



**July 8-9, 2014
Tallahassee, FL**

Members Present: Laurie Blades, Kim Carr, Elizabeth Cayson, Lilli Copp, Cynthia Fuller, Sharon Paul, Lourdes Quintana, Debby Russo, Kathleen Vergara, Ilene Wilkins

Member Delegates Present: Carole West for Monica Verra-Tirado

Members Absent: Susan Donovan, Shan Goff, Johana Hatcher, Anitere Flores, Arwyn Holmes, Misty Porter

Other Attendees Present: Paula Kendig, Gail Underwood, Donna Phillips, Jamie Johnson, Dina Snider, Lou Ann Long, Annalise Campisi, Sue Loftis, Suzanne Mahoney, Mark Holson

Early Steps State Office Staff Present: Liza Smith, Brenda Jones-Garrett, Renee Jenkins, Sally Golden-McCord, April Smith, Katie Williams, Tameka Footman

Conference Call Attendees: Sue Cannon, Matt Moore, Lorraine Allen

July 8, 2014

FICCIT Business: Cynthia Fuller, Acting Chair

9:35 AM – Call to Order and Introductions

Motion to approve June Meeting Notes. Motion carried.

Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations

Cynthia explained she had not received any *Consent to Serve* forms as of that day. She said she understands that the new members may not be comfortable assuming the Chair position right away. She explained that the Early Steps State Office is a means of support and they help with communications and collection of important documents. Cynthia also said that the time that it takes to be Chair is fairly limited, with no required travel other than for meetings.

Cynthia stated that she would like for Ilene Wilkins (who is also a former FICCIT Chair) to take over the Interim Chair role for the October and January meetings as necessary. Cynthia will retire from the State on November 30th.

Discussion:

Cynthia asked for any discussion among members.

Elizabeth Cayson asked what the by-laws state about Chairmanship. Cynthia explained that the Meeting Policies do not speak to specifications because over the years, membership has risen and fallen due to travel and time commitments (especially for parents). She explained that between now and October, FICCIT needs to decide about going back to formal by-laws.

Cynthia went on to explain that FICCIT is not named in FL Statute, that it is a federal statute.

Elizabeth Cayson then asked about the possibility of requesting a lawyer to draft language for the legislature to add FICCIT into Florida statutes. She also asked if there were any recent issues stemming from this.

Cynthia asked that Renee Jenkins explain the history.

Renee Jenkins explained that the lack of Governor Appointments for over three years left only a few official members of FICCIT. This was the only concern relating to the Council.

Cynthia asked should FICCIT have statutory recognition. She said that historically has not been the role of this group since FICCIT members cannot lobby. Cynthia said that a decision such as this would have to be officiated and accepted by the state agency head and the Office of the Governor.

Ilene Wilkins agreed that she would take over as Interim Chair for the next few meetings.

Kathleen Vergara thanked Ilene Wilkins for considering the role of interim chair.

Presentation: State Systemic Improvement Plan & ESSO Update

Sally Golden-McCord, Performance Improvement Unit Director, ESSO

- Presentation attached.

Discussion: Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center Survey

Facilitated by Lourdes Quintana

12:00 PM – Adjourn for Lunch

Committee Meetings:

The Personnel Development and Training Supports (PDATS) Committee and the Marketing & Partnership Committee met for the remainder of the day. The Executive Committee did not meet due to lack of Chair and Vice-Chair.

July 9, 2014

FICCIT Meeting Continued

9:00 AM – Full Council Reconvenes

Agency Reports:

Department of Education:

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

- Please see attached written report

Office of Insurance Regulation – Cynthia Fuller

- No written report available

Department of Children and Families:

Office of Child Welfare/Prevention - Johana Hatcher

- Please see attached written report

Office of Child Care Regulation and Background Screening - Debby Russo

- Please see attached written report

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health – Laurie Blades

- No written report available

Office of Early Learning – Debby Russo for Matt Moore

- No written report available

Head Start Collaboration Office – Lilli Copp

- Please see attached written report
- Lilli suggested having someone from AHCA present at the next Tallahassee FICCIT meeting about MMA
- Elizabeth Cayson asked about the Head Start in Palm Beach County changing organizations.
 - Lilli explained that Lutheran Services was awarded the new grant.

