

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)		Attending: Virginia Brath, Provider (Chair); Jacci Borchardt, Provider; Kristine Nadolski, DPI/McKinney-Vento; Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent; Deb RATHERMEL, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services Part C Coordinator; Daria Hall, DCF Child Care Trisha Wicinsky, County Provider of Early Intervention Services; Rebecca Jarzynski, Personal Preparation; Linda Hall, Office of Children’s Mental Health; Jillian Clemens, DCF/Head Start; Jill Kelly, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance; Jenna Jacobson, State Legislator; Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent Theresa Wixom, Parent Council Members Excused: Lisa Hankes, DCF Child Welfare Proxy: Kelly Pethke, Provider State Attendees: Elias Garringer (BCS), Nicole Miller (BCS), Dana Romary (BCS), Sarah Pitsoulakis (BCS), Zach Bauer (BCS) Presenters: Lana Edwards (RESouce), Becky Hoffman (RESouce) Public Attendees:
Date: 11/20/2024	Time Started: 9:00AM Time Ended: 11:25AM	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath

Minutes

Welcome

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introductions
- Council Members Updates and Announcements
 - Ginger Brath has been reappointed by the Governor as the ICC Chair through July 1, 2026.
 - Jillian Clemens of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) announced that the Administration of Children and Families had just introduced rule changes for Head Start performance standards.
 - She shared new language around Head Start enrollment requirements: *“A program must ensure that at least 10% of its actual enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).”*
 - Daria Hall of DCF mentioned that DCF concluded an evaluation of its Birth to 3 child care pilot that used COVID-19 relief funds to provide 12 months of childcare for 1,039 families in Wisconsin.
 - She also shared that DCF is exploring options for changing the eligibility for Wisconsin’s childcare subsidy.

- Linda Hall of the Office of Children’s Mental Health (OCMH) shared updates from her office.
 - OCMH is celebrating its 10-year anniversary and will be hosting a webinar panel discussion on December 11, 2024, that will cover children’s mental health trends and accomplishments over the last 10 years.
 - Webinar registration: <https://children.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>
 - She also shared that OCMH has released a guide for parents on how to use the OCMH Feelings Thermometer.
 - Link to guide: <https://children.wi.gov/Pages/EarlyChildhoodFeelingsThermometer.aspx>

Public Comments:

- No public comments.

General Business

- Approve Meeting Minutes from Sep 11, 2024:
 - Jacci Borchardt moved to approve.
 - Jillian Clemens seconded. Motion passed.
- Ginger Brath and Deb Rathermel discussed the budget letter from the council that was shared with Governor’s Office.
 - Rep. Jenna Jacobsen suggested other ways to improve advocacy around the letter, including a provider letter writing campaign to Governor’s office or other elected representatives.

Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Data

- Eli Garringer of the Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS) discussed Birth to 3 data for Q3 of 2024
- Referrals and enrollment are in line with trends from 2023, but both are up from 2022.
 - Just over half of referrals come from a physician in Q3 2024, in line with referrals for overall year of 2024.
- Current enrollment is 6,568 infants and toddlers.
 - 67% of these children are eligible for the program through a 25% delay.
- BCS has seen a change in how children become eligible.
 - Those eligible through a 25% has decreased from 79% of the population in 2019 to 71% in 2024.
 - There has been growth in the other eligibility categories of atypical development and diagnosed condition.
- Program exits for 2024 are similar to 2023, but higher than 2022 likely due to higher enrollment.
 - Successful completion of an ISP remains that most common reason for program exit.
- Eli discussed topics for the data updates in the 2025 ICC meetings:
 - Q1: Annual Performance Report (APR); child find and referral.
 - Q2: Eligibility Date.
 - Q3: Child Outcomes.
 - Q4: Program Transitions and Exit.
- Council discussion
 - Ginger Brath discussed how change in the eligibility possibly reflected a change in the tools that determine eligibility.
 - Trisha Wicinsky shared that the changes in eligibility mix may also reflect new understandings of what conditions are eligible.
 - Deb Rathermel shared that the eligibility tools let counties account for the unique situations of all enrollees and allow for some professional judgement in determining eligibility.

