seal rule that was started along with food hygiene has been on hiatus but must be completed by the fall. The Department will begin working on the rule development process for changes to gold seal language in current administrative codes in the next months. The rule development is in response to passage of Chapter 2010-210, Laws of Florida and will include standards for accrediting organizations to meet if they wish to be recognized in Florida as a Gold Seal Quality Care Association. The standards are voluntary for child care providers, with the incentive being ad valorem tax exemptions, and higher reimbursement rates.

#### **LEGISLATION**

BGS Clearinghouse: Last legislative session, HB 943 was passed, which called for the creation of the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse. This clearinghouse will allow for the sharing of criminal history information among certain agencies. The Clearinghouse will eliminate the need for individuals to obtain multiple screenings for these agencies; will provide increased protection of vulnerable populations by requiring a photograph be taken of the person being screened for verification; and will allow for the retention of fingerprints by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The retention of fingerprints allows providers immediate access to the information if an employee is arrested in the State of Florida.

Current Bills of Interest – Early Learning Bill, Minimum Standards for Written daily activities (Detert/Zimmerman), Regulation of Summer Camps (Clemens/Pafford), Nutritional Practices (Gibson/Jones), and several screening bills.

#### **INFORMATION SYSTEM**

Summer Camp Portal: We have created a voluntary web portal to serve two purposes, 1) identify summer camp programs to help ensure they have met background screening requirements; and 2) offer a listing by county for families seeking summer care. It is voluntary and will not be in full swing until next summer but will also meet the needs of some proposed legislation if it passes.

Training Application: The Child Care Training Application/portal was released in November 2012 to create a single access point for all training functions (transcript, courses, exams, receipts, & certificates) and more importantly to enhance state security requirements by using email address/password instead of SSN/last name. This also reinforced that the student was/is the "owner" of their record. One of the nice features is that the student receives an automated email notification when training record is updated.

Unfortunately after 2 months of intermittent glitches we choose to shut down the training application for two weeks (2/8 – 2/14) as payments were not being processed and or were creating duplicates; there was trouble enrolling or un-enrolling for instructor-led and online courses and temporary passwords were not being received creating log-in issues. The system is back on-line; most of the issues have been resolved or will be shortly but students are able to perform most of their necessary functions.

It is important to remember that the system has been in place since 2004 and this is the first major issue we have faced. We appreciate everyone's patience and if there are ever any questions, please contact our office for assistance. All training noncompliance issues potentially created by the system being off line are being handled on a case by case basis and will not be cause for administrative action during this timeframe.

Licensing Application: The Office of Child Care Regulation is in the process of creating a new web based licensing application to be used statewide. Our goal is to both meet and exceed the functionality used in the existing licensing application. At present we are trying to cover most of our bases, however, we all know about "best laid plans", so please be patient, communicate, ask questions and stay tuned. Initial launch of the new system is April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### Facebook:

- From January until March we have 209 new likes
- January was the most successful month for our Facebook page yet, with 144 Likes; Our page was viewed on average approx. 34 times a day
- 31.9% of our Fans are Female between the ages of 25-34
- The majority of our Fans are from Miami
- Majority of our Fans come organically, meaning that they seek our page out (for information, news updates etc.) rather than being directed there (through other pages or Facebook recommendations.)

### Twitter:

- Conducted a Live Tweet Session during Alina Soto's segment on WCTV Tallahassee on January 30th at 6:35 a.m. Alina is the program's Statewide Quality Liaison and presented on our PREVENT Obesity initiative.

### Pinterest:

- Partnered with the Department of Children and Families to create the promotion; "LittleHandsBigPlans"
- Initiative to showcase DCF's childcare providers creative craft/art ideas We'll repin some of their ideas to the "Ideas for Child Care Providers" DCF Pinterest board for everyone to see.

## **CHILD CARE TRAINING INFORMATION CENTER (CCTIC)**

CCTIC - The CCTIC was transitioned from being physically located at the Florida Abuse Hotline into the Program Office, which brings call center staff into close proximity with Program Office staff. This proximity allows for greater supervision, and immediate access to a variety of support services that include child care policy and training system staff.

The CCTIC continues to be the hub of providing standard child care training information in the state and in addition, staff analyze and process Staff and Director Credentials.

### ***Office of Child Welfare/Prevention***

- Key Department staff met with Shan Goff, the new Director of the Office of Early Learning to discuss opportunities for collaboration for improving the quality of the state's child care facilities. A key priority will be increasing awareness among Early Learning Coalition and child care providers of services available to at risk children that can help reduce risk factors

in a child's home environment and prevent maltreatment and improve educational outcomes.

