

Minutes from the May 7, 2008 joint LICC meeting

Attendees: Jan Salwocki, CSIU Preschool; Jessica Bower, PA Department of Health; Delle Moyer, Columbia Sullivan Head Start; Diane Roman, Northumberland County Early Intervention; Patty Edwards, Snyder, Union, Mifflin Child Development/Head Start; Ruth Brewer, CSIU Preschool; Denise Wehr-Wetzel, Snyder, Union, Mifflin Child Development/PEEK; Susan Miller, CSIU Preschool; Gayle Schlessinger, CSIU Head Start & Early Care Coalition of Northumberland County, Valerie Martin, The ARC, Northumberland County; Mary Mahoney-Ferster, Early Care Coalition/Community Engagement Group (CEG) of Union/Snyder Counties and Becky Laubach, CMSU 0-3 Early Intervention

Community Events

- May 14, 2008 - Family Fun Day at Knoebel's, Elysburg
- May 16, 2008 - Information on Happy Baby & Happy Toddler at Wysock, 9:30-12:30, cost \$5
- May 19, 2008 - Spring Institute for Department of Health at the Penn Stater Conference Center, State College
- May 28, 2008 - Early Childhood Conference, St Luke's Church, Bloomsburg
- July 10, 2008 - Healthy Care Update will include Happy Toddler training

Program Updates

Kathie Snow committee reported that the Kathie Snow presentation was successful. Approximately 250 individuals attended including college students, agency personnel and family members.

Knoebels committee reported that programs planning to participate in the Family Fun Day on May 14th will provide for their own expenses including the tickets or hand stamps. Everyone is looking forward to this time with families.

Early Intervention: Beginning July 1, 2008 both age groups will be using the same forms for the evaluation and service plan. The goal is to help further understanding of similarities by using the same language as well as to aid parents in the transition between programs. Jan reported that Joan Horton of CSIU will be doing a training on Differentiated Instruction for Preschool Practitioners with preschool staff during the summer. Jan will let 0-3 know details in case staff are able to attend. It is also open to Head Start and other programs working with preschool aged children. Jan also reported on an opportunity presented by Dr. Maguire of Geisinger Medical Center. He called Jan regarding details of services for autism that he could share with residents in his department. He invited Jan to attend on May 13th. Jan and Julie Robinson, CSIU school psychologist will attend and will give out contact information to the residents on the local early intervention programs. Jan also shared with the group information on Positive Behavior Supports. The IU has identified core trainers and each identified group will have a core member at each site. This core member will aid the group in implementing Positive Behavior Supports. There is a cost associated with this training. Jan did not elaborate on the cost merely stating that the more sites/groups identified and participate in the training reduces the cost for each participating group. This venture is in relation to the Preschool Behavior Task Force. The first training will be held on July 21st & 22nd at CSIU in Montandon. 0-3 is invited to send someone to help figure out how to implement this in home based programs as the training module is based on classroom programs.

Community Engagement: The group discussed the recent letter received from OCDEL regarding increased collaboration between the CEGs and the LICCs. Jessica identified what other area groups have done which include a merger. Given the structure of the five county area which includes 4 CEGs, it was agreed that a merger would be unlikely at this time. The group did review the extensive nature of collaboration. There are several agencies that sit on both groups and information is routinely shared across the groups. The group agreed that the level of collaboration and joint ventures is sufficient at this time.

Head Start: Both Head Start and Early Head Start require documentation about venous lead testing for each child enrolled. Head Start has found that either the physician is not documenting the information on the Health Summary or that a finger prick lead test has been done. The group engaged in discussion on how to help Head Start obtain the needed information to meet this requirement. Jessica suggested that Pinnacle Health be contacted as they provide a lead mobile for the Department of Health when they do lead screenings. She also suggested that the Head Starts join together to develop a letter that could be sent to local pediatricians regarding the need for venous lead testing with supporting statements from the American Association of Pediatrics and the Department of Health.

Pre-K Counts: Lewisburg School District is pursuing a grant for a Pre-K Counts program. Lewisburg Children's Center will provide space for them. Heavenly Angels, a Snyder County child care program has also applied for a grant. It was noted that there are more applications than available dollars. Pre-K Counts will run 180 days. It was reported that families are pursuing Pre-K Counts programs over Head Start programs.

New Business:

The group selected next year's meeting dates and locations.

July 2, 2008 @ CSIU office in Montandon - 12:30 – 2:30

Sept 3, 2008 @ Grove Presbyterian Church in Danville – 12:30 – 2:30

Nov 5, 2008 @ Northumberland MH/MR office in Sunbury – 12:30 – 2:30

Jan 7, 2009 @ Early Head Start Family Center in Mifflinburg – 12:30 – 2:30

Mar 4, 2009 @ CSIU office in Montandon – 12:30 – 2:30

May 6, 2009 @ Grove Presbyterian Church in Danville – 12:30 – 2:30

The group also developed a tentative work plan for the agreements. Topics identified:

1. Work with local physicians and Head Start programs regarding venous lead testing
2. Support the implementation of Positive Behavior Supports at the preschool level including home based programs
3. Consider merging the LICCs. The group identified the need for approval for voting memberships, signatories, county administration, state ICC and OCDEL.
4. Continued interagency collaboration specific to transition
5. Transition to school-age. OCDEL & PDE are working together on this transition so direction will come from them. It is noted that 2 years ago the CEGs were mandated to work with early childhood community and school districts around transition. It was further noted that each county performs this differently. One issue that has come up that has a significant impact on this transition is school readiness. Not everyone is aware of the research into school readiness and therefore it is possible that

statements are made without the research to support it. Jan stated that she will look into the research and develop sound information that can be shared with families and districts alike.

6. Continued development of relationships with Geisinger residents in neurology and expand this into other areas.

Next meeting: July 2, 2008 CSIU office in Montandon 12:30 PM