

# **ICC MEETING**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Kentucky Early Intervention Services (KEIS) Interagency Coordination Council (ICC)  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

**October 8, 2020**

**ICC Board:** Liz Schumacher (Norton's/UofL), Dr. Judy Teriot (Medicaid), Scott Tomchek (Weisskopf), Holly LaFavers (parent representative), Catherine Lowe (parent representative), Andrea Bartholomew (KDE), Melissa Ferrell (KDE).

**First Steps:** Paula Goff, Tammie Isenberg, Casey Turner, Donna Montgomery, Julie Sandifer, Lisa Dorman, Melissa Hardison, Paul Carlisle, Matt Krupp, Kellye Cheek.

**Guests:** Allison Clark (POE), Barbara Sweeney (POE), Beth Jordan (BHDID), Steve Brown (ASCB), Becky Brown (ASCB), Lauren Thomas (Provider), Linda Medley, Melissa Robinson (POE), Mitzie Helton (POE), Nancy Combs (POE), Jessica Wood (POE), Amy Meadows (POE), Hope Rice (POE), Elizabeth McLaren (Provider), Ann Raispis (Provider), Kresta Wilson, Angie Casey (POE), Rebecca Alley, Serena Wheeler (MC), Cybil Cheek (MC), Clorrisa McConnell (POE), Lisa Conner (POE), Tracey Desimone, Kristen Brown, Hillary Dursch.

*(FS) First Steps, (POE) Point of Entry, (MC) Master Coach*

### **I. Call to order**

- Start time 10:00 a.m.
- Paula Goff facilitated introductions of those in attendance.
- Liz Schumacher welcomed everyone and called meeting to order.
- Paula Goff went over instruction on how the meeting would proceed in Zoom, i.e. how to make comments and raising hand when wanting to speak.

### **II. New Business/Public Comments**

- Liz Schumacher opened the floor for public comment. No comments were made.
- Liz Schumacher addressed the minutes from the July ICC meeting, noted that she had some minor spelling changes and asked everyone to review. Scott Tomchek moved to approve - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by – Beth Jordan, Approved with

minor spelling corrections.

### **III. Federal Update:**

- Kentucky is to be monitored by the Feds per their differentiated monitoring system (DMS). Due to travel bans and other issues, they have not been able to do this in several years but are starting now. They have been using SSP for monitoring until now. Due to COVID, the visit will be virtual. They plan to do monitoring on a 5-year cycle with 3 phases. Year 1 will be for preparation, year 2 for monitoring, year 3 post-visit for corrections, then 2 years off.
  - The focus is going to be systems of general supervision aligning results and compliance. Monitoring preparation began October 1. There are 8 key components that will be looked at during monitoring: TA and professional development, integrated monitoring, data, state performance plan, dispute resolution, implementation policies and procedures and fiscal management.
  - Paula went over the Phase I activity schedule. Fiscal management, integrated monitoring activities and improvement are scheduled for October and November; data and SPP for December and January, Implementation or Policies and Procedures and TA and Professional Development for March and April; dispute resolution for June and July; and August and September will be utilized to prepare to transition into Phase II.
- Exit data is to be turned in by November 1. Due to the impact of COVID, Part B is 48% lower. This is due not getting information with schools being closed. There are also higher rates of eligibility not determined and withdraw by parent due to COVID. Staff will need to write a justification to OSEP to explain that these changes are due to COVID.

### **IV. SSIP**

- SSIP is moving forward and has been tremendously helpful to everyone with telehealth intervention. They have been getting support to providers. The cohorts are moving forward. They are beginning to work with 8 new POEs in the Bluegrass area. Scott is aware of who is doing telehealth and have been able to focus on them. They were happy to hear that orientation for new providers is moving forward. Cybil gave an update that on October 19 Bluegrass is launching 31 participants. Cohort 12 is beginning at the first of the year. In the

piolet district there are 45 providers not doing telehealth, they will be receiving assistance as they become active. Individual providers are making the decision on providing telehealth or not. Several have said that coaching as made telehealth easier. There have been less questions and withdrawals due to providers having a better comfort level. Elizabeth McLaren asked for videos to use as resources for educators. Cybil mentioned there are several videos on the YouTube channel that may help and Scott showed the channel and pointed out videos that may help. Elizabeth asked Scott to send the channel link out and he agreed to do so.

- The Rate Study is moving forward. State level data has been requested. The workgroup has not started yet and will wait until probably January.

