

# Meeting Notes

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council  
for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 25-26, 2011  
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. – Tallahassee, Florida

**Members Present:** Lorraine Allen, Roni Bader-Tables, Cynthia Fuller, Pat Grosz, Karen Hartz, Michele Polland for Bambi Lockman, Noel Bee for Brittany Birken, Laurie Blades, Sharon Paul, Gail Underwood, Kathy Wright, Johana Hatcher, Jeannie Carr, Angela Finch, Lynn Marie Firehammer for Phyllis Sloyer, and Jeanne Boggs.

**Members Absent:** Katherine Dagenais

**Members Absent with Notification:** Deborah Russo and Judy Corso

**Non-members Present:** Lois Maroney, Annalise Campisi, Brenda Ham, Paula Kendig, Liza Smith, Haylie Smith, Penny Geiger, Janice Miller, LouAnn Long, Jane Wills, and Tess Crowder, provider of CART services for Lois Maroney, La'Tasha Dullivan, April Katine, Ernestine Kessel, Carole West, Deb Smith, Claudia Kassack, Arnetta Givens, Tameka Footman and Sally Golden-McCord.

**Conference Call Attendees:** Richard Fay, Judy Corso and Jeannie Carr

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Roni Bader-Tables, Acting Chair

Welcome and Introduction to all members and guests

## FICCIT Business:

**New Member Orientation** – Orientation was conducted prior to the council meeting with 4 new members in attendance, Angela Finch, Kathy Wright, Johana Hatcher, Gail Underwood and Jeanne Boggs.

**APPROVAL OF NOTES:** Roni Bader-Tables

**Discussion:** The Executive Committee Acting Chair called for a vote to approve the notes from the September 2010 meeting.

**Conclusion:** Motion was made and passed to approve the September 2010 Meeting Notes with modifications.

Action	Person(s) Responsible	Date Due
Post September Meeting Notes to the web	Tameka Footman	ASAP

**UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP:** Roni Bader-Tables

An updated FICCIT member list was circulated for editing that included new members, pending appointees with application status, vacancies on the committee, and active members. The press release from November 2010 was read aloud announcing the members. New members include Jeanne Bogs, Jeanne Carr, Katherine Dagenais, Angela Finch, Johanna Hatcher, Linda "Gail" Underwood and Kathy Wright.

**Discussion:** Governor Charlie Christ's office appointed 7 new members and reappointed 5 members. Members whose term has expired have been asked to send a new application to the Governor's Office, through Tameka Footman, and continue to serve on the board until such time as the new Governor makes new appointments. Any member who chooses to not serve out their term must submit a letter of resignation.

**Conclusion:** Current membership list with appointment status to be posted on the website along with the addition of the committee members and their contact.

Action	Person(s) Responsible	Date Due
Update membership list with application status, and post on website	Tameka Footman	ASAP

**STATUS OF ACTION STEPS:** Roni Bader-Tables

**Discussion:** Most actions from the September meeting were completed or are on-going projects. New actions will be discussed at individual committee meetings.

**Conclusion:** Updated Action Status report

**Certificate of Appreciation:** Karen Hartz was recognized for her outstanding efforts working on the annual report.

New Member Handbooks were shared with full council. New members welcomed the orientation and were eager to get started.

**IDEA Annual Performance Reporting:** – Sally Golden Mc-Cord – Attachment at end of summary notes.

This report determines gains and losses of performance. There were lots of gains and only 2 areas of slippage which were child outcomes and dispute resolution. The history and potential future goals and accomplishment were discussed. The Annual Performance Report (APR) will be submitted on February 1, 2011.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

April Katine – Development Disabilities Council (DD Council)

The Early Steps Sustainability Plan is complete. Some of the projects that have come out of that plan to help sustain The Early Steps Program are:

Early Steps Public Relations Campaign – The provider, RB Oppenheim Associates, is hard at work. We need to hear from any Early Steps graduates and their families who are willing to share their stories and tell their legislators how important the Early Steps program is. Please contact me or Holly Hohmeister for more information at 850-922-6704

Child Development Screening Initiative – The proposal from Snow Strategies has been selected and we are working on the contract.

Early Steps Messaging Research – That contract has been awarded and executed. The provider is The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. The project will vet the informational flyers developed by the State Early Steps Office with providers and families to see if they contain the information needed to convey an accurate and helpful message to help everyone understand how Early Steps works.

**State Office Update:** - Lynn Marie Firehammer – Written report is attached at the end of summary notes.

**Child Outcomes Measurement** – Sally Golden Mc-Cord – Written report is attached at the end of the summary notes

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

April Katine – DD Council

There will be an RFP coming out on Friday January 28, 2011. The RFP is to develop disability awareness arts & literacy guides. One for children in Pre-K Elementary and the other is for children in middle and high school.

Penny Geiger – Western Panhandle Early Steps

There is a need for marketing communication for physicians re: Early Steps focus, services and value.

Dr. Deb Smith – Infant Toddler Specialist/ Head Start Training and Technical Assistance

Dr. Smith is visiting the council to meet and greet with the council members and to learn more about what we do.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Roni Bader-Tables, Acting Chair, Karen Hartz, Liza Smith for Judy Corso, Lynn Marie Firehammer and guests in attendance – written report at end of summary notes.

**Discussion:** Continued efforts in regards to the state travel policies for more than one Early Steps State Office staff member being given permission to attend FICCIT meetings. Committee members were asked to recruit families, Local Early Steps etc. to present at the upcoming meetings.