- One of our community-based care lead agencies, Children's Network of Southwest Florida sponsored a luncheon for foster families attending Advocacy Day April 11 at the Capitol. DCF partnered with the Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association to coordinate the event and connect with legislative members/staff to raise awareness about the needs of children and the families that serve them. Florida First Lady Ann Scott attended.
- Prevention staff mailed courtesy copies of the Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well Being: Network for Action 2013 Resource Guide to the field this week. The Resource Guide is produced each year to support service providers in their work with parents, caregivers, and their children to prevent child maltreatment. Although it is released in preparation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the guide can be used throughout the year as a resource to promote strengthening of the six protective factors and the social and emotional well-being in children, families, and communities.
  - The guide includes tip sheets in English and Spanish that can be distributed to parents and caregivers and address concerns including stress management, raising grandchildren, connecting with teens, and more. Three calendars, one each for prevention programs, parents, and community partners include suggestions for protective factors-related activities for the month of April.
  - Copies are available here today.
- Sequestration –The agency received word regarding child abuse prevention funding reductions at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families. Based on an initial analysis, the overall funding for fiscal year 2013 for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) will likely be reduced by 5%. Therefore, the remaining grant awards for the fiscal year will be reduced.

## Florida Department of Education

### ***Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS)***

- Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana's former Superintendent of Public Instruction, began his first day on the job as Florida's Commissioner of Education on January 14, 2013. To learn more about the new Commissioner and his teaching background, watch "Commissioner Bennett – Getting to Know You" located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snXo9ITa5GE>. You may also read the Commissioner's first blog post "Looking At and Beyond the Scoreboard" found at <http://educationfl.wordpress.com/>.
- Judy White, who was previously the Program Director for the BEESS Resource and Information Center (BRIC), has taken on the role of Secondary Transition Specialist for Students with Disabilities, effective January 18, 2013. In this role, she will provide support to districts in the areas of secondary transition, curriculum and instruction, graduation, dropout prevention, and postsecondary outcomes. Judy has worked in the career/employment field for over 20 years for various organizations, including postsecondary institutions, the Southeastern Virginia Job Training Administration, the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support, and others. Best of Luck, Judy, in your new role!  
**Florida's 2013 Teacher of the Year is National Finalist**
- For the fourth year in a row, the 2013 Florida Department of Education/Macy's Teacher of the Year is a contender for the National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) award. Alex Lopes, a prekindergarten special education teacher from Carol City Elementary School in Miami-Dade County, was named one of four finalists for the prestigious award on January 17, 2013, by the Council of Chief State School Officers. The award began in 1952 and is the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. The national winner is chosen from among state teachers of the year by a selection committee representing 15 national education organizations. The National Teacher of the Year is selected based on the following criteria:
  - Inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn
  - Have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues
  - Play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school
  - Be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to withstand a taxing schedule.

Alex joins educators from Maryland, New Hampshire, and Washington in line for the national award. President Obama will introduce the winner at a White House ceremony during National Recognition Week, April 21–26, 2013, in Washington, D.C. For additional information, please visit National Teacher of the Year at <http://www.ccsso.org/ntoy.html>.

#### **Parental Notification of School Choice Options**

- The Department of Education continues to work toward improving the quality of educational options for Florida students. Public school districts share in the important task of communicating to parents the school choice options that are available. Section 1002.39(5)(a)1, Florida Statutes (F.S.), states that by April 1 of each year **and** within 10 days after an individual education plan (IEP) or a 504 Accommodation Plan is issued, a school district shall notify the parent of the student with disabilities of all available options related to the McKay Scholarship Program. This includes informing the parent of the availability of the department's toll-free information hotline and Internet website, and offering the student's parent an opportunity to enroll the student in another public school within the district. For additional information regarding this requirement, please contact Rachel Somers in the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice by email at [rachel.somers@fldoe.org](mailto:rachel.somers@fldoe.org). In addition, a McKay Scholarship Program brochure is available in English and Spanish on the resources page of the School Choice website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/resources.asp>. Districts can print copies of the brochures directly from the website or request a compact disc with the brochures and



printing specifications by contacting the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at (850) 245-0502.

