

Early Intervention Planning Council August 8, 2007

Members present

John Brandon
Doris Clark
Lonnell Conley
John Kennedy
Brant Ping

Members not present

Rhonda Allen
Judge Moores
Marilyn Pfisterer
Christina Ball
Kent Burrow
Patricia Jones

Staff present

Eric Wright
Laura Littlepage
John Neal
Tom Stuckey

John Brandon: Since Rhonda Allen is not here, I will chair the meeting. Let's skip approval of the minutes because we do not have a quorum. The meeting convened at 8:05.

Eric Wright: Introduced John Neal again who has an update.

John Neal: There are three items before you today. We are working on the agency specific information and should have it by September meeting. The second topic that I wanted to present to you is one of the handouts. It is the compilation of funding sources. A draft of the initial compilation, the funds, eligibility, amounts. This would accompany the complete agency compilation so that when it is referred you can better understand the funding sources that you may not be familiar with. We are going to add information as we identify additional funding sources. We will also include aggregate dollar amounts to provide perspective. Take a look at it at your convenience, is this the kind of information that you would find useful and are there other funding sources that we should include? This is the initial version of it. The third topic is a research question – in light of some of the recent events do you want EIPC to look at local property rates. Should we treat it as one of a number of funding sources or a discussion focus?

John Brandon: We need to be able to know how local property taxes are a source for child welfare. They would want to know and speak definitively.

Lonnell Conley: We shouldn't duck that issue even though it is controversial right now.

Eric Wright: One of the assumptions we have worked under is that we need to identify new revenue sources. Property taxes are one of those ways. Any comments on the draft document?

Doris Clark: I like the details.

Eric Wright: Last time we talked about the implementation of a survey of child serving agencies. You have copies of the research questions to guide the survey. Our proposal was a nongovernmental agency which would need better data. We started with a rainbow book model and expanded it. I drafted the key research questions, a list of which is in front of you. I am passing around an example of a survey that I did of mental health providers. Part of that was a list of interviewees and they can check those they work with, refer to, etc., and do a network analysis. We would set up a data base that could be accessed.

John Kennedy: Has anyone talked to Connect 2?

Eric Wright: We started with them. But the level of detail they have is not what we need.

John Kennedy: I know that JDAI is interested in this. I got a disk that you can put the ZIP code in and see what is near them.

Eric Wright: We will follow up with them and send out to you the list of agencies. The literacy support groups may not be in it. One limitation is that it doesn't have an estimate of number of kids served now.

Doris Clark: Who has responsibility for Connect2?

John Brandon: It is UWCI funded but it is its own organization. I don't know if they receive any public dollars.

John Kennedy: We looked at their software and structure. Someone should have a sidebar conversation with them.

Eric Wright: We might be able to feed information to them to augment what they have. Any questions about the research questions?

Lonnell Conley: I will check with Jean when I get back. They had a meeting while I was gone and may have some answers to some of these questions.

Brant Ping: How deep are you going to go? For morale, you might get a different answer if you ask the staff or the CEO.

Eric Wright: Do we want to go that deep?

Laura Littlepage: If we look at turnover and tenure, it can be an indirect indicator.

Eric Wright: Once the students get back, in a week and half, they will get started on the draft, etc., so we should have a draft for you to review in September.

John Kennedy: Will these agencies be notified by phone?

Eric Wright: We will send a letter first signed by Rhonda, Judge Moores, and others on the EIPC to tell them how important it is.

John Brandon: So you will use a combination of personal, web, phone to get this information?

Eric Wright: We are starting a long-term planning process. We have covered the treatment, but want an early intervention and prevention. We will coordinate with the JDAI effort.

Tom Stuckey: I have been talking to Judge Collins and we will talk to them.

John Kennedy: We want to be aware of parallel processes.

Eric Wright: Judge Moores mentioned that they had done some mapping.

John Kennedy: Of where the kids are coming in the system--what neighborhoods and what services are there.

Brant Ping: We need to break out the referrals to see if they came from DCS, court, or community.

Eric Wright: They are focused more on treatment, than prevention.

John Kennedy: What is happening in this county is unique. You have changing systems. The JJ has never been challenged to look upstream before. Child welfare and JJ have the same goal to divert kids from systems. Look at the neighborhood to keep kids engaged so they don't end up in systems. The alternative to detention is upstream. They are interested.

John Brandon: The common process is that everyone is trying to become data driven so that as we move forward we are knowledge based not seat of the pants. Can we figure out what is happening now so we can come to an understanding?

John Kennedy: They are the same kids, same families. It is just a matter of time to go from one system to another.

Lonnell Conley: How much shared information is there to track?

Eric Wright: We don't have a good sense of communication among these agencies. How can we bring a broad range of services to get kids from even getting to the court's attention?

John Kennedy: What we are learning would inform other systems.

Eric Wright: We need to be clear on what we are including--Mom and Pop and more formal alternative and treatment--what is the range in there. We have had conversations, but we will talk with them again. Everyone has the same set of problems with getting data. Are there questions that should be added? We can cast the net broadly and then worry about the length of the survey.

Doris Clark: I like the format you had in the survey you pass around with layers of agency. It gets at the level of sophistication.

Eric Wright: I think it will help us think about things in a different way.

Tom Stuckey: My only question is to make sure that the agencies covered include prevention agencies, such as literacy, nutrition, etc. A life course perspective is important both in terms of the agencies and how we structure the survey.

Eric Wright: In the program document we came up with, we had a list. The deeper we dig, the more agencies we are going to survey. There are a lot of literacy programs. Early childhood development centers--how far do we want to go? Focus on services that have efficacy in intervention and prevention.

Tom Stuckey: I want to be sure that we are cognizant at the outset so that we make strategic decisions at the outset. Since we're at this point it makes sense of think about how we are going to cover whole spectrum.

Lonnell Conley: How deep we go offsets the other. That would determine that. If it clarifies what the need is, then we have reached our goal.

John Brandon: If you have any further thoughts, send them to Eric.

Eric Wright: You will receive an e-mail with a list of the agencies we have, and copies of the surveys you got, plus a list of literacy agencies. Do you want to talk about the proposal?

Lonnell Conley: I will ask Jean to bring us up to date. That would give us more in-depth information. I know there has been discussion. I know that they should have some data on some of this.

John Neal: Is there a geographic focus on areas of greatest risk or county as a whole?

Eric Wright: In our epidemiological analysis we can map some of the issues. We are a countywide council.

Lonnell Conley: I will get an update and send to Laura who will share it with the group.

John Brandon: We are adjourned at 9:30.