

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)			Attending: Ginger Brath, Provider (Chair) Jacci Borchardt, Provider
Date: 9/11/2024	Time Started: 9:00AM	Time Ended: 11:57AM	Jillian Clemens, Department of Children and Families (DCF) Daria Hall, DCF Linda Hall, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)/Office of Children's Mental Health Lisa Hankes, DCF (left at 9:56 AM) Jenna Jacobson, State Legislator Rebecca Jarzynski, Personnel Preparation Jill Kelly, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance Kristine Nadolski, Department of Public Instruction (DPI)/McKinney-Vento Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent Kelly Pethke, Provider Deb RATHERMEL, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services Trisha Wicinsky, Provider Theresa Wixom, Parent (left at 9:56 AM)
			Council Members Excused: Jennifer Bibler, DPI State Attendees: Elias Garringer (BCS), Regena Floyd-Sambou (BCS), Lucas Knight (BFAM), Lori Whittemann (BCS), Dana Romary (BCS), Dan Kramarz (BCS), Sarah Pitsoulakis (BCS) Presenters: Lana Edwards (RESouce), Becky Hoffman (RESouce) Clare O'Brien (Milwaukee County), Christina Courtney (Brown County) Public Attendees: Shantelle Petroff, Dolly Catlin
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath

Minutes

Welcome:

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introductions
- Council Members Updates and Announcements
 - Lisa Hankes announced a quality improvement project to enhance collaboration between child welfare and partners including Birth to 3 Program providers.
 - Linda Hall announced the release of a “Feelings Thermometer” for ages 0-5, which has been distributed to all licensed childcare providers in the state. The tool is available on <https://children.wi.gov/>.

- Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail announced a series of new workshops and events to support parents.
- Jacci Borchardt announced the release of a new vision screening tool for the Birth to 3 population. The tool is available on the DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/f-00726>. It will be presented to providers in the fall.
- In the chat, Jillian Clemens announced that the Federal Office of Head Start approved a large set of new rules for Head Start. She is reviewing them to see if there are any implications for early intervention services.
- ICC Chair Nominations and Council Vote
 - Deb Rathemel asked whether there were any nominations for the ICC Chair.
 - Ginger Brath nominated herself to continue as the ICC Chair.
 - Deb Rathemel called for a vote. All in favor, no one opposed. No discussion.
 - The Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) will submit the ICC's recommendation to the Governor.

Public Comments:

- Dolly Catlin works in a substance use recovery facility. She is hoping to learn more about early intervention services because her employer is building a new facility for pregnant women and will be hosting children 0-5 while their mothers attend residential programs.

General Business:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2024
 - Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail moved to accept the Minutes.
 - Jenna Jacobson seconded. Motion passed.

Wisconsin Birth to Three Data:

- Elias Garringer reviewed referral, enrollment, and disenrollment data from April to June 2024 for Wisconsin's Birth to 3 Program.
- Elias presented referral data on the number of referrals, demographics of children who were referred, and referral source; enrollment data on the number of enrollments, demographics of children who enrolled, and enrollment reason; and disenrollment data on the number of disenrollments, demographics of children who disenrolled, and disenrollment reason.
- A council member asked whether there is significance to the fact that referral numbers are lower this year compared to last year while enrollment numbers are similar this year compared to last year.
 - There was discussion that the data reflect a snapshot in time and there may be updates as children continue to move through the referral and enrollment process.
- A council member asked whether we should do historical tracking of race and ethnicity demographics to monitor trends over time.
- A council member asked why there is a difference between the referral and enrollment numbers for Black/African American children.
 - There was discussion that these numbers do not necessarily track the same children because the data reflect a snapshot in time.
- A council member asked whether further research might be done regarding overrepresentation in the program from the Hispanic/Latino population. One concern is whether these numbers might reflect over-diagnosis of children in this population.
 - BCS has reviewed the data internally and can share this information at a future ICC meeting.
- A council member asked whether the use of new tools for determining eligibility has affected the percentage of enrollments due to a 25% delay versus "atypical development."
 - BCS can bring this analysis to a future ICC meeting.
- A member of the public asked the council how frequently BCS reviews data regarding transitions, and BCS shared that it plans to present its analysis of that data at a future meeting.
- Elias Garringer presented on the October 1st Child Count Survey. Elias presented data on total cumulative enrollment for FY 2023 as compared to the past three fiscal years and changes for the same period in population estimates for children under 3 and demographics.