### **Updated! Education Commission of the States' Online Kindergarten Database**

The Education Commission of the States launched an updated Online Kindergarten Database on February 4, 2013. The Database, at [http://www.ecs.org/html/educationIssues/Kindergarten/KDB\\_intro\\_SF.asp](http://www.ecs.org/html/educationIssues/Kindergarten/KDB_intro_SF.asp), provides state policy information as of December 2012 on the 50 states and DC. Information includes whether a Child Must Attend Kindergarten, Kindergarten Entrance Age, Compulsory School Age, Kindergarten Readiness Assessments, Curriculum, Minimum Required Days/Hours for Kindergarten, Kindergarten Standards – General Information, and Teacher/Student Ratios.

### **2013 One Goal Summer Conference: Building the Future Together, “Putting Families and Children First”**

- The 2013 One Goal Summer Conference will be celebrating 27 years of bringing together early childhood educators, child care providers, and leaders from around the state who provide services to young children and their families for the purpose of sharing innovative programs, practices, and techniques for improving services and outcomes for all children. The conference will be held at the Hotel Tampa (Hilton), formerly the Hyatt Regency, in Tampa, Florida, on July 17–19, 2013. For additional information, including hotel reservations and registration, please visit the website at <http://www.onegoalsummerconference.org>. For questions regarding the conference, please contact the Conference Coordinator, Frankie Allen, at [frankieallen\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:frankieallen_2000@yahoo.com) or (850) 893-6270 or Carole West at [Carole.West@fldoe.org](mailto:Carole.West@fldoe.org) or (850) 245-0478.

### ***Florida Homeless Education Program***

#### **FDOE/Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (BFEP) Update**

- Ms. Sonya Morris is the interim Chief for the Bureau of Federal Educational Programs. Ms. Morris has been with the Department of Education for numerous years, serving in many capacities. Prior to this move, Ms. Morris worked with Chancellor Pam Stewart, in the Office of the Chancellor of Public Schools.

#### **Technical Assistance Paper – Coordination of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

- The Florida Department of Education has issued the following technical assistance paper regarding the Coordination of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Staff from the Florida Homeless Education Program and BEES worked together to develop the paper. It may be viewed at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6622/dps-2012-07.pdf>.

#### **Monitoring of Local Educational Agencies'/School Districts' Homeless Education Programs**

- The Florida Homeless Education Program staff has completed its onsite and desktop monitoring of 12 local educational agencies/school districts. Most of the programs monitored are in compliance for every compliance item.

#### **2013 Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT) Mid-year Transportation Directors Meeting**

- The Florida Homeless Education Program staff presented at the the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT) Mid-year Transportation Directors meeting on February 7, 2013, in Tallahassee. The presentation covered the McKinney-Vento Act requirements that pertain to the transportation of homeless students to and from the school of origin.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lake Yale School Transportation Leadership Training Meeting**

- The Florida Homeless Education Program staff presented at the the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lake Yale School Transportation Leadership Training Meeting on March 27, 2013, in Leesburg, Florida. The main participants for the meeting were school bus operators, attendants, trainers, entry/mid level supervisors and a few directors. These individuals are on the front line and are the personnel that carry out the assignments given to them to transport this population of students.

### **Florida Council on Homelessness – Children’s Committee Conference Call on March 21, 2013**

- The Children’s Committee, Florida Council on Homelessness, held its first conference call of the year on March 21, 2013. Topics discussed included updates on federal and state legislative bills, Wells Fargo Mini-Grants for Homeless Unaccompanied Youth, and the Homeless Education State Advisory Council. FICCIT members are welcome to submit conference call topics that pertain to homeless children and early learning issues.

### **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) LeTendre Scholarship – Deadline June 15, 2013**

- NAEHCY provides scholarship assistance to students who are homeless or have experienced homelessness through the LeTendre Education Fund for Homeless Children. The Fund was established in 1998 in memory of André E. LeTendre, husband of Mary Jean LeTendre, former Director of Compensatory Education for the U.S. Department of Education. For more information on the scholarship, click on the link below. <http://www.naehcy.org/letendre-scholarship-fund/scholarship-application>

### **2013 Spring Technical Assistance Forum, “Linking Federal Programs for Student Success”**

- The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs, is partnering with the Florida Association of State and Federal Education Program Administrators (FASFEPA) and the East Coast Technical Assistance Center (ECTAC) to offer the 2013 Spring Technical Assistance Forum, “Linking Federal Programs for Student Success.” The Forum, scheduled for May 6 - 9, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay; 2900 Bayport Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, will begin with a General session and luncheon at noon on Monday, May 6, 2013 and conclude by 1:30 pm on Thursday, May 9, 2013. There will be several Federal Educational Program tracks, including Title X-Part C (homeless education), Title I-Part A (Basics), Title I-Part C (Migrant Education), Title I-Part D (Neglected and Delinquent), and Title VI (Rural Education).

