



**July 9-10, 2013**

**Tallahassee, FL**

**Members Present:** Lorraine Allen, Cynthia Fuller, Johana Hatcher, Debby Russo, Gail Underwood, Kim Carr, Danielle Jennings for Matt Moore, Susan Donovan, Jennifer Evans, Penny Geiger, April Katine, Lourdes Quintana, Kathleen Vergara, Carole West for Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado

**Members Absent:** Katherine Dagenais, Shan Goff, Ilene Wilkins, Jeannie Carr, Angela Finch

**Members Absent with Notification:** Jeanne Boggs, Nathaniel Forbes, Pat Grosz, Sharon Paul

**Non-members Present:** Lou Ann Long, Annalise Campisi, Liza Smith, Paula Kendig, Brenda Ham, Sue Loftis, Kelly Rogers, Dawn Lynch, Lilli Copp, Mary Sandler, Anna Simmons, Harry Fogle, Susan Casey, Sue Cannon, Dina Snider, Chantel Gaston, Katie Williams, and Tameka Footman

**Conference Call Attendees:** Eliana Tardio

**July 9, 2013**

**FICCIT Business:** Cynthia Fuller, Acting Chair

Call to Order and Introductions

Approval of April Meeting and Committee Notes: Motion to approve April Meeting and Committee Notes. Lou Ann Long will check to see if she has the Partnership and Development Committee Notes and report back tomorrow. Motion carried pending the need to make an amendment to add the Partnership Development Committee Notes.

FICCIT Chair Discussion: Cynthia Fuller explained that Pat Grosz has officially stepped down from the position of Council Chair and that the position now needs to be filled. Cynthia expressed her opinion that the Council needs an officer core made up of representatives who either use or administer Early Steps services. Nominations will take place tomorrow morning.

Lourdes Quintana, Paula Kendig, and Debbie Russo added comments about the role of Chair and that any member of the Council is welcome to assume the position as directed by federal statute.

Membership Update: Three Council applications (from parents of children with disabilities) are pending review by the Executive Committee. Recommendations will be announced to full Council tomorrow.

Cynthia Fuller brought forth issue of accepting new Council members who were both parents of children with disabilities as well as employees of a Local Early Steps (LES). Results of nationwide research conducted through the Infants and Toddlers Coordinators Association (ITCA) was shared with Council (research included in packets).

Council discussion resulted in acceptance of Council membership applications from parents of children with disabilities who also may work at a LES. These Council members separate their role as a LES staff member from that of a parent when voting on Council issues.

Special Announcement: FICCIT member, Sharon Paul, was the recipient of the ITCA Regional Parent Leadership Award and has been invited to the ETCA National Conference in Washing, D.C. at the end of July to accept the award. Motion accepted to send a letter of congratulations to Sharon from the Council.

Status Report: Report was reviewed and updated.

**Public Comment:** No comments.

**Early Steps State Office Update – Penny Geiger, Bureau Chief**

- See attached presentation.

Motion: Cynthia Fuller makes motion for Council to authorize the Executive Committee to review FICCIT budget and make recommendations to Council regarding increased parental stipends and covering travel expenses for Committee Members who are not official Council Members. Motion carried.

Discussion: Lorraine Allen commented that Committee Members who bring subject matter expertise are valuable and should have their travel paid for. Carole West commented that in the past DOE has sponsored committee members' travel for 2 of the 4 meetings. Executive Committee will ask DOE to be a part of discussions. Penny Geiger asked Tameka Footman and Katie Williams to create a travel report. April Katine announced that FDDC will now cover the cost of her travel. Sue Cannon commented that FICCIT doesn't only need parents who may be able to afford travel. Travel stipends needs to be made known to parents so they know they can afford membership. Paula Kendig comments that child care used to be separate from the stipend paid for work time lost and that travel used to be paid up front. Cynthia Fuller asked members to email Katie Williams if they have suggestions or input, or would like to receive the budget report.

**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

*Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health - Jennifer Evans*

- Please see attached written report

Department of Education:

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

- Please see attached written report

*Homeless Education - Lorraine Allen*

- No written report

Office of Early Learning – Danielle Jennings

- Please see attached written report

Agency for Healthcare Administration – Gail Underwood

- Please see attached written report

**Committee Meetings:**

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

**July 10, 2013**

**FICCIT Meeting Continued**

**Nominations for FICCIT Chair**

There were no nominations. Cynthia Fuller agreed to continue as Acting Chair until a new Chair is chosen. Council Members are asked to send all recommendations for the Chair position to Cynthia and Katie Williams.

