



**Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers
Quarterly Meeting
January 14-15, 2015
Tallahassee, Florida**

Members Present: Lorraine Allen, Kim Carr, Elizabeth Cayson, Lilli Copp, Lourdes Quintana, Kathleen Vergara, Ilene Wilkins, Misty Porter

Member Delegates Present: Carole West for Monica Verra-Tirado, Sally Golden-McCord, Renee Jenkins and Liza Smith for the Bureau Chief of Early Steps

Members Absent: Laurie Blades, Susan Donovan, Anitere Flores, Shan Goff, Sharon Paul Arwyn Holmes

Other Attendees Present:, Sue Cannon, Lou Ann Long, Carla Richards, Sharon Hennesey, Pam Kissondyal, Gail Underwood, Doris Tellado, April Smith, Paula Kendig, Annalise Campisi, Tameka Footman, Monique Johnson, Dina Snider

Conference Call Attendees: Suzanne Mahoney, Early Steps State Office Staff (ESSO), Ellie Schrot, Althea Puzio, Lori Sang, Rob Pocarro, Kathy Riley, Trina Puddefoot, Ray Rodriguez

January 14, 2015

Call to Order and Introductions, Ilene Wilkins, Acting Chair

Motion:

Motion to approve July Meeting Notes with modifications. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Agency Reports:

Department of Education:

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) - Carole West

- See referenced report

Head Start Collaboration Office – Lilli Copp

- See referenced report

Membership Update –

Kathleen Vergara reporting efforts at The Debbie School are going well.

Kim Carr informed the Council there will be a SKI-HI Training on January 23-25, 2015 and February 27-March 1, 2015.

Presentation: ESSO Update and APR Performance Data

Sally Golden-McCord, Early Steps State Office

Motion:

Council motioned to accept the APR with Department of Health modifications. Motion Carried

Motion:

Council motioned that a letter be written to DOH defining items that were addressed during public comment regarding the budget and next steps. Motion carried

Committee Meetings:

- Personnel Development and Training Supports (PDATS) Committee
- Outreach Committee (*see referenced notes*)

January 15, 2015**FICCIT Chair Update**

Ilene discussed the chair position and informed the Council that she submitted an application to the Governor office for the chair position.

Motion:

Council motioned to accept Ilene Wilkins application as Council chair. Motion Carried.

Public Comment**Committee Reports**

FICCIT Meeting Adjourned.

Agency Reports:

Florida Department of Education (FDOE)/ Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) Program Update:

FDOE/BEES Staff Update

- Commissioner Stewart welcomed Meghan Collins to the FDOE on December 1, 2014, as our communications director. Meghan has served as press secretary for the Department of Health and Hospitals in Louisiana, communications director at the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and director of the First Lady's Operations for First Lady Ann Scott.
- Aneliese McDowell joined our Dispute Resolution and Monitoring (DRM) team on December 1, 2014, as an administrative secretary. She is responsible for supporting the DRM team particularly related to monitoring activities. Aneliese has lived in the United Kingdom and has worked as an early years assistant, teacher and classroom assistant in an elementary school. She has a diploma in early childhood education from Belfast Metropolitan College.
- Bethany Mathers accepted a position with the University of South Florida working as the PEER/MTS (Portal to Exceptional Education Resources/ Medicaid Tracking System) consultant, effective December 17, 2014. Bethany has tirelessly provided many hours of support for her program areas—other health impaired, orthopedic impairment and traumatic brain injury; contributed expertise to the development of access points and access courses; served as a bureau liaison for the course code directory and Cpalms; and did an excellent job as the Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) project liaison, working closely with them during the development of the Best Practices for Inclusive Education and their transition.
- Sean Freeman joined our program accountability, assessments and data system section of BEES on December 30, 2014, as a program specialist with responsibility to develop, disseminate and process Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant applications to school districts and other eligible applicants. Sean has worked in the field of contracts and grants for the state of Florida since 2009 and was previously a special education classroom teacher.
- Steven Barnes joined our instructional support and services section of the bureau as a program specialist on January 5, 2015. He will have a major role in the bureau's annual production of the local educational agency profiles, the data book and the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. Steven has a broad knowledge of K-12 data and is extremely familiar with the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) programs used within the department. His background and experience with FDOE data will greatly contribute to his ability to design, develop and disseminate data products that will assist school districts in providing services to students with disabilities.