### **2013 Fall Southeast Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing (Save the Date)**

- The Florida Department of Education, Homeless Education Program, is partnering with the Florida Coalition for the Homeless and the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition to offer a Homeless Education track at their 2013 Fall Southeast Institute on Homelessness and Supportive Housing. The Institute is tentatively scheduled for September 30-October 2, 2013, in the St. Petersburg area; more information to come.

### **Useful Resources**

- The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) has wonderful Preschool/Early Childhood resources on its website. To access these resources, click on the link below. [http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc\\_preschool.php](http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/sc_preschool.php)

The Florida Homeless Education Program has many useful resources on its webpage. To access the webpage, click on the link below.

<http://www.fl DOE.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp>

## Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA)

- There are over 3.3 million Florida Medicaid recipients.
- As of April 10, 2013 there have been 2,279 Applied Behavioral Requests made to AHCA for recipients with a diagnosis of autism.
- One hundred and fifty Medicaid recipients under age 3, who have requested ABA with a diagnosis of autism, have been identified and the information forwarded to Early Steps State Office for follow-up.
- Florida Medicaid continues to move forward with Statewide Managed Care.
- AHCA received the bids for the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Managed Medical Assistance program last week. There are 21 different companies bidding for one or more of the established Medicaid regions. Preliminary review of the bids indicates that we have satisfied the minimum number of plans required for each region, although the Agency is currently reviewing all bids to ensure that they are indeed responsive. There are also at least two specialty plans and one provider service network bidding in each region, again subject to review for responsiveness.
- In March of 2013, Office of Inspector General Medicaid Program Integrity (MPI) field offices from Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa, and Tallahassee, in concert with the Division of Health Quality Assurance, and the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services - Medicaid Integrity Group, visited 29 active Assistive Care Service providers in Hillsborough County. The project was launched to determine whether Assistive Care Service providers were rendering, billing, and documenting services in accordance with Medicaid Policy. As a result of this compliance review, multiple deficiencies were detected.

<u>Background Screening Deficiencies</u>	<u>TB Clearance Deficiencies</u>	<u>Communicable Disease Statement Deficiencies</u>	<u>Service Plan Deficiencies</u>	<u>Service Log Deficiencies</u>	<u>Health Assessment Deficiencies (Forms 1823/ 1023)</u>	<u>Certification of Medical Necessity Deficiencies</u>
13	34	22	107	52	20	113

- On March 21, 2013, Leon County Judge Charles Francis ordered Universal Health Care, Inc., and Universal Health Care Insurance Company into receivership. Universal Health Care had approximately 100,000 total members with approximately 60,000 being Medicaid members. Medicaid members were sent letters explaining the situation and their options.
- AHCA Secretary Liz Dudek has stated that “The agency is reassigning the approximately 57,000 Medicaid recipients who are enrolled in Universal to other health plans. The Agency has made every effort to ensure that recipients will be assigned to a plan that will allow them to have the same primary care physician.”
- I have included the following in the packet:
  - Health Care Alert: Direct Secure Messaging Registration for All Provider Types
  - TCPalm: Universal Health Care members re-enrolled in other programs after company bankruptcy
  - Gainesville Sun: Nearly 15,000 Shands patients could be identity theft targets
  - St. Augustine News: Feds: Florida owes millions in Medicaid overpayments
  - AHCA: Live Cycle of a Rule
  - AHCA: Summary of Services information
  - AHCA: Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program
  - AHCA: Florida Medicaid Provider Bulletin, Volume XIII, Issue 2, Spring 2013

## **Florida Developmental Disabilities Update**

### **Child Development Screening/Florida Help Me Grow Statewide Initiative**

The Task Force has officially taken the name Florida Help me Grow Statewide Initiative which has combined the Child Development Screening Initiative, Help Me Grow Florida, and the Learn the Signs/Act Early Team. This is a great accomplishment as it aligns the efforts, members, and resources of three groups all working toward a common goal. The Task Force currently stands at 45 members. A full Task Force webinar was held February 27, 2013 and the next face to face meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2013 in Tallahassee. Through workgroup deliberations, Advisory Committee meetings and meetings of the full Task Force the following recommendations were developed for the Task Force and project.