Public Comment:

Lourdes Quintana on behalf of April Smith, Director of Northeastern Early Steps – additions to the SSIP survey responses.

Activities in place that are successful:

1. *FRS Family Involvement Plan (includes target areas to focus strategies for improvement).*
2. *LES Directors Cohort Calls (focus on areas of need around the state, problem solving, and identifies strategies/processes that are working among local programs and needs to be addressed at higher level).*

Cynthia Fuller explained that April Smith was unsure if she could speak during full Council since she is a Committee Member, not an appointed Council Member. Cynthia asked that this issue be brought up for discussion during the By-Law agenda item.

Karen Adams, Adult & Child Mental Health Care (ACMHC)

ACMHC is a Community Behavioral Health Center located in Pensacola, FL (Area 1). We serve children of all ages including birth to five. We have 5 clinicians who have been formally trained by the Harris Institute (we have 18 clinicians in all) and we travel to the homes in Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa/Walton Counties (we are the only agency who provides in home care in Okaloosa/Walton). Our agency has not been awarded a contract with the new MMA rollout to begin on August 1, 2014. Only one individual (he is not affiliated with an agency) will be formally trained in IMH on the newly contracted list for Area 1. We are very concerned and feel that this constitutes a critical issue.

Ms. Adams explained that she has filed a grievance and contacted AHCA on several occasions but has not received help. She said she also went straight to the insurance agency with no success. Ms. Adams then asked FICCIT for any ideas or input.

Sally Golden-McCord provided Ms. Adams with information to help explain the situation.

Kathleen Vergara agreed that Miami-Dade providers are also frustrated.

Cynthia Fuller explained that private insurance companies are not regulated in regard to their provider relationships. There have been attempts to pass legislation that would require companies to enroll “any willing provider.” However, it has not moved forward because of competition between private companies for the provider pool/services.

Gail Underwood explained that this has been a learning process for everyone involved. She gave contact names for those who may be able to help at AHCA (Melanie Brown-Woofter). She reminded everyone that the public can always request data under a public information request in order to provide the justification/data to submit issues to AHCA.

Lou Ann Long, Central Directory

Ms. Long shared new publications from the Central Directory – Rack Cards in English, Spanish, French, and Creole. She said they will go out to all LES offices and to FDLRS around the state. More requests can be emailed to Ms. Long.

Insurance Question – Cindy shared federal level will be putting in place compliance reviews of insurance carriers. How will the public have input and/or access compliance reviews?

Cynthia Fuller responded that compliance reviews are within purview of HHS. OIR is not yet aware if the product of a regulatory review by another regulatory agency is subject to the Florida Sunshine Law. Cynthia will make inquiries of Florida regulatory staff.

Sally Golden-McCord, Early Steps State Office

Sally shared an update on Help Me Grow as a prior member of the task force and as a current participant on the advisory committee. She explained that the Florida Developmental Disability Council was awarded \$2 million through the legislature to fund local 211 organizations to talk to all callers about any children in their household who may need to be screened, and to then refer them to screening.

Committee Reports:

Personnel Development Training & Supports (PDATS), Lourdes Quintana

- Please see attached written report

Outreach, Laurie Blades

- Please see attached written report
- Motion to accept Outreach Committee Report with recommendations for annual report content. Motion Passed.
- Vote for name of this year’s annual report – Council selected “The FICCIT Report: A Year in Review”

FICCIT New Business:

Council Meeting Policies vs. By-Laws

Cynthia suggested delegating a workgroup for review and decisions on new Meeting Guidelines

Motion – create a workgroup for these tasks: Motion Passed.

Work will include examining the question of By-Laws vs. Meeting Policies and making any subsequent changes.

Ad-Hoc Committee Members: Suzanne Mahoney, Lilli Copp (Chair), Paula Kendig, Gail Underwood, Sharon Paul, and Debby Russo

Committee meeting information will be shared via the FICCIT website.