**Agency Updates, continued:**

Florida Development Disabilities Council – April Katine

- No written report

Office of Insurance Regulation – Cynthia Fuller

- Please see attached written report

**Committee Reports:**

*All committee reports are attached below.*

Highlights from Reports:

- Executive Committee, Cynthia Fuller:
  - o Recommend that the three parent applications be submitted to the Governor's office.

**Public Comment** – no public comments.

- Personnel Development Training & Support (PDATS), Lourdes Quintana:
  - o Harry Fogle and April Smith will be joining the committee.
  - o Early Steps Training Unit update is attached.
- Partnership and Development, Lou Ann Long:
  - o During the meeting there was a discussion of the mission and vision of the Partnership and Development Committee. Due to overlapping projects and areas of work, a recommendation has been made to combine the Partnership Development Committee and the Marketing Committee.
  - o Motion made and accepted to merge Partnership and Development and Marketing Committees. A new name will be selected.
  - o Lou Ann Long will create a list of support groups around the state and create a process to secure and recruit more families to FICCIT.

- Marketing, Johana Hatcher:
  - o Committee welcomed Eliana Tardio to the Marketing Committee.
  - o This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Early Steps in the State of Florida. This will be the focus of this year's annual report. Goal to have annual report completed by the October meeting. Jennifer Evans will assist in creating a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Facebook page as well.
  - o The initial draft of a best practices manual was reviewed. The goal is to have it completed by the October meeting.

**Special Discussion:**

Margaret Hooper from the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) explained the FDDC movement to make the IFSP the authorizing document for Medicaid services.

Motion made and accepted to endorse FDDC's request of policy makers/state leaders to require that the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) be recognized as the authorizing document for medical necessity and Medicaid reimbursement for Part C Early Intervention Services.

April Katine will send out the new position paper to members prior to the October meeting.

**FICCIT Business:**

Cynthia Fuller discussed Florida Government in the Sunshine and explained that the policies are posted on the Attorney General's website for review. This may be a future agenda item, as well as personal health information.

Past Chair Recognition: The Council thanked Pat Grosz for her service and leadership. Penny Geiger will deliver framed artwork and certificate to present to Pat during the One Goal Summer Conference.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**UPCOMING FICCIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS 2013**

October 15-16

Ft. Lauderdale

# Agency Updates

## Florida Department of Children and Families

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

#### Rules, rules and more rules.....

**Food Service Rule** - A Notice of Change was published on May 13, 2013 that included suggested changes received during public hearings held last year and comments received from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee. The Rule Adoption Packet has been approved by the Secretary and will be submitted to the Department of State July 12, 2013. The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee has been contacted regarding the department's request to lift the rule toll and to file for adoption. July 12, 2013 has been strategically chosen so that the rule becomes effective on August 1, 2013.

**Summer Camp Background Screening** - Public workshops were held in Tallahassee (May 16) and West Palm Beach (May 22) regarding the development of this rule. The workshops were well attended. Based on comments received, edits have been made and are being reviewed by the Department's legal staff. After legal review, the updated language will be submitted for approval from the Secretary to notify the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Regulatory Reform (OFARR) and publish a Notice of Proposed Rule. Summer will be over before the rule can be promulgated but we will be positioned nicely for the onset of summer planning activities that occur in late winter (Feb).

**Gold Seal Quality Care Program** - A Notice of Rule Development will be submitted for publication this week. The publication will announce public workshop locations and times throughout the state. We anticipate 4 workshops that may include one webinar. Additional details will also be posted on our website [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare) under the "What's New" section. Please watch for and share this information as this is a great opportunity for the public to become engaged in the quality side of child care.

#### Training Opportunities.....

New training opportunities were also released on July 1 to promote quality training for child care personnel. Two courses have been developed with a team of experts, entitled, Challenging Behaviors Awareness and Prevention, and Quality in Child Care Settings.