### **System of Care Workgroup Recommendations:**

The System of Care workgroup has completed the following tasks:

- System of Care Flow Chart Model
- Description of the Flow Chart Model
- Letter to Community Partners and Stakeholders
- Distribution List (still completing)

The workgroups recommendation going forward is to email the letter, model and description of model to community partners and stakeholders. A distribution is being finalized, in which members of the task force are taking responsibility to email the documents to different groups. The letter requests these individuals/groups to join the efforts of the task force and create local support for the goals of our project. To accomplish this objective the workgroup recommends using a dedicated webpage to provide for easy enrollment as an interested party. Create a database of interested stakeholders and provide information to this group periodically. This database of emails/contact information will help Florida develop a single system of care for developmental issues. Initially, Snow Strategies webpage for the project will be the landing page for new interested parties to learn more about the project and sign-up. Eventually, the Florida chapter of the National Help Me Grow website will serve as the landing webpage.

### **Electronic Data System Workgroup Recommendations**

The Electronic Data System workgroup has completed the following task

- Development of Data System Models for a Child Screening Database

The model includes components and standards identified for an ideal system, a practical system, and a minimum acceptable system. The purpose of the database is to track developmental screenings and referrals, empower and inform families, reduce duplication, and share information among service providers.

Based on the reviewed information and the deliberations of the Electronic Data System Workgroup and the Task Force, the following recommendations are made relative to continued planning for an integrated, comprehensive child developmental screening information system: The recommendation of the workgroup is to implement a statewide system through a pilot or phase-in process. The model is to be made available to provide guidance as opportunities present themselves to fund and build a system. It is also recommended that the task force monitor the progress of National Electronic Data System efforts to identify synergy with our model.

### **Early Childhood Supports Workgroup Recommendations**

The Electronic Data System workgroup has completed the following tasks:

Development of Resource List for Parents and Caregivers

- Development of an Outreach Plan to inform, encourage, and motivate families to ensure that their children receive developmental screenings.

The workgroup has delivered their Resource List to the Statewide 2-1-1 Network for their use in assisting individuals seeking guidance for screening and follow-up services for their children.

The workgroup recommends the following:

Our comprehensive system utilize the 2-1-1 Network as a contact point for parents to access information.

- Develop a process for vetting and updating the resource list and a website be developed to provide further access to these resources.
- Develop a program to train the staff at 2-1-1 networks on issues of child development screening and services.

The workgroup recommends the following regarding the Outreach Plan:

- Target families that are most likely to not have their child receive developmental screening.
- Utilize a short, simple, and succinct message to get the attention of parents and direct them to the 2-1-1 call center to obtain more information.
- The Early Childhood Supports Workgroup also recommends the following position statement be adopted by the Task Force and communicated to all stakeholders:

Decades of research has demonstrated that therapeutic services for developmental delays are most effective and least costly when identified and addressed in early childhood. Many children identified with – or at high risk of – developmental delay may not require expensive special education and other costly services if provided intervention services early. This is especially true of children with less severe delays who currently do not meet the requirements to receive state services.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Child Development Screening Task Force recommends the State of Florida consider the level of resources allocated for early intervention services to children aged birth to five demonstrating or at high risk of developmental delay, regardless of the severity of delay.

## **Early Head Start and Head Start**

Currently, Florida has 31 Early Head Start (EHS) grantees that are funded to serve 4,953 children from birth to age 3, and 2 Migrant and Seasonal Head Start grantees that served 1,855 children from 6 weeks to age 2 in 2011-2012, according to the 2011-2012 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR). With expansion, Florida's EHS grew by 2,385 slots and nearly doubled! (See the accompanying document for new and expansion EHS grantees.)

Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) is both a regionally funded EHS grantee and a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start grantee. They also receive School Readiness (CCDF) Migrant funds and they serve children throughout the state. This can be confusing to some because the three are blended and may overlap in counties that have an EHS grantee too. East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) is another Migrant and Seasonal Head Start grantee. Their headquarters is North Carolina, but because Florida is an agricultural state, ECMHSP has a large presence here. ECMHSP has an Eastern branch in Stuart and a Western branch in Lakeland.

EHS grantees also served 333 pregnant women in 2011-2012. Some of the EHS grantees are single-county and some are multi-county. They represent a variety of types of grantees to include: 3 County Grantees; 5 Community Action Grantees; 6 School Districts; 1 University; and 14 Private entities. Two grantees, Brevard and Pinellas, are currently being operated by a national contractor brought in when the original grantee has been removed.

