

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 Program Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)		Attending: Julie Walsh, Jennifer Bibler, Virginia Brath, Linda Hall, Lisa Hankes, Laura Holmes, Kristine Nadolski, Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Deb Rathemmel, Lisa Roberts, Lisa Subeck, Theresa Wixom
Date: 10/20/2021	Time Started: 9:03 a.m.	Time Ended: 11:11 a.m.
Location: Zoom Conference Call		Presiding Officer: Julie Walsh, Chair

Minutes

Welcome:

Call to Order at 9:03 a.m.

General Business:

- Approval of May 7, 2021, Draft Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Linda Hall seconded by Laura Holmes to approve minutes approved. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of July 16, 2021, Draft Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Virginia Brath seconded by Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail to approve minutes approved. Motion passed unanimously.
- No council member updates and announcements were provided.

Public Comments

- No public appearances.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

A review of the recommendations and next steps of the ARPA funds was shared. Wisconsin's Birth to 3 Program will receive approximately \$3.3 Million in funding. The intent is to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and families and specifically assisting those children and families disproportionately affected by the pandemic. This is one-time funding and must supplement, not supplant, local and state funding. Actions must integrate racial health disparities improvements.

After engagement with stakeholders, the following three primary focus areas were identified:

- Professional development and workforce sustainability supports, which includes hiring an Evidence-Based Practices in Early Intervention Project Lead to research, recommend and initiate implementation of evidence-based practice for implementation across programs; this topic area will include approximately \$1.5 million.
- Information Systems, which includes exploring systems changes; this topic area will include approximately \$300,000.
- Child and family-focused pandemic recovery supports, which includes a one-time grant opportunity, anticipated to be released in January or February 2022; this topic area will include approximately \$1.5 million.

Annual Performance Report (APR) Improvement Activities

- Family Experience survey update

A review of the Birth to 3 Program Family Experience survey changes was provided. As part of the annual federal reporting to the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP), BCS must report on family outcomes, Indicator 4, which includes data about how helpful early intervention has been to help families in three areas:

- Know and understand their rights
- Communicate their child's needs
- Help their child develop and learn

This data is currently obtained through an annual survey. The following changes have been implemented to target improvement in responses, with a focus on racial and ethnic diversity.

- Length of survey, which was shortened to only include questions directly related to the impact of early intervention on families and the demographics questions from the national Early Child Outcomes (ECO) family outcomes survey.
- Timing of survey. The survey will be sent to all participants after transition from the Birth to 3 Program.

Also, developed a fact sheet for program staff to share the importance of the survey and the new structure. The first round of surveys was distributed in October.

- Determinations

A review of Wisconsin's annual state and county determinations was shared. The federal determinations process includes the following categories. Wisconsin's determinations process was also revised in 2019 to reflect these two categories

- Results measures
- Compliance measures

The APR improvement strategy workgroup is reassessing the scoring of the determinations due to continued challenges in child outcomes performance and an intention to focus more specifically on improving the impact that the Birth to 3 Program has on children's development. Additional detail will be shared at future meetings.

CESA 5 Professional Development and 2022 Training Planning

Michelle Davies, the director of the CESA 5 Regional Enhancement and Support (RESource) Project provided a high-level summary of changes that will be implemented with this professional development contract for the 2021-22 year. The focus is to create and sustain a workforce professional development that supports highly trained and qualified early intervention staff and positive outcomes for children and families. This contract year will be a transformative year, including stakeholder outreach and close work with the Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) to identify and begin implementation of changes.

The RESource Project is also included as a key part of the ARPA project work, specifically in the area of professional development, currently hiring an Evidence-Based Practices in Early Intervention Project Lead. This position will research, analyze, recommend, and support initial implementation of practices, models, and tools that result in improved outcomes for children and families enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program.

The Birth to 3 Program has release dates for the orientation modules directed toward new Birth to 3 Program staff, including service coordinators, educators, therapists, program coordinators, and county leadership.

Child Find Project

BCS staff provided a review of recent state-level child find activities, the materials available to families and referral partners starting in June 2020 and through May 2021. The goal throughout both campaigns has been to reach as many families as possible with information about early intervention and the Birth to 3 Program to support referrals and enrollment. Referrals have increased significantly, and enrollment continues to increase gradually every month.

ICC members suggested the following areas as a possible next steps: connect with social media, examine referral and enrollment data by region, understand workforce needs, and examine barriers for engagement with families of color.

Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) Updates:

- New BCS Section Manager, David Sorenson
- Social and Emotional Innovation Grants

- Innovation grants will be ending in December 2021. Grantees are required to provide a final report and provide a presentation, which will include ICC members.
- Program Review Protocol Changes
 - The Program Review Protocol to measure the quality and impact of Birth to 3 Program activities was first implemented in January 2020. Changes were made to the protocol for 2021 that narrowing the scope and updated scoring calculations. Counties provided feedback resulting in a pause to reviews, revision of the scoring metric and reviews has now resumed.
- Birth to 3 Program Manual
 - BCS developed a Birth to 3 Program Operations Guide, to provide a comprehensive resource for state and federal requirements for Birth to 3 Programs and staff. After stakeholder input, the Birth to 3 Program Operations Guide is being finalized and expected to be issued via memo by the end of 2021.
- Improving Access for Children coming from Child Welfare Project
 - Two years ago, BCS and the Department of Children and Families automated referrals from child welfare to the Birth to 3 Program under the federal Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Act (CAPTA) for children under the age of 3 who have had a substantiation of child abuse or neglect. Both departments have been monitoring the automated referral process and determined it is working as intended.
 - The next step is provision of services to these children and families, which includes the following project goals:
 - The work is to improve access and outcomes for families referred by Child Protective Services (CPS) to the Birth to 3 Program.
 - Increase family engagement
 - Increasing enrollment of children referred due to CAPTA.

Wrap Up and Action Items:

- ICC members will continue to send in information and recommendations for use of ARPA and improvement of child outcomes to the bureau.
- The next ICC meeting date is January 26, 2022, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Topics will include review of the APR and ARPA project activities.
- Laura Holmes moved to adjourn; Lisa Roberts seconded.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Prepared by: Clara De La Garza on 10/20/2021.