



Kentucky Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

AGENDA

ICC

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

April 30, 2024

10 A.M.-12 PM, Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92853830069?pwd=QUhsWVVGSGFhbjE5vcUZRCm5kdKxwUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 5383 0069

Passcode: 051480

Welcome /Introductions/Attendance:

ICC Members: Scott Tomcheck, Acting Chairperson, Holly LaFavers, Catherine Lowe, Andrea Bartholomew, Judy Theriot, Anne Raispis, Elizabeth McLaren, Elizabeth Schumacher

Guest: Jamie Grove, Caitlin Conley, Holly Kiper, Linda Myers, Audrey Butler, Leigh Ann Roden, Teresa Ryan, Cindy Angel, Kerry Larson, Brianna Hairston, Britt Sherrard, Becky Brown, Kathy Mullen, Leah Richards, Mary Kennedy, Sandy Milburn and Ellen Strand

POE: , Clorissa McConnell, Amy Meadows, Leah Dickerson, Amanda Millay, Hope Rice, Mitzi Helton, Nancy Combs, Tina Christian, Barbara Sweeney, Jessica Wood, Raissa Smith, Bernadette Sadlo, Christi Leonard, Christy Jones, Melissa Phillips, Rebecca Alley, Theresa Wicklund, Johnna Canter, Meredith Stevenson, Margaret Vinsel, Greta McKenzie

SLA: Paula Goff, Melissa Hardison, Tammie Isenberg, Colleen Meszaros, Jessica Hayes, Kelly Tharpe, Jami McLemore, Karen McCracken, Kathy Long, Valerie Marshall, Donna Deal, Casey Turner, Nicole Florence, Savannah Propst, Shawn Bailey, Keri Gregory, Julie Leezer, Cybil Cheek, Denise Insley, Lisa Simpson, Michele Magness, Minda Kohner-Coogle, Serena Wheeler

SLA = State Lead Agency, POE = Point of Entry, U of L= University of Louisville, KDE= Kentucky Department of Education, DBHDID = Department for Behavior Health Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities, DMS= Department for Medicaid Services, KEDS= Kentucky Early Childhood Data System.

Review/Approval of January 2024 Minutes.

Motion to approve January 2024 minutes was made by Holly LaFavers and 2nd by Dr. Judy Theriot.

Program Updates:

Systemic Improvement results over the years.

Total Program Cost FY07 \$53,615,190 and FY23 \$28,271,306. Total number of Children served FY07 - 7,927 and FY23 -13,670—average Cost per Child - FY07 - \$6,722 and for FY23 \$2,068. State Determination Rating by the US Department of Education was for Needs Intervention (Next to lowest rating) in FY07 and Meets Requirements (highest rating) in FY23.

OSEP Monitoring Findings:

Received on April 12, 2024; KEIS office notified on April 24, 2024. OSEP began the review in November 2022 and the on-site visit in May 2023. The report outlined the findings of noncompliance and provided the corrective action needed:

- Revisions to policies/procedures due July 11, 2024
- Evidence of implementation of changes are due April of 2025

The details of corrections are left to the states by what is to be done by changing policies and procedures.

Findings:

- The 45-day timeline is waived only in exceptional family circumstances; we have not issued noncompliance in cases of acquiring medical records, which is out of their control. This will be a change in some POEs. The only acceptable reasons for delay are family-driven reasons.
- Early intervention services are provided to all eligible children.
- Early intervention services are based on the child/family's unique needs, not on a provider's statement about whether it would be a telecommuter visit.
- The state educational agency/appropriate local agency receives notification for infants/toddlers with disabilities identified as potentially eligible for Part B preschool services.
- The general supervision system is designed to monitor its early intervention programs and providers' compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance. This document of requirements applies to any entity that receives federal funds. Money is already determined by how the funding procedures will pay for the services. We must ensure that when we receive an invoice, it must meet the cost principles. We need to provide more information, such as what allowable and reasonable costs are, and monitor fiscal compliance, which would be more effort on providers regarding compliance/noncompliance.
- Mediators/Hearing Officers must be impartial, qualified, and knowledgeable of Part C regulations/services. We have made attempts to offer training. A meeting is scheduled for clarification. New modules will be provided for these officers to adhere to.

We are asking to have a representative from ICC have ad hoc work groups. We also invite POE Managers, Service Coordinators, and Providers. The target date for the corrective actions from OSEP that we must comply with is July 11, 2024.

Family Survey: low response rate

Priority Solution: OSEP approval to shorten the survey.

Please review the slide for information on Solutions A and B

Solution A:

Present survey annually during IFSP
Service coordinators provide family links on a tablet/laptop.
TOTS record includes survey link.
Paper surveys continue for those without internet access.

Currently, surveys are done at the end of the process. Now, we would invite families to pull up surveys as part of their assessment. We will go from 41 questions to 7 questions from section A. There are 17 questions reported to federal authorities from section B to be more focused.