FICCIT Meeting Adjourned.

UPCOMING FICCIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS 2014

October 7-8

Gainesville, FL

Agency Updates

--Florida Department of Education--

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS)

FDOE/BEESS Staff Update

- BEESS welcomes Jerry Brown as a program specialist for compliance and monitoring. Jerry joined the BEESS in 2009 as a research assistant with the Dispute Resolution and Monitoring team, maintaining the due process and mediation database, along with assisting in scheduling mediations.
- We also welcome April Katine as educational program director, Bureau Resource and Information Center (BRIC). April is excited to return to the BEESS team. She has worked as a teacher, advocate, BEESS compliance monitor and contract manager and now looks forward to this opportunity to help prepare students statewide to be college and career ready.
- Anne Glass left her position as program director at BEESS and joined the University of South Florida Student Services project on February 17, 2014. She now serves on the Student Services project as FDOE's Medicaid consultant. Anne held the Medicaid consultant position from 1998-2003, and during her time with that project was instrumental in developing the school district Medicaid Administrative Claiming system, as well as the Medicaid Tracking System. While in that position, she was also a founding member of the National Association for Medicaid in Education.
- Heidi Metcalf joined BEESS on April 14, 2014, as senior program director leading Program Accountability, Assessment and Data Systems (PAADS). Previously, Heidi served as director of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) for a small/rural district. Heidi has 10 years of school-level teaching of special education and has completed district leadership programs that prepare future leaders for education administration. Heidi brings a significant knowledge base in coordinating and planning data gathering and analysis, evaluation and research activities to support improved program planning, development and services that increase student success. She also has a broad understanding of assessments, including criterion, norm-based and alternate assessments.
- Curtis Williams has joined BEESS as an educational program director. Curtis will serve as the bureau's point person for technical assistance to districts in the planning, implementation and evaluation of education programs for at-risk students served in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities. He will also serve as the Emotional/Behavioral Disability (E/BD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Secured Seclusion and Restraint, Discipline and Positive Behavior Support project liaison. Curtis has worked as a counselor and referral coordinator in the high school setting and has several years of experience in the FDOE.
- Laurie Epps joined us as the program specialist for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). Laurie has worked as a speech-language pathologist, served as a member of her district's Response to Instruction/Intervention team and facilitated online courses while employed with the Orange County Public Schools for the past 15 years.
- Staff Transitions:
 - Annette Oliver moved to a leadership role with the BEESS team as an educational program director. Annette has served the bureau in a variety of complex positions. Her knowledge of the various roles and responsibilities of the bureau is an asset to the department, the bureau and districts, from dispute resolution and monitoring to the general supervision website. She has a broad knowledge of special education regulations and programs from her work as a compliance specialist with the bureau. Her background in writing during her professional career will contribute to her ability to design, develop and disseminate valuable data products. Annette also has an extensive research background, including web-based data and educational applications, assistive technology devices, hardware and software installation and troubleshooting.
 - Liz Conn is now the educational program director for Dispute Resolution and Monitoring. Liz has been with the bureau for the last four years in the compliance and monitoring section.

- Anne Bozik has transitioned to program specialist for emotional/behavioral disability. Anne was previously the contact for autism spectrum disorder and hospital homebound.
- Vicki Eddy will serve as a program specialist with duties related to the General Supervision Website (GSW) and other data-based management systems in Program Accountability/Assessments and Data Systems. Vicki has worked with the bureau since 2005.

Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) for the Provision of Occupational or Physical Therapy as a Related Service

- The FDOE has issued the following TAP regarding the provision of occupational or physical therapy as a related service. The TAP may be viewed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6924/dps-2013-119.pdf> .

Procedural Safeguards for Parents of Students with Disabilities in Vietnamese

- BEESS is pleased to announce that the Procedural Safeguards for Parents of Students with Disabilities is now available in Vietnamese. To access this document, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/ProceduralSafeguards-Vietnamese.pdf> .

