

**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 Rathernel, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services Part C Coordinator; Lisa Hanks, DCF Child Welfare Tessa Freedberg, 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:  Proxy: Daria Hall, DCF  State Attendees: Elias Garringer (BCS), Laura Triller (BCS), Regena Floyd-Sambou (BCS), Lori Witteman (BCS), Dana Romary (BCS), Beth Gullickon (BCS), David Sorenson (BCS), Zach Bauer (BCS)  Public Attendees: Jenny Price Eric Linn-Miller Deidre Beadle
Date: 1/22/2025	Time Started: 9:00AM  Time Ended: 11:25 AM	
Location: In-Person and Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath

**Minutes**

**Welcome**

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introductions
- Council Members Updates and Announcements
  - Linda Hall shared that the Office of Children’s Mental Health (OCMH) recently presented its 2024 annual report.
    - Link to the video of the presentation and the report:  
<https://children.wi.gov/Pages/ResearchData/AnnualReport.aspx>
  - Rose Navarro-Red Hail discussed the “Oneida Reads” program that looks to improve the reading level for kids through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
  - Lisa Hanks of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) discussed how DCF was planning to work on getting children access to the resources and programs outside of the child welfare system.

- Many children enter the child welfare system first but could benefit more from resources in programs like Birth to 3 instead.

### **Public Comments:**

- Eric Linn-Miller of Dane Co. Human Services introduced himself and shared that he was attending for informational purposes.
- Deidre Beadle introduced herself and shared that she was attending to learn more about children's programs.

### **General Business**

- Approve Meeting Minutes from Nov 20, 2024:
  - Rose Navarro-Red Hail moved to approve.
  - Kelly Pethke seconded. Motion passed.

### **Annual Performance Report (APR) Overview**

- Deb Rathermel of the Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) discussed the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Performance Report (APR), which covers performance from July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024.
- The APR is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and includes narrative reporting on oversight and monitoring and data reporting on 12 total indicators, including 6 compliance indicators and 6 results indicators.
- Overview of the indicators:
  - Indicator 5 & 6: Child Find
    - Wisconsin met targets for both indicators.
  - Indicator 7: Timely Completion of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)
    - Wisconsin found 98-99% compliance.
    - Some county partners cited issues with staffing and turnover that led to instances of noncompliance.
  - Indicator 1: Timely Service Provision
    - Wisconsin is at nearly 100% compliance.
  - Indicator 2: Services Provided in a Natural Environment (home, daycare, etc.)
    - Wisconsin is at nearly 100% compliance.
  - Indicator 8: Timely Transition Process
    - Wisconsin is 98-100% compliant with all transition sub-indicators.
  - Indicator 3: Child Outcomes
    - 3A – Social-Emotional Skills: Wisconsin meets its targets for this measure.
    - 3B – Skills and Knowledge: Wisconsin meets its targets for this measure.
    - 3C – Behavior to Meet Needs: Wisconsin meets its targets for this measure.
    - Wisconsin has started a few different initiatives to improve child outcomes.
  - Indicator 4: Family Outcomes
    - Wisconsin has seen a small decrease in performance for this indicator.
    - Wisconsin is starting some new initiatives for improving family outcomes, including changes to the Birth to 3 program review tool process.

### **Annual Performance Report Council Discussion**

- Jenny Bibler of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) praised the presentation and the performance on the APR.
- Ginger Brath asked how the response rates have changed for the family outcomes survey as BCS has started emailing families about the survey.
  - Deb Rathermel indicates our response rate is acceptable, but BCS is exploring texting the survey to see if that results in a higher response rate.
  - Deb also shared that responses are lower on average for non-white families, and that this something BCS is watching to increase with different methods of reaching out families.

### Part C Grant Application – Preplanning for 2025

- Laura Triller of BCS discussed the Part C Grant application under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- This is an application for grant funding from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that accounts for about 20% of Wisconsin’s Birth to 3 revenue.
- The IDEA Part C grant application requires the state to describe how it meets all assurances and include descriptions about how it will use the funds.
- FFY2025 Part C State Funding Plan
  - Wisconsin anticipates receiving about the same amount of funding as last year, roughly \$8.4 million.
  - Money is split into 3 categories.
    - A: Staff positions - \$375,000
      - This funding goes to BCS to cover a portion of staff and admin costs.
    - B: Supports and Subcontracts - \$1,589,179
      - Goes toward maintenance and implementation of activities for ICC.
      - This has gone toward improving child find for ICC, professional development in ICC, and funding other new initiatives or special projects.
    - C: Direct Services - \$6,550,890
      - This gets added to State GPR and distributed to counties with the current allocation formula.
- Timeline of the grant application
  - BCS will finalize the application after ICC input and post for public comment period in March
  - BCS will submit their application to OSEP at the end of May.
  - Funding will become available on July 1, 2025.
- Council Discussion
  - Deb Rathermel asked the council for input for how to allocate funding in category B
    - BCS is exploring using the funds for workforce support like scholarships for early intervention certifications or licenses.
    - She also discussed how the funds could be used to reexamine rates paid for early interventions services.
  - Linda Hall echoed the importance of using funds for workforce support.
  - Trisha Wicinsky of Waushara Co. asked what positions would receive this workforce support.
    - Deb said that BCS would defer to local partners to see what workers want to pursue further certifications.
  - Deb emphasized that more ICC input could be added during the public comment period.

### Birth to 3 Access and Referral Data

- Eli Garringer of BCS presented on access and referral data for the Birth to 3 program.
- Referrals
  - Overall, referrals were fairly steady between 2022 and 2023, with a slight decline in 2024
  - About 85% of referrals come from a physician or parent.
    - This has remained steady between 2022-2024.
  - There have been changes in the age makeup of referrals—more children are being referred under the age of one.
- Eli also mentioned that data presentations for the rest of the year will follow different themes, including enrollment and outcomes.
- Council Discussion
  - Ginger Brath asked if it was possible to identify two different referral sources.
    - Eli indicated that only a single referral source could be marked in the data system.
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### Birth to 3 Child Find Indicator 5 Overview

- Regena Floyd-Sambou presented on APR indicator 5 and other child find data.

- BCS previously presented on this data in May 2024 to get ICC feedback about how to improve the child find process, especially for children that are referred by a physician.
- For children who are referred by a physician:
  - There has been a slight increase in children under age 1 being referred, meaning that children are being identified earlier.
  - From 2022-2024, there has been a small increase in children under 1 who are evaluated in and found not to be eligible.
- Regena discussed how there has been increased messaging to physicians and therapists to refer children for evaluation earlier to get children access to resources sooner.
- BCS has also pursued other child find improvement activities increase referrals.
  - This includes the First 1,000 Days initiative, creating the Wisconsin Wayfinder resource, and “No Wrong Door” resources that strengthen partnerships between DHS and other state agencies and community referral sources.
- Council Discussion
  - Lisa Hankes of DCF asked whether most physician referrals come from a general practitioner or other kinds of physicians.
    - BCS does not track that specific information.

### **Wrap-up and Future Agenda Topics**

- Deb Rathemel shared a brief update from the RESource professional development team for the Birth to 3 program.
  - RESource will be hosting three in-person events in the upcoming months about ongoing child assessment.
  - Info can be found at: <https://www.eiinwi.org/>
- 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.
  - There will be an option to attend this in-person or virtually.

Kelly Pethke moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Rose Navarro-Red Hail

Adjourned at 11:25 am.

Prepared by: Zach Bauer on 1/22/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 5/9/2025