

Minutes of Early Intervention Planning Council  
Wednesday May 9, 2007

Members Present

Doris Clark  
Patricia Jones  
Marilyn Pfisterer  
Rhonda Allen  
John Brandon  
Dr. Barbara Gillenwaters  
Christina Ball  
Brant Ping

Members not present

Judge Marilyn Moores  
Kent Burrow  
John Kennedy  
Lonnell Conley

IUPUI Staff present

Eric Wright  
Laura Littlepage  
Drew Klacik  
Liz Watkins

Meeting convened at 8:15 a.m. One correction was made to the minutes, changing Rhonda Allen Allen to Rhonda Allen. With that change, the minutes were unanimously approved.

With the introduction of the new member, Doris Clark, each person introduced themselves.

Drew Klacik made his presentation on the finances. The Power Point will be posted with the minutes.

Eric Wright - On slide 6 it shows that we access fewer federal dollars than other states. One thing that we have heard as a possible cause of this is that counties will not use Medicaid dollars, but county dollars when things might be eligible for payment under Medicaid.

Rhonda Allen - When a child comes into the system, they are automatically eligible. If they are still at home, then their parents' income determines their eligibility. There are some problems with low reimbursement rates and a lack of providers who will take Medicaid. Could it be from Title IV-E? Less and less children are eligible, because the working poor are not eligible. Another issue is the community mental health centers. Some of them still use the traditional medical model--the child makes an appointment, comes to them. If the child doesn't show up, it is just a missed appointment. They don't go out and look for the child.

Brant Ping - We give extra points for Medicaid eligibility for providers on most of our contracts. Most of our contracts specify to bill Medicaid first.

Drew Klacik - I hear you say that possibly our poor aren't as poor as the poor in other states. We need to figure that out.

Eric Wright - If it is the gap population, say between 100% and 200% of poverty, that group is where prevention needs to occur. It is difficult to get our arms around the system.

Rhonda Allen - On page 15 the program areas do not translate into local budgets. How does this fit into the budget structure?

Eric Wright - These are the federal categories.

Drew Klacik - Give us the categories you would like to see and we will do it both ways.

Rhonda Allen - That sounds good.

Eric Wright - Doing it this way helps us compare to the nation, the other way shows the interface at the local level.

Patricia Jones - Have you seen any race or gender trends?

Eric Wright - We do not have that level of data yet. We are exploring several ways to deal with the issues of data. The lack of computerization is a sticking point. There is a note on updating CWIS, a short-term investment to allow for computerization for approximately \$240,000. If you would like to explore this, we could get a detailed budget and come back to the June meeting with more detail.

Marilyn Pfisterer - Kent is not here. Are you thinking of doing this for 2008? Is this software?

Eric Wright - Yes, it is software, with additions to the system so it can be automated. This is a good opportunity where we could build capacity of the system.

Marilyn Pfisterer - Would it have other benefits?

Eric Wright - It could reduce costs by reducing paperwork.

Rhonda Allen - It could. It takes 13 people every month to process the paper. Right now if I go to the city-county council I can't break down anything. What I keep hearing from the council is they want to know how many kids were being served. This is a system that was developed in 1977, very archaic, breaks down. It dumps data for no good reason. Given all that, it is pretty amazing we get things done. I don't know how much it would cost to update it. There is another database that the state uses--ICWIS--all the kids are in that system but there is no financial module. We don't pay claims through it. At some point we will have to pay claims through it due to federal mandates. That may be another mechanism to get this data.

Marilyn Pfisterer - So this would be duplicative? Is ICWIS federally mandated?

Rhonda Allen - It is federally mandated but we are not there yet. It is working in smaller communities.

Eric Wright - We need to ask the state where they are in the process of adding the financial module on ICWIS for Marion County, and then develop this proposal further, if need be.

Eric Wright - Before I forget, a reminder that the June meeting is on June 20 at DCS, not here. We had discussed breaking the draft plan into components. The draft resolution before you is the first of our efforts to enable recommendation number one: organize the nonprofit sector. We worked with John Brandon on the description and the budget. This will strengthen early intervention services by investing in an agency coordinating nonprofit sector that can do development work across system. That's what is before you.

Marilyn Pfisterer - When are we trying to do this?

Eric Wright - We would like to get this to council before July 1.

Brant Ping - Is this what we were thinking of out of the comptroller's office?

Eric Wright - No, this is for the nonprofits. We are operating at two levels: system level and child level. We need somebody to invest in that. We definitely want to have connections to comptroller, etc. The council did not want us to create another council, child coordinating council. Why create another body? For the system level this group is fine. The ordinance also establishes a direct service provider; longer term solution and significant amount of investment.

Brant Ping - Do you see the duties as separate from the child protection team?

Rhonda Allen - Yes, they focus on issues related to safety of particular cases, and this is system level.

Marilyn Pfisterer - We are talking about half a million for just today. If you have any suggestions for funding, bring it with the proposal.

Doris Clark - Is MCCOY an existing organization?

Eric Wright - Yes and John Brandon is the director. He does pieces of this now. He needs more budget to scale up. A lot of small neighborhood organizations can't afford a development director. Some foundations have also asked for this. Develop it as a system. Theoretical continuum of services--back end, but also build front end. After school programs, neighborhood programs, etc.

John Brandon - MCCOY is the youth services intermediary for Marion County, central Indiana. We coordinated the strategic planning process. We have been immersed in this. Everyone wants coordination, but have to have the funds to do this. Dedicate time and resources and identify

folks and bring them into a bigger net. Construct a safety net of supports and resources for families and children.

Eric Wright - We will bring this back to the June meeting. Send us your edits and we will circulate to the next meeting. Is everyone comfortable with EIPC as the vehicle? (Heads nod)

Patricia Jones - Drew, I appreciate your coming back to the EIPC.

Rhonda Allen - Is there any other business? Seeing none, we are adjourned at 9:30 a.m.