Solution B:

Provide financial incentives to families.
Lengthy process to purchase gift cards
Determine the amount of the gift card.
A gift card must be mailed.
Dissemination must be tracked. Taxable income.

Solution B is the last resort.**Provider Renewal**

No child services will be disrupted, and provider payment or provision of payment will not be affected.

Budget

Many thanks to the KEIS early intervention providers who advocated for the program. News stories were filmed to showcase providers' good work, and letters and meetings with legislators supported KEIS. There are no rate increases presently, and no new funds were appropriated to KEIS during this session.

The federal Part C funds application is posted on the KEIS website until May 19, 2024. There is a sixty-day window that must be provided for public comment. The application is due May 22, 2024. Money is targeted for a few new projects: a Service Coordinator's Conference for targeted training and support, language assessment and training for measuring language development in children with hearing impairments, and test kits. Enough test kits will be purchased and placed at the POEs so the PLEs do not have to purchase these tests. There is funding to pay for parent advisors for parents of children with hearing impairments. The majority of our early intervention funds from the federal government will go to support the early intervention services.

Revised Regulations

KEIS regulations are in the process of revision. The revisions change the name from the First Steps to KEIS and clean up out-of-date regulations. Once the DPH and the Cabinet approve, the regulations will be filed with the Legislative Research Commission (LRC). We are targeting late spring/early summer to get reviewed. LRC ensures the format is correct but will schedule all public review opportunities. They will put out the review/review, but the Cabinet cannot request the hearing. If no one requests a hearing, they will not hold one. However, written comments will be accepted. They will give a period for written comments. LRC will schedule all public review

comment opportunities. LRC will forward those comments to the Administrative Regulation Committee. This committee will meet to discuss the regulations, which will either be approved or disapproved. They do not go into effect until they are processed.

Preschool Development Grant Activity

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) launched a project connecting a referral group to KEIS involving the Kynect benefits system. This would be a "tile" system that would say from birth to 5 years old. The goal is to ensure coordination in application and enrollment processes for families with children of birth to five years of age. KEIS will be participating in discussions about how KEIS can be included. This has the potential to assist with increasing referrals. This program will be paid for by the governor's office.

KEIS Operations

Staffing: Welcome to Jessica Hayes, she's with the billing team. She had previously worked for Workplace Standards in the Education and Labor cabinet. We are pleased to have her on the team. We have lost Megan Preston, who was with the billing staff. She has moved to another agency with a promotion. We have interviewed for a Supervisor of the Billing and Enrollment section position. The candidate that we wanted was not approved by the personnel department. This would be a great opportunity for a candidate to work in the state-lead agency. This is an opportunity for a leadership capacity; they would still be doing EOBs since we are short-staffed. We did receive one formal complaint, which is under investigation.

Coaching in Early Childhood Program/ Compliance Monitoring

Cohort 20 was recently wrapped up. Cohort 21 is submitting clips this week and Cohort 22 kicks off next week. There are 316 providers in maintenance. Timelines of future Cohorts have been communicated to providers and agency administrators. A huge call to get all baselines in to give access to the initial retention payments. All baseline videos received from new/returning providers and KIPDA providers who submitted before their cohort began have been scored, and the initial feedback was provided. We have been meeting with providers who met fidelity at baseline or are close to fidelity at baseline to discuss opportunities for individualized plans and to access that initial retention payment.

Record Review

Please refer to the report. The numbers continue to be stable over FY year periods. The highest volume of eligibility is 247. 236 Eligibility determinations were requested, and 11 were denied. The 45-day window that Paula previously mentioned can impact this as it relates to referrals. It needs to be a focal point of the work group's discussions.

Eligibility/ILE 83 with 80 approved for eligibility clarification (DD vs ASD) Reviewed in TOTS, all submitted records, 0 denied and 3 deferred (referral on file; travel). Intensive Authorization – children with autism spectrum, and related program planning are increasing some, which is good. Service Exception: Numbers seem to remain stable. Review report for referral by district to see where reviews come from in comparison of children served. The final table shows a summarized review per child served.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Question: Tracking a referral. When a referral is made through a pediatrician's office, daycare facility, etc., TOTS automates a response of acknowledgment that states, "Thank you for the referral." It cannot have the child's name on it until the family consents with that physician or anyone else; we cannot say who the child is. We try to get the consent to share information early on, but that depends on when the family receives this. Regarding tracking, we do not have a tracking mechanism for public access referrals.

Motion to adjourn made by Holly LaFavers and seconded by Catherine Lowe.

Next meeting date: July 11, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.

Systemic Improvement

Possible Changes to Family Survey

Provider Renewal

Budget

- FFY24 Application for Part C funds
- State Budget/Status of Rate Structure Change

Revised Regulations

Preschool Development Grant Activity

11:00

KEIS Operations

- SLA Staffing
- Compliance Monitoring
- CEIMTP Update
- Record Review

11:30

Public Comment

Future Meeting Dates

Adjourn