



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

Developmental Disabilities Division

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King County Interagency Coordinating Council (KCICC)

June 25, 2007

Renton Public Health Center

3001 NE 4th St

Renton, WA 98056

Members:

Sandy Duncan, Lead F.R.C

Dawn Williams, Head Start

Betsy McAlister, Arc

Guests:

Jose Martinez, Arc

Harla Tumbleson, SOAR

KCDDD Staff:

Ray Jensen

Kathy Svinth

Leilani Dela Cruz

Jan Wrathall

Helen Cadigan

Introductions

Sandy Duncan opened the meeting with introductions, and solicited announcements.

Announcements

Betsy announced that she and Mary Jo Magruder of Arc of King County received a leadership development project grant for adults with developmental disabilities and families of children – especially children 12 years or younger - with developmental disabilities. The grant is from the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council and County. Helen will distribute to providers. Call Betsy for info.

Dawn contributed that Head Start reauthorization has recently passed in the House and has already passed in the Senate. Hopefully reauthorization will pass before congress ends in the current session.

Jose announced that Arc of King County will be looking for a new director. He also shared information about their Annual multicultural event, being held at Seward Park September 7, 2007. If you'd like more information, contact Jose.

Sandy announced that Washington Health Foundation has moved from their former offices. Their new address is: 600 Stewart Street, Suite 601; Seattle, WA 98101. The general office phone number is the same and email addresses are the same. Sandy's new direct phone number is 206-438-6105.

Review Minutes of April 23, 2007 KCICC Meeting

A request was made to change the minutes by distinguishing Committee One from the Operations Committee.

Operations Committee members are Betsy McAlister, Sandy Duncan, Magan Cromar, Beth Campbell, Jan Wrathall (staff) and Cheryl Buettemeier.

Committee One (Prevention/Early Intervention Action Team) members are Magan Cromar, Cheryl Buettemeier, Harla Tumbleson (Chair), Adrienne Fatur, Enrica Hampton, Sandy Duncan, Leilani Dela Cruz (staff) Jan Wrathall (staff) and Mercedes Cordova-Hakim.

Committee Two (Parent Outreach) members are Betsy McAlister (Chair), Sandy Duncan, Heather Moline and Leilani Dela Cruz (staff). Leilani will organize meetings.

Committee Updates

Committee Two, Parent Outreach: The committee hasn't met since the April 23, 2007 KCICC meeting. They want to hold a meeting, separate from the KCICC, to develop their charter. Leilani would like to stay on that committee and also Mercedes from SOAR. Betsy McAlister. Dawn, Jose.

Prevention/Early Intervention Action Team: The last meeting of this committee was canceled. Harla gave a brief description of the goals of SOAR, which are in line with the Three Year Plan for Early Intervention. They hope to reduce the age of identifying children with delays and having them enter the early intervention system from 1.8 years to one year. The strategies developed by the Prevention/Early Intervention Action Team are:

1. Go deeper to outreach underserved communities. Engage parents in these communities with education and training.
2. Build better partnerships with medical community to encourage prescreening for developmental delays.
3. Work with early childhood care providers – including neighborhood care centers and family day care centers – to increase awareness of atypical development/behavior, and to provide referral information.
4. Discover best solutions for older kids with developmental disabilities for after-school activities.

Harla added that he would like to make families' needs more public.

Jan said that the Team would like to have a medical provider on the committee. Barring that, we would like to have a panel discussion involving pediatricians or family practice physicians. We hope to learn from them how to best reach them, and to encourage and support them in assessments. Jan would also like to discuss how kids can be brought into the early intervention system while in the hospital and how a more seamless transition can

occur when they are released. July 18, 2007 is the target date for an Action Team meeting that would include medical providers.

Harla said that with the budget that is available for this project, his hope is to make a blueprint, to demonstrate some pilot models and develop partnerships with communities, with a long term goal of attracting bigger funders for the target issues.

Betsy made the point that parents need support when their kids will never be ready for kindergarten. There needs to be education about maximize their kids' potential, which helps when the kids enter school.

Leilani asked about how Committee Two (Parent/Diversity Outreach) goals coincide with Committee One (Prevention/Early Intervention Action Team) goals. Jan said there is one goal they have in common, otherwise their goals are different. They will discuss how to assign or share that goal.

Operations Committee: Betsy reported on the Operations Committee. They hope to meet quarterly, probably at Boyer. They will look at membership issues and will do a mailing with the goal of determining current membership. There are questions about specific bylaws that will be explored. Will see if propose changes to bylaws.