## **V. First Steps Operations**

- Paula Goff went over staffing in the State Lead Agency's (SLA) Office. She introduced the new Administrative Specialist III, Kathy Long. Still vacant is an Administrative Specialist III. Interviews were held for this position but no candidate was chosen; the position is being reposted. Also vacant is a Health Program Analyst position that candidates have turned down due to the positions salary.
- The SLA's office is moving due to building reinventions. Due to this, there may be some days staff will not be able to process as much as usual due to moving. We are trying for minimal disruption. Staff are still working primarily at home.
- Face to face training for new providers is now virtual. The all-day training has been condensed to 3-two hour training sessions. Training is starting with those who have been waitlisted. Staff have enhanced and modified the training to address telehealth. This is set to begin October 12. There will be a gradual process between training and enrolling providers.
- Everyone by federal law is required to take Recordkeeping and Confidentiality training and ECE:151 Importance of KY's Early Childhood & First Steps Assessment data. The ECE training is controversial due to a fee. There is a limited number of days to take the training. Some providers are saying that because they do not currently have a caseload they do not need to take the training. Tammie identified the non-compliant providers and is sending them notifications. They have until October 16 to comply. Noncompliance will result in un-enrollment or sanctions. There are always issues with training compliance. We used to give 30 days to complete. It was changed to 60 days but this year it

was released even earlier giving providers 78 days. SLA gets push back on training no matter what and has not been able to pinpoint any one issue as to why training does not get completed.

- Paula showed a chart showing a comparison by month of active IFSP vs. children served. It is easy to see the impact COVID-19 has had on services and participation. The numbers start falling off in March and continue to decrease. Beth Jordan noted that mental health services dipped when school started back.
- Claims paid went up starting in July. All referrals are down. We were on track to surpass previous years until COVID hit. Building back up is going slowly. Many referrals come from doctor visits. Well child and immunization visits have been down which explains that drop in referrals. Other programs such as HANDS are suffering the same issues. The question is how we get word out that the services are here. There are also issues in keeping families engaged in services. Providers are allowed to do face to face if telehealth is not possible. Allison stated that in her area they faxed all physicians to let them know services are still being provided. Hope said they sent referral packets to all Head Start and childcare centers in their area. Some brainstorming is needed on how to increase referrals. There is concern that holding off on referrals could put children behind on services when we do get the referral.
- Telehealth services is not included in the Medicaid contract. It is in the emergency regulation. We need to look at telehealth and face to face to determine what services may look like in the future. How do we balance? Do we allow provider or parent choice? The emergency regulation will not be in place forever. Many are scared of telehealth; it is not always easy for parents of multiple children.
- Family Share stopped with COVID. This will start back in January as we get back into normalcy.
- Providers are begging for referral. Northern KY are sending out flyers. In Barren River providers are struggling to build caseloads. Bluegrass no longer has a waiting list. About half of the providers are offering telehealth. One benefit is that with telehealth providers outside the region can be utilized. If a region is without an OT provider but another region has one they can still refer clients. There are more providers than referrals but some are still being told no provider is available. Paula advised clinicians could tell clients to work with their service provider to find available services. This is something else that can be looked into going forward and SLA will look at integrating statewide telehealth services into the system and contracts.

- Casey Turner with SLA held a Provider and a Family forum. There were 100 providers in attendance and 40 families registered but only 4 attended. We are going to push to build interest for future forums. It was a good opportunity to share both the good and bad aspects of telehealth. Casey is hoping to do these periodically and both forums will be posted on the YouTube channel.

## **VI. Record Review Report**

- Scott presented an overview of the records that have been reviewed. The majority of reviews is still on eligibility. Overall volume is down about 11%. Scott presented charts that broke down the number of reviews coming out of the districts. These charts also showed the districts that are not utilizing the reviews.

## **VII. Old Business**

- Appointments to ICC are still on hold. Sally Shepherd has resigned creating a vacancy for a Head Start representative.

## **VIII. Final Business**

- Liz stated that she feels monitoring is going to be great. OSEP chose to start with states whom had not been monitored before or in a long time. Kentucky has not been monitored since 2007. Liz asked if we knew how the cohorts were picked to be grouped. Scott has a theory that most states in our cohort need intervention. We are hoping that KY is first due to how great our program is doing so they can get ideas of how to help other states when they monitor them.
- Some First Steps provider are participating in Project Scope. This is a program at UK focusing on opiate dependent born children. This could be beneficial for providers.
- Liz opened to public comment. Hillary Dursch rates for a hybrid model for telehealth moving forward. Paula stated that was something that needed to be thought about. Scott stated that the name for the YouTube channel is CEITMP KEIS.
- Holly LaFavers made a motion to adjourn; Scott Tomchek seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting January 14, 2021, the meeting will probably be held virtually.