### *Office of Child Welfare/Prevention*

- **Licensed Foster Parents:** Since July 1, 2012, Florida has 922 newly licensed foster parents - 75% of the goal of 1,200 by June 30, 2013. The Governor's office continues to send letters of appreciation to newly licensed foster parents.
- **Breakfast Campaign:** Feedback received from several parents in favorable response to the information being shared at the IMom and All Pro Dad chapters and a resounding applause was given for letting communities know that it is everybody's business to prevent child abuse. One mom in particular who was already subscribing to the messaging for mothers decided to engage her non-custodial father in the All Pro Dad messaging. She expressed her gratitude in engaging her and then the father of her children in becoming better parents, admitting they were marginal at good parenting! She thanked us for sponsoring the billboards as it was what brought her to IMom in the first place. Please visit the video clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUF1vQzuc1E>. This clip will be played for each chapter. To view the document that Tony Dungy references please visit: <http://bit.ly/dcfsupportfamilies>.
- **Supervised Visitation Centers** – The Department's Prevention staff are working with the FSU Clearinghouse of Supervised Visitation to assist the various centers with creative ways to infuse the child abuse prevention messaging in their operations. Sharing of resources, like the "Sleep Right,

Sleep Tight” safe sleep campaign and water safety and drowning materials were a quick start. Visitation programs throughout the state also develop parenting plans with parents.

- **Outcome Accountability:** The Department, the Head Start Collaboration Office and FRIENDS, the National Resource Center for Child Abuse Prevention to deliver a presentation on outcome accountability to the various Head Start Programs across the state.
- **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant:** Dr. Mimi Graham and the Florida Center for Prevention and Early Intervention are taking the lead on applying for federal ECCS grant funding. Their proposal, entitled “Trauma & Toxic Stress: Changing the Trajectory for Florida’s Most Vulnerable Children to Help Them Thrive”, will examine challenges for children aged 0-3 in the child welfare system with involvement in the local dependency courts in Escambia and Pasco counties. The two counties were selected because of the commitment that has been demonstrated by the local dependency judges and CBCs to trauma screening and early interventions. The Department supports the endeavor to raise awareness about the negative impact of toxic stress on infants and toddlers as part of the grant activities.
- **Substance Abuse & Mental Health (SAMH) and Child Welfare Integration:** The Department’s program offices have begun discussions about the status of DCF efforts to better integrate child welfare and substance abuse and mental health services. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) office has amended a contract to require a six-module child welfare training series for SAMH professionals. This is in addition to the contract that is aimed specifically at normalizing Substance Abuse language in the context of health care. The SAMH team has also been very involved in the development of operating procedures for Child Welfare. For the coming fiscal year, SAMH is looking at ways to improve the allocation of funds - especially TANF funds for families involved in the child welfare system. All of those projects are in addition to the Project LAUNCH and System of Care activities that are ongoing.
- **Parent Leadership Ambassador Training (PLAT):** Staff has been working with the Office of Early Learning and Head Start State Collaboration Office in providing technical assistance regarding parent engagement for the respective agencies. The Prevention unit introduced the agencies to an available resource, PLAT Training, through the Community-based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program’s National Resource Center.
- **Procurement for SAMH/Child Welfare Integration Pilots:** The Department’s Prevention and Family Safety Contracts units are working to expedite the release of a solicitation to the CBCs for pilot programs that integrate substance abuse and mental health treatment services into the case management of families in the child welfare system. These pilots will be funded with monies from line item 337 of the 2013-14 General Appropriations Act.
- **The Basic Safety Issues eBook** - Under contract, the FSU Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation developed an E-Book to address safety concerns and critical incidents during the delivery of supervised visitation services. The eBook is designed to increase awareness among the child welfare community of safety issues that may arise in supervised parent-child contact. This eBook provides case managers, foster parents, program directors, and child welfare professionals an introduction to basic safety issues in dependency case supervised visits. It includes practical safety tips and information to increase the safety of case managers, social workers, child transporters, and all other child protective workers involved in parent-child visitation while also ensuring the safety of the child who has been removed from the home pursuant to Ch. 39, F.S. "Basic Safety Issues in Supervised Parent-Child Contact: An eBook for the Child Welfare Community" is posted on the Clearinghouse’s Home Page and can also be found in the Manuals and Materials section of the Clearinghouse’s website as a resource for all of Florida’s professionals. Please visit: <http://familyvio.csw.fsu.edu/>
- **Summer Safety:** The Prevention Unit developed a "Summer Safety Tips" tri-fold brochure for parents and caregivers, covering the summer topics of: safety in and near pools and open water; boat safety; hydration and sunscreen; and the hidden dangers of driveway accidents and the danger of leaving children in hot cars. Working in partnership with the Communications and Executive Communications staff to finalize production, the brochures will be distributed to the Community Development Administrators, Community-Based Care lead agencies and Communication Directors statewide in order to help get the message out to parents and caregivers in a friendly and easy-to-remember way.