Legislative Review

- Information related to the 2014 legislative session can be accessed at <http://www.fldoe.org/GR/> . The FDOE 2014 Legislation Review Book is available at <http://www.fldoe.org/GR/pdf/LegislativeReview2014.pdf>

Old MITCH Series – Model of Interdisciplinary Training for Children with Handicaps: Welcome to the World: An Overview of Your Growing Child

- We are pleased to announce the revised Welcome to the World: An Overview of Your Growing Child is now available on the bureau's website. This resource is a part of the Grow to Five series and is available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.
 - To access this document in English, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/grow5wel.pdf>
 - To access this document in Spanish, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/welspan.pdf>
 - To access this document in Haitian Creole, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/c310509w.pdf>

Approval of Amendments to Rules Relating to Exceptional Student Education

- On February 18, 2014, the State Board of Education approved the following Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) rules:
 - Rule 6A-6.03028, F.A.C., Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities
 - Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., General Education Intervention Procedures, Identification, Evaluation, Reevaluation and the Initial Provision of Exceptional Education Services
 - Rule 6A-6.03311, F.A.C., Procedural Safeguards and Due Process Procedures for Parents and Students with Disabilities

These rules, effective March 25, 2014, may be viewed at http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2014_02_18/ese.pdf .

Education Directory for Children of Military Families with Special Needs

- The Department of Defense has developed the Education Directory for Children with Special Needs, which provides military families with children with special needs the information they need to make informed assignment decisions and easier transitions.

The directory has two components:

- The Early Intervention Directory focusing on early intervention services for children birth through 3 years old summarizes national- and state-level early intervention trends and includes descriptions of local early intervention service providers.
- The School-Age Directory focusing on education services for children with special needs, 3 through 21 years, summarizes national- and state-level trends for special education and includes descriptions of individual school districts.

Both components provide tools and resources to help with the transition to a new location. Please view the directory at http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/f?p=EFMP_DIRECTORY:HOME:0

Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) has merged with the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center

As of November 1, 2013, the ECO Center's mission, staff and resources have become part of the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center (<http://www.ectacenter.org/>).

The outcomes team of the ECTA Center provides national leadership in assisting states with the implementation of high-quality child and family outcomes measurement for early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) programs. The ECTA Center website provides child and family outcomes measurement tools and references for state and local administrators, technical assistance providers, teachers, other direct service providers and families.

The outcomes team provides technical assistance, develops and disseminates professional development resources and supports the integration of outcomes measurement across other aspects of EI and ECSE programs for all states and jurisdictions. Most of the staff on the ECTA Center outcomes team previously worked for the ECO Center, which was funded from 2003 to 2013. You can find contact information for the outcomes team on the ECTA Center Contact Page at http://www.ectacenter.org/about/staff_team.asp#10.

A Family Guide to Participating in the Child Outcomes Measurement Process

- The National Parent Technical Assistance Center, in collaboration with the ECTA, recently published A Family Guide to Participating in the Child Outcomes Measurement Process, which informs parents about the three child outcomes (gaining positive social emotional skills, including social relationships; learning and using new knowledge and skills; and using appropriate behaviors to meet their needs) that are measured for every child in the U.S. who participates in an early intervention or early childhood special education program. This guide includes tips on how families can be fully involved in the child outcomes measurement process and provides information on how families can use the outcomes to better understand their child's development. To view the guide, go to <http://www.pacer.org/publications/pdfs/ALL-71.pdf>.

Parent Resources Developed by the Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE)

- The CADRE has recently developed parent guides to the four major special education dispute resolution processes. The guides listed below are informed by the Question & Answer document the Office of Special Education Programs released last year.
- IDEA Special Education Written State Complaints
- IDEA Special Education Mediation
- IDEA Special Education Due Process Complaints/Hearing Requests
- IDEA Special Education Resolution Meetings

The guides, also available in Spanish, can be viewed at:

<http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/DRparentguides2014.cfm>.

The CADRE has translated their most popular parent resource, Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child's School, into 11 languages. The document and translations can be viewed and printed from the website at: <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/success.cfm>.