Redesigned FDOE Website

The FDOE has recently launched a redesigned website with improved functionality. To access the site, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/>. For the homepage of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, go to <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu>.

Technical Assistance Paper – Third Grade Student Progression

The FDOE has issued the following technical assistance paper regarding Third-Grade Student Progression. The technical assistance paper may be viewed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7208/dps-2014-128.pdf> (memo); <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7209/dps-2014-128a.pdf> (attachment A); <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7210/dps-2014-128b.pdf> (attachment B).

Updated Links for Approved Rules

Eight rules were approved by the State Board of Education on November 18, 2014. The rules were posted on December 17, 2014.

- Rule 6A-1.0943, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), (Assessment)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109024-10943.pdf>
- Rule 6A-1.09963, F.A.C. (Graduation)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109025-109963.pdf>
- Rule 6A-6.03022, F.A.C. (Dual Sensory Impaired)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109026-660322.pdf>
- Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C. (IEP rule)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109027-603028.pdf>
- Rule 6A-6.03029, F.A.C., (IFSP rule)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109028-603029.pdf>
- Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C. (General Education Interventions, Evaluation ...)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109029-60331.pdf>
- Rule 6A-1.0995, F.A.C. (Form of high school diplomas)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109039-10995.pdf>
- Rule 6A-6.03411, F.A.C. (SP&P)
<http://fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/9931/urlt/0109040-603411.pdf>

Transition from English Braille, American Edition (EBAE) to Unified English Braille (UEB)

In November 2012, the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) voted to adopt UEB as an official code for the United States. The BANA chose January 4, 2016 (Louis Braille's birthday), as the date by which most phases of the transition to UEB will be completed. The BANA has contracted with the Council for Chief State School Officers to develop a national survey to collect information from each state about UEB transition plans, present a series of webinars about UEB and its implementation and develop a UEB Implementation Guide with guidance and suggestions for a successful transition. For more information, visit the BANA website at <http://www.brailleauthority.org/>.

Para-to-Teacher Support Program

The statewide Para-to-Teacher Support Program provides financial assistance for qualified paraprofessionals who are currently working in Florida's public schools to earn a bachelor's degree and become exceptional student education teachers. The program will provide up to \$700 per course for tuition support through annual funding from the FDOE, BEESS. A description of the program, the requirements for acceptance and forms are available at <http://www.florida-ese.org/paratoteacher/index.aspx>. For questions, email Robert Markowitz, Ph.D. at rmarkowitz@uwf.edu.

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. Each year, more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, communities and schools. On May 25, 2015, National Missing Children's Day, attention will be focused on children who have been recovered, as well as children who are still missing. The U.S. Department of Justice is sponsoring a national poster contest for all fifth-grade students with a deadline submission of February 16, 2015. Our statewide winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, will be flown to Washington, D.C. to attend a special ceremony. In addition, Florida's winner will

receive an all-expenses paid trip to Tallahassee, Florida, to participate in the Missing Children's Day on September 14, 2015. The winner will receive a prize package, including a trip to Universal Studios, and his or her poster will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice for national judging. The memorandum may be viewed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7233/dps-2014-188.pdf>.

Florida Missing Children's Day Statewide Essay Contest: Deadline – February 16, 2015

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the Florida Missing Children's Day Statewide Essay Contest. The FDOE recognizes that schools impart valuable safety lessons to students every day. To reinforce the message of personal safety, the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse is sponsoring the 2015 Florida Missing Children's Day with a ceremony to be held on Monday, September 14, 2015, at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. All fifth graders are encouraged to participate in an essay contest with a theme of "This is how I stay safe all day." Each school will be responsible for selecting one winner, and one essay will be selected as the statewide winner. The student will read the statewide winning essay at the ceremony and receive a trophy, a \$100 cash award and a Universal Studios Very Important Person package. The memorandum, which includes the essay contest guidelines, may be viewed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7234/dps-2014-187.pdf>.