Annual Determinations:

- Regena Floyd-Sambou presented Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program State and Local Determinations for FFY 2022.
- Regena presented an overview of the Birth to 3 Program Determination process as well as a summary of Wisconsin's performance.
- Regena presented data regarding county determinations including the distribution of county determinations, child outcome scores, overall scores, data quality and completeness scores, and scores for compliance and other indicators. She also shared data regarding child outcomes as compared to other states.
- Regena presented a summary of the follow-up and technical assistance provided to counties regarding their determinations, including Technical Assistance (TA) Forums and individual county TA meetings.
- No questions.

Professional Development in Birth to Three Program, RESource Update:

- Presenters Lana Edwards and Becky Hoffman provided a summary of their 2023-2024 PD Workplan and reviewed progress on the 2024-2025 PD Workplan.
- RESource released a survey for the workforce in April of this year and concluded it in June. It will use the results to inform future efforts.
- RESource hosts quarterly Leadership Forums to share professional development updates, seek input, and encourage discussion. Data was presented regarding the Leadership Forums. It also hosts quarterly, discipline specific Communities of Practice (CoPs). They are intended to encourage connection, collaboration, and consistency to increase positive outcomes for children and families. Data was presented regarding Communities of Practice.
- RESource continues to work on creating and updating professional development (PD) content. It chooses topics based on PD requests, Leadership Forums, Communities of Practice, and BCS input. Its Research & Review team reviews content to ensure high quality.
- RESource shared its connection to a national organization, Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC). Staff will be attending DEC conference next week.
- For its 2024-2024 PD Workplan, it will focus on making resources more accessible to the workforce. It is developing a "PD Campaign System." The first campaign is Ongoing Child Assessment or "OCA All Day." Components include spring and fall in-person events, foundational and higher-level supporting materials, and CoP shared learning in the fall. It will also be providing leaders with specific tools to assist them in leading their teams in growing their skills and knowledge ("Leader Leds"). It is also working on assisting the workforce in sharing technical and complicated information with families ("How to Talk Abouts"). This effort will provide the workforce with consistent talking points for these topics. Separate from the campaign, RESource is working on creating materials to help ensure that the workforce is prepared to provide children and families with informed care ("Know Before You Knocks").
- No questions.

Budget Conversation:

- Presenters:
 - Lucas Knight, Bureau of Fiscal Accountability and Management
 - Clare O'Brien, Milwaukee County Budget & Policy Director
 - Kelly Pethke, Milwaukee County DHSS CYFS
 - Christina Courtney, Brown County
- In anticipation of the state budget cycle, entities with an interest in how the state develops the biannual budget are sharing their recommendations. ICC can make its own recommendations to the Governor.
- Lucas Knight presented an overview of Birth to 3 Program funding at the state level, specifically, the reconciliation process. The goals of this process are to reconcile reported expenses with reported activity and evaluate whether each county has met its annual maintenance of effort requirement. Counties report their revenues and expenditures.
- Lucas reviewed Birth to 3 Program revenues for CY 2023.

