

Minutes of the Central Susquehanna Local Interagency Coordinating Council and the Northumberland County Local Interagency Coordinating Council Joint Meeting
July 1, 2009

In attendance: Jan Salwocki, CSIU Preschool; Mary Mahoney-Ferster, Union/Snyder Community Engagement Group, Jessica Bower, Pennsylvania Department of Health; Crystie Fritz, Columbia Montour Snyder Union Service Coordinator, Ruth Brewer, CSIU Social Worker, Cassandra Weaver, Danville Head Start Education Manager, Diane Roman, Northumberland County Early Intervention, Kathy Hollabaugh, Northumberland County Early Intervention, Patty Edwards, SUM CD Head Start, Denise Wehr Wetzel, SUM CD PEEK, and Becky Laubach, Columbia Montour Snyder Union 0-3 Supervisor

Program Updates:

Early Intervention: Both CMSU and Northumberland County are using PELICAN (new database system the state is using). So far, both programs like the database and report that it is easy to use. CSIU 3-5 has requested to be a pilot for Preschool PELICAN. Both programs will begin using Ounce Online and Work Sampling Online July 1st. OCDEL has issued a revised announcement regarding the transition between 0-3 & 3-5; included within this announcement is children who are referred within 90 days of being 3. There have been some issues raised with this that EI programs are waiting for response. There is still discussion about a state wide session note; the release has been delayed as OCDEL is revisiting the format and required content.

Dept of Health: Beginning today, the DOH is responsible for follow-up if an additional 22 conditions checked at newborn screenings tested positive. The state pays for 6 as those are mandated; Jessica is not sure who pays for the remaining tests. Jessica shared an updated brochure that hospitals will be giving out to parents. The screening results are back within 2-3 days. Jessica also shared a listing of available health care services and programs.

Danville Head Start: They are applying for an Early Head Start grant. They had their review in May and everything went well.

Union/Snyder Community Engagement Group: The Daily Item is running a series on child development. She mentioned the new Learning is Everywhere calendar that all counties have received to share with families. Mary stated that the Welcome to Kindergarten kit is being published. She has available contact kits for legislators that anyone can use; there is also a brochure designed for the business community about the benefits of early learning.

SUM CD Head Start: They are submitting for an expansion grant for Early Head Start – combined home/center based. Head Start has applied for improvement (unlikely to get as it is nationwide). They are moving forward with 5 day week. They have positions posted on their website – looking for bus drivers (offering to fill with other duties onsite).

Family Committee: They held 4 days across the counties and are looking for feedback regarding the success. The group discussed sending out a survey to 0-5 staff for feedback. It was noted that the days were successful as they were able to show families how to work with the children in playground settings as well as how to use seasons to teach their children. It was felt that staff needed clearer directions. The suggestion was made to introduce families to IU staff which would help with transition. The group also discussed rotating sites to target higher population areas and discussed possible sites and planning dates for the coming year. The CEGs will be able to help with costs as well as the group wants to look at including possible Parent Child Home Project and Nurse Family Partnership.

New Business: The group discussed budget conditions and implications as well as what individuals can do to support legislators. The group also discussed including within the Family Fun Days ways to provide parent trainings (handouts, specific trainings with staff during fun day) and to make sure that the work plan includes CEGs, Nurse Family Partnership and Parent Child Home Project.

Next Meeting: The next joint LICC meeting will be held at the Grove Presbyterian Church on Bloom Road in Danville on Sept 2, 2009 from 10 am – 12 pm.