New Video Illustrates Collaboration Between Preschool and Early Childhood Special Education

- Results Matter, a program of the Colorado Department of Education, recently posted a new video, "Collaborating to Support Aiden," in the Results Matter Video Library located on the website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/rmvideoseris>. As with all Results Matter videos, it can be viewed online or downloaded at no cost for use in educational and professional development activities. This inspiring video (runtime: 12:14) illustrates how a homebound interventionist and a preschool teacher collaborated to enable a young child to attend a typical preschool classroom through video conferencing. The story illustrates collaboration between general and special education, teaming, the importance of reflection, family engagement, friendships, uses of technology, modifying instructional practices to include all children, administrative support and individual educational plan meetings.

--Florida Department of Children and Families-- **Family & Community Services**

Office of Child Welfare

- OCW staff along with Friends National Resource Center for Child Abuse Prevention and Child Welfare League of America presented a workshop entitled "An Innovative Strategy Using a Cultural and Trauma Lens with the Protective Factors Framework." The workshop was presented at the 19th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect in New Orleans April 30 – May 2.
- OCW has completed the request from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Inspector General's evaluation regarding States' oversight and coordination of health services for children in foster care. HHS is conducting a study of health care services provided to children who have come to the attention of the state. Florida is one of the five states selected for the study. Specifically, HHS requested case file documentation of health care services that each of the 100 sampled Florida children received between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012, including (1) the date of the service, (2) the health care provider's name, and (3) a brief description of the service performed. Results are still pending.
- Issues with Change In Managed Care For Dependent Children – Several e-mails have been received from adoptive parents and community-based care lead agencies (CBCs) detailing instances in which potential adoptive parents are hesitant to continue the adoption process due to the uncertainty of medical care availability, and also have received feedback on children being required to change providers they have had for years. A different level of Medicaid is provided after adoption than while children are in care.
- In collaboration with AHCA, DCF formed a workgroup to address dual approval of Medical and Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Homes.
- Legislative Actions: Please see attached summary for a high level description of legislation impacting the child welfare program.

Child Care Regulation and Background Screening

- DCF slated to go into the Care Provider Clearinghouse in October(ish) - will be a new process for providers so will have some growing pains but will be positive in the long run. Stay tuned.
- DCF released two new courses for child care providers for in-service credit: Effective Communication; and Obesity Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles
- DCF revised the Behavioral Observation and Screening course that is part of the mandatory training. If it has previously been completed, staff do not have to retake the course unless they choose to for updates and currency. Includes information on the CLASS assessment and core competencies of the Office of Early Learning.
- DCF and OEL are working in partnership with the UF Lastinger Center on a professional development portal to harness all the good training being provided around the state; they will be offering courses in the fall as part of this initiative. Stay tuned.
- No significant legislation for child care and background screening.
- Some changes to background screening disqualifications; allows an individual that has a previous offense to apply for an exemption as soon as all fees and fines are paid and the requisite timeframe of 3 years has passed. DHSMV changes to seat belt and safety restraints for children were expanded by age and weight of the child. This will not require any changes to the current DCF rules as they are required to comply with DHSMV standards already. Lastly, the Rilya Wilson Act was expanded to include children birth through 5 that are in child care instead of birth through 3. Protocols are already in place between the Office of Early Learning and the Department's Community Based Care agencies for placement and tracking purposes.
- Shared new faces and staff at the Department - Interim Secretary Mike Carroll; new position Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare is filled by Janice Thomas; and three Child Welfare Managers - Planning and Implementation; Operational Support; and Community Programs.

--Head Start State Collaboration Office--

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced a new \$500 million funding opportunity to expand access to high-quality, comprehensive services for low-income infants and toddlers and their families. This funding will support the creation of Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships and the expansion of Early Head Start services to children and families. Funding for EHS-CC Partnerships will encourage collaboration between new or existing Early Head Start grantees and child care providers to improve the quality of existing child care programs and expand access to high-quality care for infants and toddlers.

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama proposed a comprehensive plan to support high-quality early education for all children – from birth through school entry. That initiative included a new Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership, in which competitive grants would support communities that establish partnerships between Early Head Start and child care providers to expand the availability of high-quality infant and toddler care for children, from birth through age 3.