Also in production are two-sided laminated postcards for an **"All About IN and OUT"** campaign--to help remind parents to check behind and all around the car (for kids playing) before getting **IN** the car and starting up the engine, and to check the backseat before getting **OUT** of the car, to make sure they are not forgetting their child(ren).

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

- LAUNCH has been busy funding multiple trainings to increase awareness in infant mental health. The following trainings were held this June.
  - Early Childhood Mental Health Summit on Wednesday, June 26 from 9-4 in Pinellas Park that focused on identifying early trauma and the emotional needs underlying challenging behavior and strategies for effective interventions in childcare.
  - Thursday June 27 from 9:30-11am Dr James McHale provided a webinar, Concepts and Considerations, an overview of Infant-Family Mental Health and the role it plays in creating health and wellness in children.
- The grant also was able to contract with Florida State Center for Prevention and Early Intervention and Policy to conduct a statewide scan on Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. They identified providers across the state that are using ECMHC and ways in which they are able to fund and sustain it.

## **Florida Department of Education**

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

- Lisa Robinson, program specialist responsible for working with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), has accepted a position within the Department of Education in the Office of Professional Practices. Lisa has been a great asset for the bureau and has built a strong partnership with DJJ. She has been instrumental in the development of an accountability system and implementation of the assessment system and has worked with the DJJ and districts to design a transition process for DJJ students. We will miss Lisa and wish her the very best in her new endeavors.
- Sue Summers, administrator for instructional support systems, has accepted a position with Franklin County Public Schools as Exceptional Student Education Director. This is a wonderful opportunity for Sue as it will allow her to be much closer to home.
- Derek Hemenway, program specialist for compliance and data systems, has accepted a new position within the department in the Inspector General's office. This is an opportunity for Derek to expand his knowledge and broaden his skill set in a new, challenging arena. Derek will truly be missed, as he has been a dedicated team member and leader within the bureau for the last eight years. Derek's dedication, expertise, strong will to succeed and positive energy are irreplaceable.

### ***Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules: Excerpts Related to Exceptional Student Education (Vol. I-B)***

- The 2013 edition of the *Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules: Excerpts Related to Exceptional Student Education (Vol. I-B)*, the Red Book, is now available online as a PDF download on the BEESS Presentations and Publications page at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pub-home.asp>.

### **2013 Local Educational Agency (LEA) Profiles**

- The 2013 LEA Profiles are now available on the BEESS website at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/datapage.asp>. Each LEA profile presents a variety of data pertaining to educational benefit, educational environment, prevalence and parent involvement in the education of students with disabilities. Data represent the most current information available and, in some cases, trend data over the course of three years. For more information, please contact Marie Lacap, program specialist, at [Marie.Lacap@fldoe.org](mailto:Marie.Lacap@fldoe.org) or 850-245-0475.

### **Selecting Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

- BEESS is pleased to announce that the Accommodations and Modifications Project has developed a new document to assist individual educational plan (IEP) teams with choosing appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. The document provides guidance on selecting, implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of accommodations. *Selecting Accommodations: Guidance for Individual Educational Plan Teams* can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/SelectingAccommodations.pdf>.

### **Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) –Third Grade Student Progression**

- The FDOE has issued the following TAP regarding Third Grade Student Progression. The technical assistance paper may be viewed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6736/dps-2013-56.pdf>; <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6737/dps-2013-56a.pdf> (attachment A); <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6738/dps-2013-56b.pdf> (attachment B).

### **TAP: Determining Eligibility of Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) Providers for Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Children with Disabilities**

- The Florida Department of Education has issued the following technical assistance paper regarding Determining Eligibility of SIS Providers for VPK Children with Disabilities. The technical assistance paper may be viewed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6686/dps-2013-39.pdf>. Florida's VPK SIS educational program is a new option for parents of four-year-old children with disabilities that is available outside the traditional VPK classroom setting. If a child has a current IEP from the local school district that calls for specialized instructional services, a parent can choose VPK SIS instead of traditional VPK school-year or summer programs. Beginning with the 2012–13 school year, a child who has a disability, as evidenced by a current Individual IEP and is age-eligible for VPK (four years old by September 1) is eligible for specialized instructional services, pursuant to section 1002.66, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The FDOE approves SIS providers whose services meet the statutory standards, maintains a list of approved providers and notifies each school district and early learning coalition of the approved provider list. Parents with questions about accessing SIS for their child should be directed to Florida's Office of Early Learning at <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com> or by phone at 1-866-357-3239 or to the local Early Learning Coalition at [http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/OEL\\_Coalitions\\_CoalitionsDirectory.html](http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/OEL_Coalitions_CoalitionsDirectory.html).
- In addition, a Parent Fact Sheet: Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) Educational Program has been developed and is available on the website at <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning/sis-providers.asp>.