Like Head Start grantees, EHS grantees must serve a minimum of 10% of their enrollment, children with disabilities. With the revised Head Start Act of 2007, changes in the way Head Start and EHS grantees measured their 10% changed. In order for grantees to meet the 10%, the children's IFSPs or IEPs must be developed by the corresponding Part C or Part B entity. Prior to that time, grantees could develop their own IFSPs and IEPs. They can still do that, but those plans no longer count toward their 10%.

This requirement has changed the way some grantees do business, as they are being forced to collaborate with the state system providers. This is a beneficial change because Head Start/EHS/MSHS grantees should utilize systems that are already in place and ensure participating children and their families become part of the broader state system of services. This is also beneficial to our state partners so they can plan, provide services and collect data which drives services and the system.

The Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) monitors the degree to which Head Start/EHS/MSHS meet the requirement. Up until two years ago, EHS grantees were successfully meeting this 10% requirement and Head Start was not; so the HSSCO focused on working with Head Start grantees to assist them with their collaborations. The work paid off because for the past two years Head Start grantees have met the 10%. The HSSCO has been analyzing the data and meeting with EHS grantees to analyze reasons for the shift. Possible reasons are as follows:

- The number of children being served by EHS doubled and the system could not adjust quickly enough to meet the 10% requirement
- Communication between EHS and Early Steps regarding the additional children was insufficient
- Changes in eligibility criteria to qualify for Early Steps services
- Reductions in the birth rate, although EHS only serves 3% of eligible children, so there should be plenty of children around that could qualify
- Changes in EHS staff and Early Steps staff, which may affect the referral process
- Absence of knowledge and understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities

Any number of these could be the reason. Perhaps you might have other theories?

In any event, the HSSCO is trying to assist EHS grantees in meeting the requirement, as was done with Head Start. The HSSCO is facilitating a panel presentation at the Florida Head Start Association annual Conference, in April, for EHS grantees that are struggling. Phone calls between EHS grantees and their respective Early Steps partners will be conducted to try to strategize ways to increase referrals from Early Steps to EHS/MSHS. EHS/MSHS grantees that have strong relationships with their Early Steps partners tend to be more successful in meeting the requirement. These relationships also account for more children being referred prior to the start of the new programs year. This is a strategy the HSSCO calls “front loading”. Head Start/EHS/MSHS Grantees that “front load” and begin the program year with at least 5% children with disabilities, tend to more consistently meet the 10% requirement.

Included with this report is a directory of EHS grantees and a chart which shows the numbers of children served, by grantee. Marilyn Hibbard, formerly the Part B Coordinator at FLDOE, is assisting the HSSCO with this process. Hope you will be receptive to our call!

## Committee Reports

### -Executive Committee-

Members Present: Pat Grosz, Cynthia Fuller, Penny Geiger, Lourdes Quintana, and Johana Hatcher

#### Minutes:

The committee heard the summaries from the Marketing and PDATS committees. Ilene Wilkins had to leave last night so there was no report from the Partnership Development committee. Matt Moore, FICCIT member, with the assistance of two Partnership committee members, Ellie Schrot and Lou Ann Long, will provide the committee report during regular business.

July meeting location and time were confirmed for July 9, 2013 in Tallahassee. The Executive Committee determined that the FICCIT committees need the time to work so will not plan an outing or a special speaker for the next FICCIT meeting. The October meeting is tentatively planned for Ft. Lauderdale.

There was discussion to recommend Debbie Russo as FICCIT official representative to OEL for the purpose of the Child Care Development Grant.

There was a discussion of how to approach members who are not actively attending prior to sending letters to the members.

The Executive Committee members reviewed the application for nominating parent advocates for the national and regional IDEA – ITCA awards. The committee will recommend to FICCIT that our FICCIT parent members be asked to submit an application to Katie. Once received, the members will electronically vote for one to represent us as the nominee for the national award. The committee will recommend that the FRSs will complete the applications or submit nominations for active parent advocates from their regions for the regional awards and return their applications to Katie so the FICCIT members can vote electronically on who to submit for regional nominees.

Johana updated on the CAPTA Citizen Review Committee. The FICCIT Annual Report is our official report with select minutes and actions.

Cynthia is still researching the issue with BCBS Care Centrix.

The status of other action steps was reviewed. Cynthia Fuller will present the report and recommended actions to the full council this morning.