EHS-CC Partnerships also leverage existing Federal and state investments in child care subsidies. The partnerships support working families by providing a full-day, full-year program so that more vulnerable children have the healthy and enriching early experiences they need to realize their full potential. They can help ensure that a child's entire day in non-parental care takes place in an environment that meets federal EHS Program Performance Standards (HSPPS).

All agencies eligible to apply for EHS funds can apply for competitive partnership or expansion grants including territories, community organizations, non-profit or for-profit organizations, and state and local governments.

Organizations interested in applying for funding can find the funding announcement on the ACF website. Learn more about Early Head Start, Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care.

The Head Start State Collaboration Office held a workshop, in Orlando, on April 28, 2014 for interested applicants, in Florida. Presentations topics included: Early Head Start, School Readiness, Early Steps (by Lourdes Quintana), and Family Child Care. Jeff Fredericks, Regional Program Manager for Head Start, and Eric Blanchette, Regional Program Manager for Child Care, were both present.

The Head Start State Collaboration Office is planning to hold five regional Transition Summits which will bring together local teams to plan for transitions from home to Child Care or Part C; from Part C to Part B; from Early Head Start to Head Start; from child care to VPK and from VPK to kindergarten. These summits will take place in the fall. Planning is beginning in July.

Committee Reports

-Marketing & Partnership Committee-

Attendees - Laurie Blades, Sharon Paul, Donna Phillips, Debby Russo, Lou Ann Long, Kathleen Vergara, Lilli Copp, Suzanne Mahoney, Tameka Footman, Katie Williams, Ilene Wilkins, Renee Jenkins, Sue Cannon (phone), Lorraine Allen (phone)

Meeting facilitated by Laurie Blades in Johana Hatcher's absence.

FICCIT Annual Report

- Glossy report that goes to the Governor's office and legislators.
- The committee came to a consensus to change the name to clearly delineate.

Name Suggestions:

- FICCIT Governor's Report
 - May be confusing to other legislators
- FICCIT Annual Report

- FICCIT Status Report
- FICCIT Year in Review**
- In the FICCIT of Things
- The FICCIT Report**

**Top 2 name suggestions will be presented to the full council

- FICCIT needs to ask for data from ESSO earlier, use timeline, factor in time for the purchasing process, keep data consistent over time
 - Katie will send the timeline template for Laurie and/or Johana to send out
- Annual Report Committees:
 - Display & Design – Suzanne, Lorraine, Lou Ann
 - Family Stories – Sue Cannon & Sharon Paul
 - Committee will vote on top stories
 - Data – Laurie (and possibly Ellie) & Ilene
 - Content – the leads of each of the other committees will participate in this

Summary of Discussion:

FICCIT annual report goes to legislators, stakeholders, providers, other state agencies, and parents. The report should be tailored to meet the needs of each of these groups. Focus should include what FICCIT is doing and its purpose, in addition to highlighting the work of Early Steps. Laurie will make this suggestion to the full council.

Action Plan Update

- Website Change Request Form will be revised if necessary and sent to members through the Chair.
- FICCIT Facebook can no longer exist per DOH policies
- Membership recruitment flyer for parents
 - Designed for Family Café (however for some reason it did not make it on the FICCIT table). Suggestion that actual FICCIT applications should be available at next year's Family Café
 - Opportunities for distribution for recruitment:
 - All Family Resource Specialists
 - Early Steps providers
 - Service Coordinators
 - ESSO Weekly Memo
 - Other conferences and meetings - Lou Ann reminded group that there are events are posted on the Central Directory website.
- Advancing Marketing/Branding Strategies –
 - Marketing should be ongoing. This will be an ongoing general discussion for each Outreach Committee meeting.
 - There is current confusion about the roles of FICCIT vs. Early Steps. Parents don't know what/who FICCIT is.

-Provider Development and Training Supports Committee-

Attendees- Annalise Campisi, Kim Carr, Elizabeth Cayson, Sally Golden-McCord, Jamie Johnson, Brenda Jones- Garrett, Paula Kendig, Lourdes Quintana, April Smith, Liza Smith, Gail Underwood, Carole West

Guests- Mark Olson

Minutes from January 2014 Meeting

Not approved, as not circulated for prior review

ESSO Update

Liza Smith shared information from the Training Unit (see handout attached below). Additional discussion is documented here.