### **Portal to Exceptional Education Resources (PEER)**

- PEER is the state of Florida's free, web-based application for the uniform development of educational plans for exceptional students. PEER is currently being used by 35 districts. An additional eight districts are interested in using PEER for the 2013–14 school year. The most recent development in PEER relates to the least restrictive environment component of the IEP. Data elements and descriptive prompts have been added that align directly with the educational environments reported under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Florida Automated Student Information System. Encompassing all of the preschool codes for children ages 3–5 and for students ages 6–21, the redesign will aid districts in ensuring accurate reporting as well as clarity on the IEP. For additional information regarding PEER, or a demonstration of the application, please contact the PEER Support Desk at [PEERSupport@fldoe.org](mailto:PEERSupport@fldoe.org).

### **Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA)**

- The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (USA) was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in January 2013. This child welfare law is designed to facilitate the availability of school records to child welfare workers who work with children placed in foster care. The measure will help ensure that school records, including IEPs, are transferred quickly when children are enrolled in a different school due to a foster care placement or change in residence. The bill amends the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is designed to eliminate inadvertent obstacles to information-sharing between school districts and child welfare agencies. To view and/or download a PDF of the Florida Department of Education and Department of Children and Families joint memorandum, please visit <http://sss.usf.edu/index.html> and click "Release of Student Education Records Pertaining to



## **Myths and Truths**

- The Myths and Truths section of the Florida’s Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) website has been updated to reflect the most current misconceptions related to the implementation of a multi-tiered system of supports and the use of student response to intervention (RtI) data in Florida’s schools and districts. Please visit the user-friendly section specific to educators or parents located at <http://florida-rti.org/educatorResources/myths/index.htm>. We encourage you to share the information found here with parents, your colleagues and others to clarify the terms MTSS and RtI. This resource can help create a consistent understanding among individuals involved in problem solving related to the success of students. You can also learn more about MTSS in Florida at <http://florida-rti.org/parentResources/myths/index.htm>. For questions related to this resource, please contact Zoe Mahoney at [zoe.mahoney@fldoe.org](mailto:zoe.mahoney@fldoe.org).

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

- The 27th Annual One Goal Summer Conference will be held at the Hilton Tampa Downtown (formerly Hyatt Regency), in Tampa, Florida, on July 17–19, 2013. The conference schedule, including the 91 concurrent workshop presentations, is now available at <http://www.onegoalsummerconference.org/2013ConferenceWorkshopSchedule.pdf>. The registration fee of \$75 will be accepted through July 12, 2013. A registration fee of \$100 will be accepted on site. Hotel rooms are available at the nightly conference rates of \$132 single/double, and \$157 triple/quad (tax not included). These rates are available through July 5, 2013. Reservations are available through the conference website at <http://www.onegoalsummerconference.org> or by calling the Hilton Tampa Downtown Reservations Desk at 800-HILTONS. If calling, please indicate that you are attending the One Goal Summer Conference. For additional conference information, please contact Frankie Allen, conference coordinator, at [frankieallen\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:frankieallen_2000@yahoo.com) or 850-893-6270, or Carole West, program specialist, at [carole.west@fldoe.org](mailto:carole.west@fldoe.org) or 850-245-0478.

## **Florida Council for Exceptional Children (FCEC) Annual Conference**

- The 67th Annual FCEC will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront in St. Petersburg, Florida, on October 17–19, 2013. The conference will continue the collaborative efforts with school districts, universities, family organizations in Florida and the Florida Association Student Council for Exceptional Children. Together the commitment to children and youth with special needs will be celebrated. There will be nine strands highlighted this year. Keynote speakers for this conference will include Gene Monahan, the former head athletic trainer for the New York Yankees. Gene spent 49 years with the Yankees organization and guided the players on seven World Championship teams, 11 Pennant winning teams and 19 post-season teams. A lifelong racing fan, Gene retired and moved to North Carolina where he works as a consultant for Hendricks Motorsports and serves as an athletic trainer for Hendrick’s pit.