**Conclusion:** The letter that will be drafted to the Department of Health regarding the travel policies will be postponed until the new administration is in office. Members agree to recruit people that are interested in presenting at upcoming meetings. Inquiries received as of this meeting include the Local Early Steps Office, April Katine, Central Director, Dr. Chiaro and Early Steps families. All inquires should be sent to Roni Bader-Tables. The next Executive conference call is scheduled for March 25, 2011 at 9 a.m.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
Letter to Department of Health requested that more than one Early Steps staff be allowed to attend the meetings	Executive Committee	On-going

**PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING:** Liza Smith for Judy Corso, Chair, with members Roni Bader-Tables, Pat Grosz, Lois Maroney, Kathy Wright, Ernestine Kessel, and

Carol West for Bambi Lockman in attendance Other committee members and guests were in attendance - written report attached at end of summary notes.

**Discussion:** Six items were discussed at their committee meeting.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder Training** - The ASD web-based instructional system being developed by Dr. Amy Wetherby and Dr. Julianne Woods is moving forward. The Part C programs in Pennsylvania and likely Tennessee have joined the initiative, so we are hopeful that the complete set of modules will be developed. They have come up with a tentative working name - **The Autism Navigator for Early Intervention Providers**.

**Provider Recruiter Contract** is going well for the most part. Some recruiters are still having a hard time understanding and navigating the Provider Management System.

**Training contract with EW Bryant** is moving forward and training tools are still being developed.

**Project Tools for Early Steps Teams (TEST)** continues to move forward with piloting in the North Central Early Steps.

**ITDS Virtual School** is going well and expects to have 34 graduates.

**Service Coordinator Apprenticeship Training** have been reviewed and piloted. Six one day trainings will possibly be scheduled for March 2011.

**Conclusion:** Motions regarding printable training modules and PDAT committee review process for training modules in development were voted on and approved.

Action	Person(s) Responsible	Date Due
The committee recommends that the Early Steps State Office (ESSO) research the possibility of offering training in a format that would allow the learner the option of printing the training material	ESSO	
The committee would like to participate in the content review process for the training modules being developed by EW Bryant and Associates. Particularly, the content enhancements for the ITDS online training.	ESSO	

**OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION COMMITTEE:** Karen Hartz, substitute Chair, with members, Sharon Paul, Angela Finch, Johana Hatcher, Jeanne Boggs, Lynn Marie Firehammer and Catherine Duncan in attendance. Other Committee members were also in attendance – written reports attached at end of summary notes

**Discussion:** Karen Hartz announced the arrival and the distribution plan of the Annual reports. Karen reviewed the outstanding and upcoming actions from the committee.

The committee was able to finalize the following forms:

Website Update Request Form - attachment at end of summary notes.

Public Comment Card – attachment at end of summary notes.

Letter of recruitment – finalized for Early Steps offices to distribute to families interested in advocacy – attachment at end of summary notes.

**Conclusion:** Motion was made and passed to post said items to the web.

Action	Person(s) Responsible	Date Due
Committee to draft a letter from the chair to distribute with annual reports and draft thank you letter to distribute to families.	Outreach/Collaboration	1/26/11
ESSO to send Family Stories Collection form in ESSO Weekly Memo along with guidance for obtaining family stories.	ESSO	
ESSO to allow representation from OCC committee to join conference call for Service Coordinators and Family Resource Specialists to request solicitation of family stories.	ESSO	1/26/11
ESSO to send web Update form to all members with each future meeting announcement.	ESSO	On-going
ESSO to request that Local Early Steps invite parents to upcoming FICCIT meetings in West Palm, Tallahassee and Melbourne with flyer provided by committee.	ESSO	1/26/11
ESSO to request that presentations for FICCIT from Local Early Steps in West Palm and Melbourne include families.	ESSO	1/26/11
ESSO send list of Council vacancies including required positions and parents representation to committee for posting on Membership page of Website.	ESSO/Tameka Footman	1/26/11
Council to give permission to Jeanne Boggs to schedule meeting, to coincide with June FICCIT meeting, with governor's staff, FICCIT chair and selected FICCIT members to advocate for FICCIT and the importance of appointing members.	FICCIT Council	1/26/11
ESSO to allow FICCIT table at the Early Steps family function at the Family Café for the purposes of membership recruitment and collection of stories.	ESSO	1/26/11
Council to approve travel expenses for Sharon Paul to travel to the Family Café	FICCIT Council	1/26/11

**WHAT ARE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD?** – Dr. Any Whetherby – Written report attached at the end of the summary notes.

**AGENCY UPDATES**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:** Carole West - written report attached at the end of the summary notes.

**HOMELESS EDUCATION:** No representation

**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE REGULATION:** Cynthia Fuller – Cynthia Fuller reported that insurance regulations, changing as a result of the new federal Affordable Care Act, are continuing to be issued by the Health and Human Services Department (HHS), Center for

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Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO). While Florida law and regulations have not changed – the State is awaiting legislative and executive decisions -- it is important to remember that insurance carriers will continue to comply with the federal standards and rules. That means that many plans (those that are not “grandfathered” plans) will be implementing some benefit changes. When asked about Floridians eligible for the federal High Risk Pool where high premium cost places the coverage out of reach of many parents, Fuller responded that HHS had informed states that rates would be reexamined during this coming year and hopefully some downward adjustments could be made. The problem of high rates is not unique to Florida, other states that have likewise chosen the federal program have also expressed concern to the HHS.

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:** Laurie Blades - written report attached at end of summary notes.

**AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** (does anyone remember if there was a report for APD. I don't have one unless I missed it)

**AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION:** Gail Underwood – written report attached at end of summary notes.

**AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS:** Report by Noel Bee- written report attached at end of summary notes.

**STATE LEGISLATURE:** No representative

**HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START:** Karen Hartz – written report attached at end of summary notes.

**MEMBER UPDATES:** None

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

#### FICCIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS 2011

April 12 & 13	West Palm Beach
June 21 & 22	Tallahassee
September 20 & 21	Melbourne