**State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)**

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, April 8, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** VirtualZoom Meeting

**Members Present:**

Marilee Andrews

Tracy Barker

Leslie Doyle

Marc Garnier

Jennifer Hannon

Antiqua Hunter

Soundra T. Johnson

Colleen Klein-Ezell

Angela Lorio

Shanida Mathieu

Chriscella Metoyer

Ann Phillips

Bambi Polotzola

Fiona Ritchey

Brenda Sharp

Kahree Wahid

**Members Absent:**

Mike Billings

Rebecca DeLaSalle

Kathryne Hart

Tawnya Moore

Ursula Oustalet Meaux

Joy Pennington

Libbie Sonnier

**Others Present:**

Melanie Washington

Susannah Boudreaux

Terri Ibieta

1. **Call to order**: at 1:00 PM by SICC Chairperson, Shanida Mathieu
2. **Roll Call and Introductions**

**Quorum Present**: 16 of 23 Committee members present (12 required)

1. **Old Business**
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes from Past Meetings**:Minutes of the **January 14, 2021** quarterly meeting were reviewed.

**Motion to approve January 14, 2021 minutes by Angela Lorio. Seconded by Leslie Doyle. Motion Carried**

1. **New Business**
2. **EDHI/EarlySteps Update Presentation: Susannah Boudreaux and Terri Ibieta**
3. **Executive Directors Report:** **Melanie Washington**

SICC Membership: Kathy Edmondston, Louisiana Legislator has not yet been appointed by Governor Edwards. We also have Provider Seats vacant that need to be filled. Shanida Mathieu is resigning from her position as a Council Member and Chairperson because she has a new job and presents a conflict of interest.

The SICC orientation handbook and website will be updated. Council members and stakeholders should review and provide suggestions if they have any.

The Action Planning Committee suggested an active submission form on the SICC webpage for members to submit their latest information relevant to EarlySteps. That form is functional and available to receive updates.

1. **Lead Agency Report:** **Brenda Sharp** *(see attached report for full details):*

**Annual Performance Report (APR):** Submitted February 1st and that report was sent out to members and stakeholders in March. New Information collection was extended through 2025. New targets have to be set for the APR Results Indicators. This activity will be conducted through the RICC’s and they will solicit SICC members and stakeholder input to set targets and improve performance.

**State Systemic Improvement Plan:** Submitted April 1st and was sent out to members and stakeholders with April SICC meeting documents. This document includes the impacts of COVID on results. Family Assessment and Teaming fidelity measures have improved slightly and there was no fidelity measure data for service delivery at this time due to the need to focus on resources for teletherapy. The workgroups are also finalized which modules will be used for DEC RP orientation. The SSIP performance indicator for 2019-2020 was set at 55%. The actual performance was 51.74%, therefore the target was not met for this fiscal year. After evaluating the data, there was a dramatic decrease in exit scores from March through June. This appears to possibly be results of COVID. In addition to that, Child Care Center referrals were down and services in that setting were also down, also appearing to be result of COVID. Childcare centers were closing across the state and providers were not able to go into those setting.

Results from SSIP assessments were covered, please see report for details.

**State of the Region:** Region 5, RICC position will be filled on April 12, 2021. The new Regional Coordinator (RC) is Patrick Juneau. An offer is out for the Region 3’s RC. There will be introductory meetings for the new RC once they come on board. All Regional meeting dates are included in the report for those interested in attending the virtual meetings.

**Budget and Finance:** There are no cuts planned in the EarlySteps budget. There was a slight increase in the federal allocation but we are not sure what the state allocation will be. The budget for you review is not the final budget.

Louisiana will receive $3.1m of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. There will be a meeting today regarding guidance on when money will be received, timelines, etc. More information will be forthcoming. The staff has begun to brainstorm some ideas on how to use the money and would like to get ideas from SICC and stakeholders. The major category areas that IDEA funds can pay for are public awareness, child/family assessment/evaluation, service delivery, and provider support.

*(The floor was open to SICC members and stakeholders regarding suggestions on how to spend the funds. One Council member agreed that the suggestions provided in the report were good suggestions. No other suggestions were made. The Lead Agency Manager, Brenda Sharp agreed to provide an email update to members regarding guidance from today’s OSEP call.)*

Cost Participation Report: Collections for 2021 are down due to the impact of COVID and natural disasters.

**EarlySteps COVID-19 Sequence of Events (Ongoing**): EarlySteps is functioning in Phase 3 and will continue through April 28th. If there is a reduced risk for contracting COVID based on screening methods, there can be up to 4 home visits per day. Vaccinations are available for EarlySteps providers since January 2021.

**Child Count:** Referral rates have decreased slightly (1.23% or approximately 1,500 children) from 2019 – 2020. Overall, child count has been significantly reduced. The numbers started to flatten, in referrals and child count, starting about August 2019 and continued due to impacts of COVID.

*(Brenda Sharp stated that staff started to look at racial equity issues within EarlySteps last summer and there is significant data that shows there is disproportionality for certain racial and ethnic groups. This is an area EarlySteps will be working to improve.)*

**SSIP Committee Reports**

1. **Family Assessment Workgroup (Monica Stampley) –** They worked on DEC Recommended Practices results for the Transition and Family modules. They were reviewed and are in the process of getting all rubrics turned in.
2. **Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities (April Hearron) –** This group is reviewing the DEC Recommended Practices Modules Interaction and Instruction. They are completing rubrics for those. They will incorporate teletherapy practices into the practice manual and update fidelity tool for in person and virtual. They will resume their observations.
3. **Team Based Practice Supports** –Brenda Sharp (RC for Region 3 – Lutcher Area): No report. However, they have continued to use and observe the fidelity measure.
4. **Other Business**
5. BFH – Risk & Reach Report (Fiona Ritchey): *This report is not yet ready to be publicly shared so report was postponed.*
6. **Agency Updates**

BFH (Fiona Ritchey) – They BFH applied for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant again and if awarded it will be for five years and for $250,000. If it gets funded, there will be collaboration with EarlySteps.

LDOE (Leslie Doyle) – Louisiana’s Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) commission recently released their report “Funding Our Future: The Economic Imperative of Early Childhood Care and Education in Louisiana”. This is the third year in a row, the report continues to request the for $85.8m.

Louisiana Believes and Achieves document was put out by the department. This discusses how they will utilize most recent funds awarded. The priorities were briefly reviewed. See the full report for details. Leslie Doyle will make available to the SICC.

1. **Public Comments**

None.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Jennifer Hannon, seconded by Kahree Wahid. Motion Carried.**