## **Office of Early Learning**

### **Agency Transition:**

House Bill 7165, (Early Learning Legislation), was passed by the legislature and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. This bill puts the Office of Early Learning (OEL) within the Florida Department of Education, but ensures that we will not become part of the K-20 system. The Voluntary Prekindergarten program will become part of the OEL. A plan for implementation of the Early Learning Legislation (HB 7165) has been developed and teams have been created for key content areas. A summary of HB 7165 is provided as an attachment.

### **Screening Project:**

All coalitions will conduct their screening programs in accordance with the OEL Developmental Screening rules beginning July 1, 2013. OEL will be providing webinar trainings on administration of ASQ and ASQ: SE screening instruments, recording screening data and developing reports in the ASQ data system, and expanding use of Family Access features. In concert with these webinars, we will hold monthly ASQ and

ASQ: SE online Q&A sessions to address problems encountered in using the instrument and using the data system. OEL will continue to pay for coalition subscriptions for the ASQ data system in the next fiscal year.

**Inclusion Services:**

The new legislation (HB 7165) continues to support a toll-free statewide Warm-Line and local lines to provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family day care homes regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs children. Coalitions are required to maintain at least one Warm-Line for each service area they cover, and to provide onsite technical assistance to child care facilities and family day care homes with inquiries related to the strategies, curriculum and environmental adaptations as needed to serve children with disabilities and other special needs.

**Inclusion Webinar:**

Dr. Phillippa Campbell, co-author of “Cara’s Kit”, will be presenting a webinar in late July on accommodations and modifications needed to support children’s special educational and developmental needs. This webinar is directed for coalition inclusion specialists and other staff, but FICCIT members may be interested in participating. Contact [Danielle.Jennings@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:Danielle.Jennings@oel.myflorida.com) if you want to register for this webinar.

## **Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA)**

- On March 26, a federal judge ordered Florida Medicaid to cover Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders for children under the age of 21, effective April 2, 2012. The Agency for Health Care Administration has appealed this ruling. The Agency is continuing to issue alerts describing and updating information regarding provider qualifications, recipient eligibility criteria, the prior authorization request process, service codes and reimbursement rates, the billing process, and instructions for managed care plans. This information and the related form can be found here: <http://ahca.myflorida.com/chcup>.
- There are over 3.2 million Florida Medicaid recipients.
- Florida Medicaid continues to move forward with Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC).
- I have included the following in the packet:
  - Florida Medicaid Provider Bulletin, Summer 2013 Issue
  - States forgo billions by opting out of Medicaid expansion
  - AHCA website-SMMC
  - HP-Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Information Sheet
  - HP-ICD-10 News July 2013
  - AHCA Provider Alert ICD-10 Impact Assessment Survey. Have you Started Yet?
  - Hollywood mental health execs convicted of \$70 M fraud

## **Florida Office of Insurance Regulation**

- HHS continues to prepare for administering the individual and small group Federally Facilitated Marketplace(s) – “exchanges” – that will begin open enrollment in October.
- The national organization, “Enroll America”, has begun outreach and education efforts in Florida to help educate Floridians about access to private health insurance policies that will be available from the FFM in October.
- HHS continues to publish proposed and final regulations governing operational features of the FFM – which will have impact for enrollees, eligibility operations, and interagency technology engaging the IRS and CMS (Medicaid eligibility, Florida KidCare eligibility).

**SB 1842 – Florida “PPACA Implementation”, 2013**

- Insurance contracts for small group and individual policies required to meet federal benefit requirements continue to be reviewed by the Office of Insurance Regulation. In the event a

contract does not appear to meet federal benefit requirements, the Office works with carriers to modify the contract filings – in the event a carrier appears to fail compliance standards for an ACA requirement, the Office will notify HHS for any further compliance action.

- Insurance RATES for new, ACA compliant policies are being submitted directly to HHS for products to be offered through the federal exchange. An “information only” filing is also made with the Office. Prior rate approval authority by the Office has been suspended until 2015 – to allow HHS to exercise its authority to accept product rates for marketing through the Federal Marketplaces.
- All policyholders of an ACA compliant policy – upon issuance or first renewal – will receive a disclosure notice of factors affecting rate changes from that carrier’s most popular similar policy offered in 2012-2013.