Professional Development in Birth to 3: RESource Update

- Lana Edwards, Becky Hoffman, and Becca Jarzynski shared an update on professional development (PD) in the Birth to 3 Program and working with higher education partners.
- Lana discussed the campaign to promote ongoing child assessment (OCA)
 - OCA is a practice outside of formal assessments that looks to gather continuous information about children through ongoing conversations with parents and providers.
 - She shared multiple resources for early intervention providers that have additional information about OCA.
 - All are available on www.eiinwi.org

- Becky Hoffman discussed the Birth to 3 professional development (PD) Higher Ed Partnership
 - The goal of the partnership is to help recruit and educate future early interventionists while they are still in school.
 - This helps build a strong PD base that better prepares the workforce.
 - There are currently 30 members in the higher ed partnership group, representing 11 universities in Wisconsin.
 - There is a field experience subgroup of 4 university faculty that promotes and supports student experiences in Birth to 3, like internships.
 - Becca Jarzynski discussed the Partnership's family assessment research subgroup.
 - The subgroup has conducted a literature and content analysis of state and federal regulations, along with workforce focus groups.
 - They plan on conducting family interviews to understand their experience of family assessment.

Program Review Tool

- Nicole Miller of BCS discussed the 2025 Birth to 3 Program review protocol.
- Protocol background:
 - Launched statewide in 2021.
 - The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) works with Metastar, its quality improvement contractor, to pull a small sample of files from each county to gather information not otherwise available about program practices.
- From 2022 to 2023, DHS has seen a large increase in the percentage of benchmarks being met in the reviewed files.
- The protocol is being updated in 2025.
 - DHS wanted to improve the program to reflect current state level priorities, align with federal reporting requirements, and produce more actionable results for counties.
 - DHS worked with local programs, Metastar, RESource, and other partners to get feedback on the program improvements.
 - The changes will be published in the operations guide in June 2025.
- Updates to the tool:
 - Four new focus areas were added:
 - Eligibility determination and ongoing assessment
 - Service plan process, documentation, and outcomes
 - Family engagement, support and services
 - Transitions
 - There will be numeric metrics added for greater insights into program operations.

Data on Early Transitions from Birth to 3 Program

- Eli Garringer of BCS shared an analysis of children that exit the Birth to 3 Program before they turn 3.
- Families exit prior to age three for the following reasons:
 - Successful completion of the individualized family service plan (IFSP).
 - Family chose to discontinue services.
 - The Birth to 3 Program is unable to locate the family.
 - Other—including the family moving out of state or the child passing away.
- Annually, 34-38% of children enrolled in Birth to 3 exit the program early.
 - 41% of early exits are due to the family discontinuing services, and 39% are due to the successful completion of an IFSP.
 - Compared to national trends, Wisconsin has a greater proportion of children exiting early because they complete their IFSP (39% vs. 30% nationally).
- Demographics for children exiting early does not differ largely from the overall program demographics.
- However, there were some demographic differences among the different reasons for exit.
 - For children who exited due to loss of contact, they disproportionately identified as Hispanic or Black.
- BCS plans to reach out to counties as a next step to understand geographic variability in early exits.
- The council discussed confusion at the county level about when to consider a family as “choosing to discontinue services” or “lost contact.”

Briefing on Findings of Non-Compliance

- Dana Romary of BCS provided an update on findings of non-compliance (FNC) in the Birth to 3 Program.
- FNC is an annual monitoring and oversight process that is required by federal law
- FNC process:
 - Each year, DHS reviews county-level data from Jan. 1–Mar. 31 to monitor compliance indicators.
 - These indicators are things like timely service plan creation and timely transition referrals.
 - DHS contacts local program that are below 100% compliance for any measure.
 - Between Apr. 1 and Jul. 30, counties are given a chance to demonstrate compliance.
 - Counties unable to comply in that timeframe are sent formal, written notices of non-compliance.
 - Counties must fix instances of noncompliance within one year of formal notice.
- FNC results:
 - In the 2024 annual data review, 20 counties had not compliant findings, with 5 counties unable to remediate within the timeframe and sent a formal finding of non-compliant data.
- Corrections of FNC:
 - Each of the five counties that received a written notification must demonstrate correction of the FNC within one year of issuance.
 - If they are not compliant after one year, DHS may escalate and issue a corrective action plan (CAP).

Wrap-up and Future Agenda Topics

- 2025 Meeting Dates: January 22, May 9, August 13, November 12
 - The May 9 meeting aligns with the Circles of Life conference in the Wisconsin Dells.

Rosemarie Navarro Red-Hail moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Ginger Brath

Adjourned at 11:25 am.

Prepared by: Zach Bauer on 11/20/2024.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 1/22/2025