### -Marketing Committee-

**Members:** Johana Hatcher, Sue Cannon, Sharon Paul Jeannie Carr, Angela Finch, Jennifer Evans, Cindy Kane, Grace Armstrong

**Phone:** Lorraine Allen, Jeanne Boggs, Sharon Paul

#### **1. Recruitment Information Packet**

##### **a. Thanks to all – Palm Cards**

Johana thanked all especially Jeanne Boggs and others who edited the Palm Cards. She also thanked Sharon Paul for her work on getting the cards out. She felt that the product turned out great. Johana mentioned that since the FICCIT schedule is on the Palm Cards that we need to make sure that it is an agenda item each year. One member asked if there could be a label space for the meeting dates, so that printing the schedule is not an issue. Johana asked if we should budget for printing costs.



We should update the Palm Cards once the new schedule is released. If we can pull together the changes in less than a week, that would be good.

**b. Posted on Facebook and website?**

Johana asked if the Palm Card had been posted on Facebook or the FICCIT website. Jeanne Boggs mentioned that she will do so after the legislative session. The Facebook page was created by Jeanne Boggs. She did an incredible job. Jeanne can update the page as needed. <https://www.facebook.com/SaveEarlySteps>

**2. Annual Report Update**

**a. Thank you letters to parents**

The Committee discussed the thank you letters which will be sent out with copies of the Annual Report. Johana recommended that the letters going to the family members be signed by hand, not electronically. The Committee members agreed. Lorraine recommended that additional copies be sent to the parents for their personal distribution. Johana will see if there will be enough to do so and is favorable of the idea.

**b. Distribution lists**

The Committee discussed the distribution lists. Jeanne Boggs agreed to ensure that the reports are distributed to legislators. Sue suggested 100 copies for Family Café. The letter to the Governor and stakeholders will also be sent. Johanna asked other members to determine to whom they will send the Report. Members are reminded to provide the Committee with a list of those to whom they distributed the Report.

**c. Request to present at next Children and Youth Cabinet**

Johana mentioned that we had recommended that the Annual Report be presented at the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet meeting. Johana is willing to arrange inclusion on the agenda and to work with Pat Grosz to discuss the presentation.

**d. Discussion for next year's report**

Johann discussed moving up the release date for the Annual Report. All agreed that the Report should be ready for the fall FICCIT meeting. Jeanne recommended updating the family stories and other pieces of the report and leave a placeholder for the needed data. Once data are released, they can be plugged into the report. There was discussion about getting the family stories at the Family Café. They felt these stories were not as good as those that were composed later. Johana said that we need to think through how to get the family stories and camera-ready photographs for the Annual Report. Sue Cannon said that they plan to have gifts to those families who submit stories for the Annual Report. Sharon Paul agreed to manage the FICCIT booth at the Family Café.

**3. Best Practices- Lorraine and Sue**

The Committee ran out of time to discuss the Best Practices document and decided to set up a conference call to discuss it further. This Action Item was to compile the submitted strategies into one draft document to be discussed by Committee members at the April meeting. Lorraine compiled the documents sent by Sue Cannon and sent a draft document to Committee members.

For the upcoming call, she asked that Committee members review the document and consider the following:

- 1) Cover Page (format/graphics),
- 2) Table of Contents (needs formatting/pages),
- 3) Organization of the Strategies (either by type--playgroups, events, education/training or area—Bay Area, etc. or by strategy—which will be difficult since multiple strategies were shown by each type),
- 4) Missing information and who should follow up with sender, and
- 5) Consistency in formatting, etc.

**4. Action Plan Update/Revisions Discussion**

The FICCIT website needs to be updated. The Committee ran out of time for further discussion of this item.

## **5. Discussion on Advancing Marketing Strategies**

### **a. Eliana Tardio**

It was discussed as to whether the Marketing Committee can contact Eliana Tardio to be a spokesperson for FICCIT? Will this be a conflict with another FICCIT Committee? Sue Cannon said that she will be at a meeting where Ms. Tardio will be and she will speak to her directly.

### **b. Parent friendly stipend increase**

Jeanne recommended that FICCIT have a discussion to raise the parent friendly stipend. Committee members received feedback regarding this during the Palm Cards distribution. Sharon Paul said that it is too low--\$6.00 per hour to cover childcare. Lorraine recommended that it be discussed with the Executive Committee members to determine how to proceed with this recommendation.

## **-Partnership Development Committee-**

No report available.