*“Consumer Beware”*

- Federal outreach efforts and educational materials about the new Federal Marketplaces will include important consumer notices about enrolling in the Marketplaces with assistance only from licensed insurance agents, registered state (FL) “navigators”, and certified consumer assistors stationed in federally qualified health centers and other federal provider locations (hospitals, health outreach centers).
- Consumers should be aware that no fees are required to be paid by enrollees and that no personal health or financial information should be released except to credentialed enrollment persons using the federal marketplace enrollment system.

The Federal information site for preliminary information and enrollment preparation is a revised federal “healthcare.gov” site.

- <https://www.healthcare.gov/>

# Committee Reports

## **-Executive Committee-**

The Executive Committee met July 9 after the conclusion of Committee meetings to receive Committee reports and to make appropriate recommendations regarding actions by the full council.

- PDATs had no items for full council action; Report contains update on issues and activities in progress;
- Partnership Committee meeting had an important recommendation – to merge this Committee with Outreach Committee:
  - To maximize potential membership and bring leadership stability to both Committees;
  - To eliminate duplication of efforts related to overlapping subject matter;
  - To take full advantage of expertise resources to produce marketing materials, outreach education, FICCIT annual report, and membership recruitment.
- Outreach Committee had recommendation(s) regarding website(s), facebook accounts, etc. Recommended actions will be submitted to Council for ratification/endorsement.

## **-Marketing Committee-**

**Members:** Johana Hatcher, Sue Cannon, Lorraine Allen, Katie Williams

**Phone:** Eliana Tardio (Jennifer Evans attempted to participate by phone but line was not working)  
Johana welcomed Eliana to the committee.

### **1. Action Plan Update/Revisions Discussion**

#### **a. Annual Report**

##### **i. Thank you letters to parents**

Sue Cannon and Katie Williams confirmed the thank you letters had been mailed with the exception of one. We were unable to determine the applicable address.

##### **ii. Distribution lists**

Johana thanked all for work in distributing annual report. Will call for distribution list of all members who sent electronic versions.

#### **b. Facebook and website**

Johana asked if the Palm Card had been posted on Facebook or the FICCIT website. It was confirmed they had not been added.

The Facebook page has not been updated to reflect the vote at the April 2013 meeting to change to “Early Step Saves.” Johana agreed to follow-up with Jeanne.

**c. Letter of Support:** The committee understands this action item to have been completed.

#### **d. Discussion for next year’s report**

Johana reminded the group of our discussion to move up the release date for the Annual Report.

Many discussed the need to enhance the report as the distribution list has broadened so.

Sue Cannon reminded us that this year was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Early Steps and perhaps we could enhance the report with information on graduates and growth of the program.

Johana will bring these ideas to the Executive Committee.

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

#### **a. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Some discussion was generated on promoting the progression of the program over the past 20 years. The alumni Facebook link; shared stories; annual report enhancement, etc. were points of discussion. Committee members agreed to table discussion and continue to think.

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

Jeanne Boggs has recommended in the past that FICCIT have a discussion to raise the parent friendly stipend. Sharon Paul has previously agreed that the stipend it is too low-- \$6.00 per hour to cover childcare. Johana will bring it up with Executive Committee members to determine how to proceed with this recommendation.

### **3. Best Practices-**

- a. Kudos to Lorraine and Sue for pulling together the first draft of the document. The committee worked the rest of the meeting to categorize the information in a format that is user-friendly. The goal is to have this document grow with local initiatives and serve as a ready guide for LESs in developing new initiatives.

## **-Partnership Development Committee-**

In Attendance: Anna Simmons, Danielle Jennings, Debby Russo, Kathleen Vergara, Lou Ann Long

### **Membership:**

Committee discussed the diversity of council membership and process of how we may be able to expand. Lou Ann Long will track down parent groups she provided from the Florida Central Directory several months ago. Need to target possible family members e.g. male and ethnic.

### **Action Steps:**

Committee would like to partner with the Marketing Committee. During conversations multiple times it appeared activities should really go through the Marketing instead of Partnership therefore joining forces would make the committees stronger since both have small membership.

Danielle Jennings/OEL has volunteered to contact Florida Council for Exceptional Children (FCEC) Annual Conference which will be held on October 17 – 19, 2013. We would like to have included in their conference bag information on FICCIT application process and Palm Card.