- ECPS
 - Ease of access has been discussed, including developing a repository of training and better use of technology

- Autism Navigator
 - Working with LES Training Coordinators to encourage completion
 - Approximately 30 hours
 - West Central ES participants meet weekly to complete modules as a group, on individual laptops
 - Local programs can send Liza contact information for new participants
 - Mastery level: The hope is to identify 5-10 people per LES to provide the coaching and mentoring for teams in their area
 - Learner Community: The next call is scheduled for 7-9-14. Participation is not yet at anticipated levels.
 - Autism Navigator for Primary Care Physicians: Not yet available; anticipate August 2014.
 - Autism Navigator About Autism
 - April questioned if there is a way that Dr. Wetherby and/ or ESSO can provide information to enrolled ES providers to strengthen communication from ESSO directly to providers. Liza stated there is not currently a reliable method for ESSO to obtain current and correct contact information through provider records.
 - Dr. Wetherby will provide public awareness of this module through multiple avenues.
 - Lourdes stated Central FL forwards local staff and training updates as an attachment to the Weekly Memo and distributes it to local providers.
- Evaluator Credentialing: Focus groups will occur in Gulf Coast, Southernmost Coast, SW FL, Treasure Coast and Gold Coast regions.
- Expanding Opportunities: Materials have been developed and are housed on the Central Directory website. Smaller, local workgroups are meeting to expand 3-5 year old screenings in some communities (such as Calhoun Co, per Paula). Screening concerns tend to be more prevalent in smaller, rural communities. Some communities have chosen not to complete regional inclusion plans for various reasons (lack of authoritative signatures, funding), but continue meeting and discussing issues.

ITDS Issues

Liza confirmed that most ITDS provider approvals are going through the waiver process. Waiver applications can be pended for additional information. Typically additional information is needed to better identify experience. Liza stated ESSO can reformat the experience form, to better capture the information needed.

April shared that, in previous positions, those ITDS-type candidates that did not have the minimum experience needed were enrolled but had to have quarterly onsite monitoring/ coaching during visits. Monitoring and coaching were provided by lead agency. Gail stated Medicaid will not accept a candidate without experience. Discussion included the possibility of a provisional ITDS who does not meet the experience requirement but is coached/ mentored through local programs. This could be similar to a speech therapist's clinical year, and allows for relevant experience. Discussion also included whether ESSO should consider submitting a request to Medicaid for differentiated rates for licensed vs nonlicensed early interventionists/ ITDSs based on education level, licensure and/ or experience. Liza has the ITDS requirements per ESSO, CMS enrollment and Medicaid, and she can also provide additional data on the approval rate (over a designated time period, such as 3 years). Local programs would need to provide additional data to determine if they are still providing services through ES. It was agreed that PDAT would facilitate the next Directors/ Coordinators Cohort call to gather information and input regarding ITDS university coursework certification, waiver process, current recruiting efforts, and whether issues are consistent across the state. Discussion will include:

- Waiver process- Are local programs still using it? What is the approval vs denied rate? What is included in the review process? How long should the waiver process continue?
- University coursework- Is it still provided? How long should the coursework process continue? If it was offered at the undergraduate level (vs currently at graduate level) would it attract more candidates? Gail stated Medicaid most likely would not have an issue moving it to the undergraduate level. Would it better serve ES recruitment efforts to offer university coursework as a summer institute?
- Experience documentation- Input regarding how experience is documented on the form. Are local internships in place? Input on how to provide such opportunities.

- Carole and Paula will identify who participated on the original TEC committee, where the ITDS provider designation was developed. It may be helpful to engage previous participants in the current conversation, if available.

Provider Recruitment Plan

The impact of the Medicaid MMA/s on local provider pools is of significant concern. Local programs continue to seek guidance from ESSO and Medicaid on how to move forward and address the issues. Gail stated any policy changes must go through Derica Smith, the new EI liaison. Gail will continue to do monitoring.