- A council member asked regarding revenues what is included in the “private provider funds” category and whether it includes donations or “write-offs.” Lucas shared that this depends on how the counties interpret this category and the state does not require that level of detail from the counties.
- Lucas reviewed Birth to 3 Program expenses for CY 2023.
- Lucas reviewed county local Maintenance of Effort values for CY 2023.
- Clare O’Brien presented an overview of Milwaukee County’s Birth to 3 Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup. Clare shared background regarding the origins of the sustainability effort.
- Kelly Pethke presented on the history of funding for the Birth to 3 Program in Milwaukee County, which indicates that the funding has not increased in line with enrollment in Birth to 3 Program services.
- Milwaukee County’s Birth to 3 Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup includes Milwaukee, Brown, Dane, and La Crosse counties as well as three providers (Curative, Penfield, and St. Francis Children’s Center).
- Clare reviewed the Workgroup’s subgroups and deliverables, which are focused on the areas of Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement, funding formula, data/research, and advocacy/communications.
- Clare reviewed future goals including expanding its network of statewide partners and stakeholders, raising awareness, and finalizing workgroup deliverables by early October to prepare a final report in November of this year. The Workgroup will be advocating with Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) and Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) for additional funding in the 2025-2027 State Budget.
- A council member raised a concern that when counties must bring in specialized services it places an additional financial burden on the county. The contracts do not include specialized providers, which creates a disincentive to use specialized providers. The council member recommended looking at models in other states to fund specialized providers.
- A council member raised a concern about funding for the teacher and for team meetings. The council member added that issues for small, rural counties are similar in some ways and different in others compared to larger counties, e.g., securing access to therapists when the county cannot afford to pay for a full-time position due to its small population.
- A council member shared a concern about getting Medicaid or private insurance to pay for certain services, e.g., getting reimbursement for a service when the parent is present but not the child. The council member recommended partnering with therapy associations particularly when challenging these practices with private health insurance.
- Ginger Brath requested that council members contact her directly with ICC budget recommendations. Ginger will meet with volunteers from the council to assist in drafting the council’s recommendations prior to the next ICC meeting. Representative Jenna Jacobson’s office requested to be copied on the final recommendations.

BCS Projects Updates:

- Presenters:
 - Lori Wittemann, BCS
 - Dana Romary, BCS
- Lori Wittemann shared a summary of the Vision Services Project. She shared an overview of the project and its goal to ensure that children receive vision services through appropriate vision services specialists and orientation and mobility specialists. She provided a summary of a survey that identified barriers to accessing these specialists.
- The project developed training, explored options for remote services, and reviewed available funding sources.
- BCS collaborated with REsource to develop various training tools, including best practice guidelines, scripts for the workforce, and a guidance document for delivering remote services. The project identified that while Medicaid does not cover these services, it may be appropriate to refer children to the Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Program to access coverage.
- A council member asked how these efforts will work within the Family Center model. Will these specialists attend team meetings? How will these specialists’ partner with the primary person for that child? There was discussion that the primary person should be present for discussions between the family and the specialist, including during telehealth visits.
- Dana Romary shared a summary of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultation American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Pilot. Dana shared an overview of the project and its goal to build capacity to support children’s social and emotional development and provide infant mental health consultation. It launched in the fall of 2022 and concluded in the summer of 2024. The project was divided into two different components: 1)

integrated program level work where a consultant was embedded with program staff to provide program wide support and 2) individual, case specific work where any program could refer a child for consultation with an IECMH professional. To evaluate progress, the project used a variety of measures pre and post project. There was statistically significant improvement in several areas of intervention based on both qualitative and quantitative data.

- A council member asked what the next steps are for this project. BCS shared that it has requested that IECMH be added as a Medicaid benefit. BCS is also partnering with DCF to share lessons learned and working to raise awareness of the need for investment in this sort of early intervention.
- A council member asked whether BCS can provide the underlying data regarding the impact of IECMH. BCS will request a copy of the report to share with the ICC.

Wrap Up & Overview of Future Agenda Topics:

- The next ICC meeting will be held virtually on November 20, 2024.

Linda Hall moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Kelly Pethke.

Adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Prepared by: Sarah Pitsoulakis on 9/11/2024.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 11/20/2024