## **-Provider Development Training and Support Committee-**

### **Attendees**

Members: Annalise Campisi, Monica Verra-Tirado, Carole West, Susan Donovan, Paula Kendig, Gail Underwood, April Katine, Penny Geiger, Liza Smith, Kim Carr, Lourdes Quintana

Guests: John Lee, April Smith, Doris Tellado, Harry Fogle, Therisa Hutchins, Althea Puzio, Brenda Ham

## **Welcome & Introductions**

## **Review and Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2013**

**Motion:** approved, with noted revisions

## **Early Steps State Office Training Unit Update (see handout)**

### **Service Coordinator Apprenticeship Training**

ESSO and local programs now have access to the Service Coordinator Apprenticeship Training tracking system, which provides for monitoring learning progression and training completion throughout the training. There are 3 levels of access- state, local designee (such as the Training Coordinator), and user.

### **Statewide Meeting- Partnering For Success**

The annual meeting will be November 13-15<sup>th</sup>, partnering with Florida's Head Start State Collaboration office (HS/ EHS), Office of Early Learning, DOE Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, and DOH Bureau of Child Protection and Special Technology. A preconference training will be available on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The planning committee is estimating up to 600 participants.

### **Autism Navigator**

Statewide roll-out continues, with approximately 200 participants. Unit 3 is available; Units 4 and 5 will be available in the next few months. ESSO is working with local programs identifying designated participants that haven't yet signed into the system. Liza Smith asks that the local programs provide her with feedback on the training and how it is implemented (individual or group session completion). Discussion occurred regarding access by the local Family Resource Specialist (FRS); it was stated that the FRS should work with the local program, based on how many participant slots were assigned.

### **Tools for Early Steps Teams Training**

Sharon Hennessy, North Central Early Steps, has developed a 7 hour training framework for the tool kit, as supplemental training. This will be discussed on the next Training Coordinator conference call (May 21, 2013).

### **A New Star Training: A Family's Guide to Navigating Early Steps**

ESSO is revising the training, with plans to convert it to an online format (anticipated August/ September 2013). Liza Smith may request PDATS to review and provide feedback prior to posting online.

### **ESSO Website Renovation**

ESSO has a 10 hour IT OPS position to assist with the website renovation. The plan is for the site to include links to the SCAT, Autism Navigator, and TEST Training; ITDS (updated) modules; Orientation modules; and statewide meeting materials. Additional activities include reviewing other states' early intervention training websites, reviewing and organizing current ESSO trainings, and develop an index for training topics.

### **FSU Autism Institute**

The FSU Autism Institute website provides resource information for families and providers, including linkage to the Autism Navigator series. The link will be placed in the ESSO Weekly Memo.

### **Report on Maximizing Funding**

The Service Implementation Workgroup (SIWG) surveyed local programs regarding the disciplines and billing codes used to bill insurance. John Lee provided much assistance in compiling and grouping the information for analysis. The information gathered will be used to provide guidance to the local programs, and to develop a billing manual listing codes that are successfully reimbursed. Continued issues include the cost effectiveness for non-licensed providers (ie, ITDS) to bill insurance when the reimbursement rate- if at all- is so low; and providing consistent best practice information statewide.

Lourdes Quintana will forward the survey results to the committee to generate questions; the questions are to be sent to Lourdes' attention within a week, who will forward them back to John to compile within a week. Lourdes will then draft a cover letter and send the letter, questions, and survey results to the Office of Insurance Regulation requesting guidance on the claims reimbursement review. The OIR will coordinate with AHCA on coding.

### **Review of Sustainability Report**

Discussions and recommendations related to internships and mentorships, including local practices, were placed on hold due to the CMSKIDS roll-out. This information will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Discussion on Implementation Science- Minnesota**

Initial discussion was to determine if there was any interest from PDATS to participate in the discussion series. Consensus was that it appears DOE, ESSO and TATS may already be addressing the same issues in Florida. After further review of the limited information available, it was determined that the topic be tabled due to the beginning date has passed (April 11, 2013).

### **Discussion on Membership**

Varied representation on the committee was discussed. Currently Sue Donovan is the university representative; Alice Kaye Emory hasn't participated in a few years, and Lourdes will contact her regarding ongoing participation. Paula Kendig stated that she is aware that Randy Gremillon, UWF, completed the ITDS courses, is a foster parent, and is interested in serving on FICCIT and PDATS. Family participation was also discussed; there was discussion related to family vs. agency representative- but also family member- and who is being represented. FICCIT has recently provided information packets to the local programs to distribute to potential family members. April Smith stated she is aware of a family who is also a provider and may be interested. It was agreed that the FRS is a good resource to provide outreach to families, and that the New Star training is also helpful in recruitment.

### **Wrap-up of Discussion**