

SC Interagency Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2024  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Members Present in Person:**

Dr. David Rotholz, Trainer of Personnel (University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources)  
Dr. Heather Googe, Chair, University of South Carolina Childcare Inclusion Collaborative  
Sherri Evans, SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSES)  
Scott Falcone, SC School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB)  
Laura McCraw-About Play Early Intervention

**Guests Present in Person:**

Jennifer Buster, SCDHHS  
Willi Stokes,  
Elaine Gentry, SCSDB  
Catherine Davary  
Gabriele Jefferson, SCDHHS  
Jena Martin, SCDHHS  
Stephanie Donald, SCDHHS  
2 Interpreters

**Online attendance captured by TEAMS**

- **Welcome and Introductions with Interpreter**
- **Approval of Agenda** – Sherri Evans motioned, Laura McCraw second, agenda approved
- **Approval of Minutes** - Dr Rotholz motioned to approve with 2 corrections from previous agenda
  - Scott Falcone- SCSDB: change Alabama State University to Institute for Deaf and Blind
  - Sherri Evans- change McKinny Vento contacts to Child Find contacts
- **No Public Comment**
- **BabyNet Directors Report**
  - Stephanie reviewed referral data, State of Eligible Children by district from 7/1/23-6/30/24.
  - Indicator 7 from last year (FFY 22) 58.55 % compared to now (FFY 23) 80.26%
  - Indicator 1 Timely Provision of Services – FFY22 96.4 % FFY23 97.04%
  - Indicator 8c Transition Conferences
  - 95% timely unverified- sample APR 99.57%
  - Family Outcomes Surveys sent electronically 3/28/24, 28% response rate

- Comment from Amy Holbert – appreciate hard work and data supporting those outcomes

## **Jennifer Buster**

10/4/24 She and Director Kerr notified by OSEP that we are on the schedule to be monitored (DMS) Aug 2027-Jan 2028 anticipated visit; explained cohort selection and processes by phasing 1-3.

Federal conferences attended by BNSO director and managers: OSEP Leadership and Infant Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA) and Improving Data Improving Outcomes (IDIO)

South Carolina will need to focus on fiscal monitoring, ICC meetings and attendance, dispute resolution processes and General Supervision (moving beyond general indicators).

Jennifer and Jena created slides to share with focus areas outlining strengths of the program including timely services, transition conferences, collaboration with the state's \$619 preschool program, etc.

Will rely on national technical assistance (TA) provided for mock interviews and preparation.

BNSO has been doing strategic planning with entire team to examine all processes that currently exist, staff roles align with IDEA and staff's skills and strengths

New Provider Data: BNSO submitted Education Improvement Act (EIA) report in Sept 24; reflecting on goal of 10% increase in providers submitted in 2023- all providers (therapists) increased except service coordinators.

Changes in DDSN enrollment process allowing 20 plus new SC agencies to come through as new providers.

BNSO Eligibility stated yesterday there are still children sitting in eligibility waiting on ongoing service coordination

Will share APR data in January as its due Feb 2024.

Reminder to encourage providers to utilize CEUs and training modules BN purchased with APR funds. Please email Laura Tsuboi at [laura.tsuboi@scdhhs.gov](mailto:laura.tsuboi@scdhhs.gov) if you have questions regarding the online modules

Elaine requested data on new provider enrollment

Willie Stokes requested breakdown of providers and where

BNSO is updating Provider Matrix in BRIDGES data system, please help encourage providers to update their information in the matrix – this info includes available spots, insurance, hours, etc

ICC suggested making matrix updates mandatory per their provider contract

RFP to update BRIDGES system progressing, phased into 3 categories:

Billing

Referral

## Provider Enrollment

Scott Falcone asked why provider matrix can't be made mandatory now with software changes J  
Jennifer stated we will do that, but it will be the last phase of the project.

Sally – What is the estimated time of each phase of BRIDGES to be released?

Answer: April 1 for billing with a month or so of testing

Last two phases will be announced later but won't take as long as billing phase

2 BabyNet videos: BabyNet Overview and Provider Recruitment

On DHHS website/BabyNet/Resources/Marketing Toolkit

Reviewed BN over video, Scott Falcone asked it to be captioned for deaf/HH families

Please feel free to link videos on your websites and social media

## SCICC Vision Discussion

ICC has been an ongoing discussion in Strategic planning with DHHS BN state office, focuses on Memberships and re appointment

Updates to Lead Agency

By laws committee- really need to look at expanding parent participation and when parents are best able to contribute – Heather asked if anyone from HHS can coordinate this work. Jennifer B will check on this request.

## State Agency Updates

**Dr. Googe:** TA opportunity, with no funds, to partner Part C and childcare to focus on EI inclusion in centers. 5 states are being accepted as Pilot TA states. Part C Director, and DSS supervisor Michele Bowers must be represented. Potential incentives for families.

Announced SC was awarded PDG grant again, focusing on C to B transition and other focuses. Dr. Googe will outreach stakeholders as contracts are being negotiated. Vulnerable populations also a focus and workforce/mental health/compensation.

## Dr. Rotholz:

CDR- likely increased collab with School of Medicine -CMA is moving to CDR building

Federal Medicaid approved State's application for MCC waiver to approve attendant care program

P-4 received a second year of full funding to expand statewide.

**Sherri Evans:** shoutout to SCPI conference

OSes- fall admin day next week, continuing to provide support to districts for new statewide data system

Transition data looks good at approx. 99 %

**Scott Falcone:** planning EI conference with Alabama Univ in Fall 2025 geared towards ICC professionals, breakdown on ASD, Deafness, Blindness and Deaf Blind. Separate session on service coordination. Potentially Wed-Sat.

Language Acquisition for children who are Deaf/HH. Visual language program – new director who will develop and implement these services. Catherine Davary

**Louise DMH:** summit planned 2/8/24 for parents, providers, stakeholders, community

**Tara Carroll:** First Sound – current HRSA grant is to establish baselines for language acquisition, working on conference for 2/22/24 to hold 2nd Building Bridges deaf and Hard of Hearing, Deaf Blind and Deaf conference

MCHB

Camp Burnt Gin- successful season with 190 campers

**Amy FCSC:** increase in families seeking services in both Education and Health care sectors – 6900 referrals, 54% of those birth to 5, avg school age child 6 of families seeking services

Healthcare referrals largely from Medicaid unwinding.

Working with DHHS in a pilot program to expedite TEFRA process, should finish end of this year. Goal is 90 days to be eligible and receive services.

Worked with DOE to increase awareness with McKinney Vento services

CSHCN- less than 1/7 identified as having a special health care need reported having supports and services they need particularly with birth to 5 yr. FCSC will train parents to speak on behalf of a population to elicit feedback for the needs assessment for our state.

**HeadStart: Evelyn:** announced via chat mid fall conference is scheduled for Nov

**DDSN-Joyce:** enrollment process still open for new Early Intervention providers

### **ICC Meeting Dates for 2025**

1/15/25

3/19/25

Motion to adjourn at 11:34 am Dr Rotholz and seconded by Laura McCraw.

Next meeting: January 15, 2025