Promising Pathways: The Road to Best Practice in Autism Conference—Save-the-Date

The Promising Pathways conference is provided through a collaborative community effort with no fee to attendees or presenters and will be held on April 11, 2015, in Fort Myers at Florida Gulf Coast University. The keynote speaker is Chantal Sicile-Kira, a leader in the field of adolescence and transition to adulthood in autism, an award-winning author and the parent of an adult son with autism. Chantal will present on "Living with Autism: Our Challenges, Our Strengths, Our Dreams." For additional information, please visit <http://www.fgcu.edu/events/promisingpathways/>.

Florida's Head Start Program Update:

In January of 2014, Congress appropriated \$500,000,000 to expand the number and quality of early learning opportunities for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) grants or new Early Head Start (EHS) grants. This new competitive grant opportunity will fund both the partnering of Early Head Start programs with child care providers, and non-partnership Early Head Start Expansion. Under EHS-CCP, new or existing Early Head Start grantees will partner with regulated center-based or family child care providers who agree to meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards. The resulting partnerships will allow programs to leverage their funds to provide more high quality early learning slots in their community.

Both EHS expansion and EHS-CCP grantees must follow Early Head Start Program Performance Standards. Applicants who propose a partnership with local child care providers and demonstrate strong alignment with other federally, state, or locally funded early childhood programs, such as Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), received competitive priority.

The State of Florida was very successful in the competitive process and received ten awards totaling \$32,600,000. The Administration for Children and Families is in negotiation with the following entities:

Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc. - Orange, Osceola & Seminole Counties
Early Learning Coalition Miami-Dade/Monroe Counties – Miami-Dade County
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, Inc. – Palm Beach County
East Coast Migrant Head Start Project - Multiple Counties
Eckerd Youth Alternatives Inc. – Hillsborough County
Lutheran Services of Florida – Duval County
Miami-Dade County – Miami-Dade County
Redlands Christian Migrant Association – Multiple Counties
School District of Lee County – Lee County
United Way – Miami-Dade County

These grantees will serve more than 2,000 new infants and toddlers, utilizing the Early Head Start comprehensive services model, which includes screening and assessing children for developmental delays and potentially impacting the need for Early Steps services.

Committee Notes:

Executive Committee:

No notes provided.

Personnel Development and Training Supports Committee:

No notes provided.

Outreach Committee:

Attending: Elizabeth Cayson, Lou Ann Long, Misty Porter, Ilene Wilkins, Lorraine Allen, Kathleen Vergara, Doris Tellado, Lilli Copp, Sally Golden-McCord, Tameka Footman, Suzanne Mahoney, Ellie Schrot

Laurie Blades was appointed by Chair Ilene Wilkins to be the chair of the Outreach Committee.

Membership Issues

Ilene addressed the issue of reaching and encouraging families to apply for FICCIT membership.

Recommendation:

1. Ilene will follow up to see if we can access database of subcontracted providers to invite their families
2. Doris will find out the Provider Liaison for each LES
3. Sue will have FRS's to have FICCIT on their radar and provide applications to possible families
4. Ilene will ask Carol West for Parent Liaisons info contact from DOE.
5. Kathleen will contact Senator Flores about attending or sending a delegate
6. Sue will call Arwyn Holmes about her membership in FICCIT
7. Ilene will contact Kelly to add FICCIT membership referral info to the Weekly Memo.

Misty will send the updated membership list to ESSO for inclusion on the FICCIT website and will review the other FICCIT website needs.

One Step at a Time

Recommendation:

1. Provide a link to the FICCIT website where the monthly One Step at a Time events will be posted.

Annual Report

The Committee worked on the development of the Annual Report.