LIZA SMITH-

ESSO Training Update

July8, 2014

EARLY CHILDHOOD PERSONNEL CENTER (ECPA TA PROJECT)

The ECPC is a national resource on the professional develop of personnel providing early interventions services. The ECPC has agreed to provide intensive technical assistance on the development and implementation of an integrated and comprehensive system of professional development for Early Steps staff and providers.

Outcome: Sustainable Professional Development Framework for Florida that will incorporate

1. Core knowledge
2. Provider competencies
3. Provider support
4. Quality Assurance
5. Ease of access

AUTISM NAVIGATOR

We have another cohort of providers going through the Autism Navigator Training (about 230).

The Mastery Level: to gain more experience practicing and implementing the concepts and to become autism specialists who can provide mentorship and support the coaching of early intervention teams in their region.

Autism Navigator Learner Community

This monthly event is for users of the Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers. Attendees are encouraged to share how they are applying what they have learned in the work setting and to ask questions with the Community during the session.

Autism Navigator for Primary Care Physicians

- Includes the Early Screening for Autism and Communication Disorders (ESAC)
- It is completed online by families in the doctor's office or from home with automated scoring and reporting of results, and is linked to electronic health records and to tools in the Autism Navigator to provide families with current online information about core diagnostic features, prevalence, causes, and why screening and early detection are critical at this young age

About Autism

- A tool for families, professionals, or anyone interested in learning about ASD. It is available free of charge
- They will learn about the core diagnostic features of autism, current information on prevalence and causes of autism, and the critical importance of early detection and early intervention

EVALUATOR CREDENTIAL

Purpose: The purpose of creating a new personnel credentialing process is to ensure fidelity of test administration and to support a high level of compliance and consistency in determining services for infants and toddlers and their families.

Status: The Advisory Group which is a mandated part of this process was formed and has met several times since January. The last meeting was in April and since that time Gary and his team have completed the following:

- Conducted online surveys with parents, staff, and evaluators
- Identified training and content areas
- Developed a draft list of critical skills for each of the content area
- Identified five LES focus areas to conduct interviews with staff, providers and families

WEBSITE RENOVATION

We are working closely with our web master to redesign the Early Steps training page on the CMS website. We are also working with FSU and our DOH IT Department to get the Service Coordinator Apprenticeship Training and the Orientation Modules on our website so that we can update with new policy.

Create a Professional Development Training and Resource Library on CMS-KIDS website

- Renovate training page on CMS website
- Review, evaluate, and organize current training materials and resources
- Update training resources
- Develop new training tools and resources

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Infuse IMH training and best practices into the ES service delivery system

- Offer relevant training to providers and service coordinators
- Establish Learning Community for IMH Providers
- Embed the 7 Protective Factors in Training Resources
- Encourage routine use of the ASQ-SE
- CAPTA - Improve the process for identification, referral, and screening
- Identify screening and evaluation tools for IMH (see ECTA website)

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION

Expanding Opportunities is a cross-agency group whose goal is to expand high quality inclusive opportunities for young children with disabilities and their families through collaborative partnerships.

Accomplishments:

1. Inclusion Flyer for Public Awareness
2. Count Me In: Resources for Early Childhood Inclusion
3. Targeted Competencies for Specialists supporting Inclusion

Focus on Child Find:

Concerns were identified related to Child Find. Specifically, concern was shared about the fact that infants and toddlers under age 3 are not getting screened and referred for services.

This confirms the need to collaborate with local school districts, FDLRS, and other community partners to conduct mass screenings for children 6 months to 5 years instead of 3 to 5 years. We need to work together to increase these opportunities.

You can find information about Ex Op and Inclusion resources on the Central Directory Website.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Date: May 13.15, 2015

Location: Orlando

Hotel: Caribe Royale

Partners: DOE (BEES), OEL, TATS, EHS, CPT, Children's Forum, FAIMH, MIECHV, DCF?

Focus: Building relationships and improving the social-emotional development of our children and their families.