

South Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

SC School for the Deaf and the Blind, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, SC, 29210

Members Present:

Amy Holbert, Parent Training and Information Center (Family Connection SC)
Anita Ellison-Porter designee for Louise Johnson, South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH)
Dr. David Rotholz, Trainer of Personnel (University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Center for Disability Resources)
Dr. Heather Gooze, Chair, University of South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative
Elaine Gentry designee for Scott Falcone, South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB)
Evelyn P. Grant, SC HeadStart Association
Joyce Kimrey, South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN)
Karen Larson, Provider of Early Intervention Services
Laura McCraw, Provider of Early Intervention Services
Sherri Evans, SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSES)
Tara Carroll, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)

Guests Present:

Allie Megale
Audrey Parrott
Birley Wright
Brianna Steed
Cassidy Lena
Cherie Scoggins
Deneen Middleton, Kid in Development Services
Denise Balansky, Easterseals SC
Dr. Sarah Edmunds, University of South Carolina
Evelyn Grant
Jennifer Buster, SCDHHS
Stephanie Donald, SCDHHS
Jennifer Horton
Jennifer Strock, SCDHHS
Kaitlyn Gmitro
Kerri Wikel, TECS
LaJuanya Jones, SCDHHS
Laura McCraw, About Play
Laura Tsuboi, SCDHHS
Lauren McCaskill, TECS Intern
Melissa Cortez, Babynet Eligibility
Melissa Griffin, Easterseals

Melody Lucas
Nuria Lopez, Great Kids and Awesome Adults
Robin Morris, SCDHHS
Stacey Fuller
Suzanne English
Wendy Cox
Stacy Scruggs, Easterseals
Taylor Ridenour, Easterseals
Willie Stokes, About Play
Zeel Patel, Developmental Pediatrics Fellow in Prisma Upstate participating in LEND

Welcome and Introductions: Heather welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda:

Dr. David Rotholz made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Sherri Evans.

Approval of Minutes:

David Rotholz made a motion to approve the July 2023 minutes, seconded by .

Public Comment: None

BabyNet Director's Report:

Jennifer Buster, BabyNet Director, presented her report to the committee.

- Jennifer talked about the American Rescue Plan Funds; just over 3.2 Million dollars were received; the funds were spent on 4 categories:

Provider Recruitment and Retention

- Provider Appreciation Items for provider meet & greets in January
- Conference sponsorships
- A contract with a company to do provider recruitment webinar
- Provide books for EI service coordination providers

Public Awareness

- Purchase of BabyNet promotional materials including a promotional video and brochures in English and Spanish

Training on Evidence-based practices

- RBI training
- On-line training to develop and share 3 years of additional training for PT and OT providers
- Purchased EI Pyramid modules
- Currently working with 2 agencies to move SC towards a Pyramid Model state
- Covered SCHIMA memberships with more memberships still available, assist with endorsement fees

- Offering supervision to a small group of people that is more intense and requires a certain commitment level from their agencies
- Available BabyNet on-line training modules for speech therapy
- Staff was able to attend the BabyNet Champions for Childrens Symposium

Technology

- Secure contract services for data systems
- RBI training
- started working with ECPC to revamp our comprehensive system of development
 - o Creating a leadership team and smaller committee for outreach

Heather Blackwell left the Agency and the team is conducting interviews to fill her position

Policy and Procedure changes

- On Sept. 1, 2023, changes were implemented previously discussed at the Public Hearings.
 1. The option to deliver services under the split model, not a requirement, but serves as an option for service coordination. As of last week, no BabyNet eligible children are waiting on a service coordination provider.
 2. Annual Eligibility requirement used to be 15% (WNL) was changed to 25%

Evidence-based practice work

- did Pyramid overview; created an application process for EI.
- Service Coordination providers selected 2 Agencies to work with staff on the Pyramid Model

Questions: What will the Feds do with the state dollars that were returned?

Some states requested extensions which were denied

Data system vendor has been selected and negotiations have begun

Stephanie presented data (see attached)

State Agency Updates:

Amy Holbert, Family Connection of SC: Annual Midlands Buddy Walk takes place on Oct.29, 2023; 2020 -2023 look back on data referrals increased 93%; launched the Targeted Outreach Campaign for non-Hispanic Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites, Spanish speaking families; Autism seems to be the #1 referral; working with a vendor to run a report on suspension and expulsion of kids that have been turned away from childcare settings; working with ECTA to produce 2 exemplars for the work around Early childhood and preschools.

David Rotholz, Center for Disability Resources: Grant has been awarded for the P4 effort; Proposal pending with Duke Endowment; Hiring staff for more projects

Kerri Wikel, TECS: Moving forward with Pyramid model training; Starting with two agencies and a national trainer; RBI community of practice will be starting after the first of the year

HeadStart: None

SCDE/OSES: Had a second meeting on Midlands training for cross section groups; Fall Special Education Administrators Conference went well; PCG transition is in progress with an official roll-out on July 1, 2024

SCSDB: No updates

SCDHHS: None

BabyNet Eligibility: Changed processes to help families connect to a service coordinator more quickly. Intake coordinators are working overtime to see families as quickly as possible. Two new intake positions have been posted and a new position was approved.

SCDDSN: Constance Holloway is the new Director

SCDMH: Establishing Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health 1:1 training for the agency's Learning Management System; Louise is planning a call-to-action parental and community awareness summit: The Kids are Not OK, on December 1 and 2, 2023 at Morris College, Sumter. Increase training opportunities for clinicians on evidence-based modules, parent/child interaction therapy as well as child/parent psychotherapy.

SCDHEC: Kimberly Seals left the agency, replacement to start in November. DHEC will be split effective July 1, 2024, partnered with SC Hands and Voices with to host conference held at Brookland Baptist Church with another planned in February 2025, working on a grant from HRSA.

Next meeting to be held on January 17, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.