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

Attendees (Members): Annalise Campisi, Kim Carr, Sue Donovan, April Katine, Paula Kendig, Lourdes Quintana, Liza Smith, Gail Underwood, Carole West.  
Attendees (Guests): Harry Fogle, Brenda Ham

Welcome & Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2013

Motion: approved

### **Update on Medicaid Desk Review**

Gail shared that 6 local Early Steps programs were reviewed; travel to 3 sites was cancelled due to budget issues. The process included reviewing 10 records, with a mix of EI, TCM and therapy services. A standard tool was utilized, with copies sent to the LES, ESSO and local Medicaid liaisons. The final report was sent to the Early Steps Bureau Chief (Penny Gieger).

The Targeted Case Management training is currently on hold. It was suggested that this training could be a possible breakout session at the annual Service Coordinator meeting. It was also stated that the revised EI Handbook should be out in (approximately) October 2013.

### **ITDS Certification Question**

It was mentioned that Penny has previously spoken with Rusty Grimillion, UWF, on how to attract more potential providers if coursework was provided at the undergraduate tuition rate (vs. graduate rate). General discussion included how this would affect the DOE certification requirements; what discussion drove the decision for coursework to be at the graduate level; how to engage undergraduate students; and how to bridge the experience- mentoring- degree issues when potential providers are missing one component (including mentorships without pay). It was agreed that further, thoughtful discussion is warranted.

### **Evaluator Credential**

April shared that the Evaluator Credential RFP has not been released due to internal changes in the process. It is anticipated to be released within the next month. An additional scope of work was added to ensure collaboration with the State Medicaid office to ensure the evaluators meet the Medicaid

credentialing requirements. April suggested the project's advisory group include a Medicaid representative; Gail suggested the request be sent to Mike Bolin.

### **Update on "Expanding Opportunities"**

April shared information related to the recent Expanding Opportunities meeting (June 2013). Participants included Lou Ann Long and Liza Smith (PDATS members), and the group meets quarterly. The group has a Facebook page named the Florida Expanding Opportunities for Early Childhood Inclusion. The group identified future projects over a 3 year period, which include regional professional development meetings, and provider inclusion self-assessments and recognition.

"About Autism" Demonstration- tabled

### **Early Steps State Office Update**

#### Statewide Meeting- Partnering For Success

This year's meeting will be at the Wyndham Orlando Resort on November 14-16th. The focus is social-emotional development and building relationships with families. Collaborative partners include Florida's Head Start State Collaboration Office (HS/ EHS), Florida's Office of Early Learning (DOE), Florida's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (DOE), and Florida's Bureau of Child Protection and Special Technology (DOH). Meeting space is available for ES Directors/ Coordinators to meet the day before the conference. There will be up to 57 break-out sessions available, in addition to keynote speakers. The conference will end with a luncheon and presentation. The cost is \$45/ person.

#### Autism Navigator

Module roll-out began in February 2013 and the feedback has been very positive so far. A usage report is available, and ESSO will review the information for participation. Liza also said there is a wait list for potential participants in the next roll-out. Unit 4 is planned to roll-out in August. Adding a mentoring and coaching component is under consideration (to better determine how the Autism Navigator is working).

The About Autism site is ready for initial pilot, for families, professionals, or anyone interested in learning about ASD, and is free of charge.

#### Service Coordinator Apprenticeship Training

Local ES staff has access to the tracking system, to monitor the progress of users. The access hierarchy includes the user level (SC), sub-admin level (training coordinators), and administrative level (ESSO).

#### BDI-2 Video Project

Volunteers (5-6) were identified to participate in a review of the BDI-2 administration; videotapes of evaluations will be reviewed by Dr. Elbaum using the Fidelity Checklist. Feedback will be provided to the individuals, as well as across the LES programs, to facilitate improved fidelity and reliability (within confidentiality requirements).

#### Website Renovation

The ESSO website is under review and will be revamped in the near future. It is planned to improve training links, both developed by ESSO and other partners.

### **Optimizing Funding**

Lourdes stated that the insurance billing questions were sent to the Office of Insurance and she is awaiting the response.

### **Membership Update**

Lourdes stated she has been approached by various people inquiring about participating on the PDATS committee. April Smith, LES Director, will join at the next meeting. Others expressing interest include Harry Fogle and Jamie Johnson (LES Director and Coordinator), and Rusty Grimillion, UWF. Annalise suggested that West Central Early Steps (represented by Harry Fogle) should be included in the committee as they have participated as guests for over a year. The committee agreed and welcomed him.

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