Budget Constraints

Ray said there has been 70% growth in the numbers of children who exited Early Intervention services King County since 2002. In 2002 there were 1,101; in 2006 there were 1,875. There is a 66% growth in expenditures of Child Development Services (CDS) dollars from 2002 to what was contracted in 2006. We can't sustain this growth with the current level of funding. There will need to be a lid. There has always never been a waiting list for babies in King County, there has always been an open door in the program, but we will need to maintain the current program participant level. We have been told that there will be no growth in State only dollars. To fund additional babies we'd need to reduce funding to some adults, and we probably won't do that. We would determine the lid to be the numbers at which we exit 2007. The problem is that the legislature has never given us specific dollars for growth in birth to three, early intervention. Under the current funding structure, we made a choice to fund children, as opposed to adults. Ray hopes that this group will help in making decisions and in influencing the legislature to support the growth that is shown with this hard data. The reimbursed cost per child has only increased \$4.00 in five years. Ray will prepare a grid for a more comprehensive discussion of the funding challenges later in the year.

Jan added that as more school districts come board, which is state law by 2009, that will lessen the needed reductions. In addition, there was a slight increase in the State's part C grant. The state has agreed to use \$400,000 of that to restore four previously reduced programs. That leaves \$166,000 statewide. Of that amount, \$66,000 will go toward training and assistance across the state, and \$100,000 will be distributed across the state based on numbers of increased IFSPs.

Ray would like to see a coordinated effort toward discovering ways to blend money – including insurance – to cover gaps for individual children.

Jose expressed a concern that if the system is increasing numbers of immigrant families in early intervention services, there needs to be awareness, if services or client numbers are reduced, that those families are not eligible for part C funding, due to their immigration status. Ray believes that families need to be identified and ways to pay for services should be found. He advises articulating these types of concerns to the legislature. Currently, advocates are having some difficulty with the legislature's understanding of how funding works for birth to three services. The legislature thought having school districts involved would solve the DD funding problems. As a community we need to be able to present the problem to the legislature.

Betsy can provide numbers for legislative hotlines and other information to providers, and work to help agencies and people working in the system to get in the habit of staying in touch with the legislature. She can work through the state ICC.

Ray ended his discussion by saying that this is the biggest challenge and crisis ever faced in his tenure.

Catchment Areas

Leilani spoke about working with providers in looking at moving toward having catchment areas for service delivery. These discussions are happening because more providers are going out into the community to provide services in natural environments and because some areas of the county have grown more than other areas. Providers are traveling all over the county, and it is felt that some efficiencies are needed. To aid the process, maps were developed of growth areas showing births by zip code for years 2003 through 2005, children in 2006 with active IFSPs and a map soon to come of areas of service by agency, by volume of kids and by zip code. Information is being collected about providers' perceived service area boundaries, and it is hope that information can be in layers on the county map to help discussions. If catchment areas become formalized, there will be procedures that will incorporate family choice. In a recent meeting with early intervention providers, 20 considerations were listed for developing catchment areas, including considering community identification boundaries, as opposed to geographical or political. At this time, data is being looked at according to zip codes because that is what is available. The question was asked how families would know that they would have a choice for provider agencies. Leilani said that would be included in the next level of discussion with providers about catchment areas.

Proposed Part C Regulations

Jan Wrathall briefly mentioned that a side by side guide is available on the DEC website for going through the new proposed Part C regulations. Some may view that document as not very helpful, but there is also the preamble to the proposed regulations that is very interesting. Public comment on the proposed regulations is due by July 23, 2007.

Site Reviews

Kathy Svinth, contract monitor for KCDDD, gave an overview of site monitoring. Contractor site monitoring is required at least every two years by Washington State for agencies contracting state funds. Kathy distributed a handout of the Powerpoint presentation that she gave the group. The presentation showed how KCDDD writes their contract and how monitoring relates to the contract.

Other

Jan showed the new early intervention brochure.

KCDDD is being audited by the state. The exit interview is June 26, 2007. The parent representative, provider representative and the Board have been invited to the exit interview. There will be a written report which Jan will share with the KCICC, but for the exit interview Jan invited only a few direct service stakeholders.

Beginning July 1, 2007, child outcome reporting will be required. Early intervention outcomes will be reported for three areas: self help, social/emotional relationships and acquiring skills - all functional areas. Within those three areas there are gradations of 7 levels. There will need to be conversations with families about where their child is functionally, and that information will go on IFSPs. The requirement is for all kids entering the system as of July 1, 2007, and then at the point of the child's exit from the early intervention system. There will be data entry for this information, but the system doesn't yet accommodate it.

Jan solicited reports from the statewide natural environments retreat. Dawn Williams reported that the purpose of the retreat was to discuss issues and conflicts with natural environments.

Leilani found it to be an attempt to guide discussion about what the issues are from different perspectives. There were representative groups for providers, parents and the state system. To see other's perspectives. There was some goal setting. The afternoon discussions were more general. Betsy pointed out that there were about 12 different discussion groups, on topics such as advocacy and outreach. One group did continue with natural environments.

Jan would like to start going over the state performance plan at the KCICC meetings.

State application will be revised for next year. Begin reading through the application and begin thinking about changes you'd like to make to it. Sandy Morris wants input now even though the application will not be revised until next year, to avoid last minute input.

The next meeting will be September 24 at the Safeco Jackson Street Center.