

Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council (La - SICC)

Thursday, January 12, 2023

1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.

Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street

Louisiana Purchase Room

**MINUTES**

**Welcome**– Kahree Wahid

**Roll Call** – SICC Secretary/Bambi Polotzola

*Members present*:

Susannah F. Boudreaux Marc F. Garnier

Jennifer Hannon Antiqua L. Hunter, Ph.D

Rep. Rodney Lyons Ursula A. Oustalet

Chriscella M. Metoyer Tawnya S. Moore

Joy J. Pennington Ann K. Phillips

Bambi D. Polotzola Brenda Sharp

Kathryn M. Smitherman Mary E. Libbie Sonnier, Ph.D.

**Elections**

Secretary: Tracy Barker

Motioned by Ursula Oustalet Meaux; seconded by Mark Garnier

Motion passed

Parliamentarian: Ursula Oustalet Meaux

Motioned by Susannah Boudreaux; Seconded by Kathyrn Smitherman

Motion passed

Vice Chairperson: Kathryn Smitherman

Motioned by Bambi Polotzola; seconded by Susannah Boudreaux.

Motion passed.

Chairperson: Kahree Wahid

Motioned by Ursula Oustalet Meaux; Seconded by Kathyrn Smitherman

Motion passed.

This position is appointed by the Governor and has to be approved.

Parent-at-large: Vacant

Hoping to fill the position by the next meeting.

[‘Promoting Early Intervention in Louisiana: Recommendations for Increasing Enrollment in EarlySteps’](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__policyinstitutela.org_wp-2Dcontent_uploads_2022_10_Early-2DSteps-2DReport-2DFINAL.pdf&d=DwMFAg&c=xlPCXuHzMdaH2Flc1sgyicYpGQbQbU9KDEmgNF3_wI0&r=xFJCMqZPPvh--EzxH7vKGooa7uyyu7kPKpFD_KdAvBI&m=wNT3aJMGjRknjTZ-V2Czuvv4Chv9lrTRaGyWnug5yjGp1T6miNIMBs_zioeY5WSz&s=minlY1W6Rt3tGF_4FyKpgxpk8n-0ZrQx2BNmdM4-_58&e=) (Question/Answer Session)

Andy Gomm, Early Learning Consultant

Andy Gomm summarized the methodology of his six month report. He briefly went over some of the details from the report. One of the recommendations was to form a child find committee. This is a common committee for ICCs to form.

Review and Approval of October Minutes – Kahree Wahid

A motion to approve October minutes was passed.

Motion to approve made by Marc Garner. Seconded by Ursula Oustalet.

**Reports** (see attached)

* Executive Director Report – Alishia Vallien

Alishia gave an update on the report.

* Lead Agency Report – Brenda Sharp
* State Systemic Improvement Plan Update

* Family Cost Participation Report

Family costs were suspended for any family impacted by Covid or Ida. Numbers are starting to come back up.

* Annual Performance Report

Brenda Sharp provided a PowerPoint. Ms. Sharp gave a COVID update. Annual Performance Report is due in February. She discussed preliminary results.

* Regional ICC Reports

Two reports are not included. Dates for quarterly meetings are listed within their reports.

* SSIP Sub-Committee Reports

**Family Assessment,** Monica Stampley

The group met via Zoom, phone and email in October, November and December. They met to finalize the process for new hires and to discuss the roll out for the fidelity tool. The whole work group met on Oct. 19th to discuss the new hires' timeline. As of now, all SPOEs have completed the fidelity tool training. The group will meet again on January 23rd to continue discussing the data analysis. The invite has been sent out.

* Other Updates

Louisiana was selected to be in cohort two for a new monitoring system. It is called Differentiated Monitoring and Support or DMS 2.0. It is a new federally defined monitoring process, and it is a three year process. Our process will begin July 2024. In August of 2024, interviews will be set up with the staff. In December of 2024, there will be an onsite visit or virtual visit. They will make recommendations for improvement. Cohort one has been completed. We did request a delay due to the turnover in staff. This request was denied. More information is forthcoming.

*Staff turnover* - Lizbeth Raque, Tracy Crump, Leona White, and Brenda Sharp are leaving or have left. Brenda Sharp will work with the person taking her place prior to retiring.

* TEFRA Update
* 426 children between ages birth and three applied
  + 202 were approved
  + 11 did not qualify
  + The remaining are still going through the process.
* Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities

April Herron provided an update. They have been meeting monthly. They have been observing direct service providers. Zoom and in-person observations were conducted. They will continue moving forward with this method.

They are starting back up this month. Their goal is to have three providers per region quarterly. Different coaching model trainings are being reviewed before a decision is made on which one to implement for future training for providers. They are working with Community Outreach Specialists to identify community locations for natural environments.

* Team-based Practice Supports

Brenda Sharp gave an update. Committee has not met. A meeting will be scheduled.

Bambi made the motion to accept reports. Ursula seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Other Business – LDH Updates, Julie Foster Hagan

Provided a presentation as an update.

<https://ldh.la.gov/page/businessplan>

Bambi provided the 2023 Business Plan in the chat. LDH worked a lot toward dental coverage, substance abuse and mental health. The state worked a lot towards maternal care, breast feeding, and referrals for early child care intervention. Water system improvement was also a focus. Work was also done around customer service. A new initiative is looking into the effect of ACEs and colorectal screening. The business plan shows successes and needs for improvement.

Public Comments – Merisa Fruge Edwards, Parent

Merisa Fruge Edwards, parent of three year old Grayson Edwards, gave an update on Grayson's life-changing experience with EarlySteps. Grayson was born at 33 weeks. He held his head to the side. Grayson began early intervention around three months old. He received physical and occupational therapy. Around age two speech therapy was added, because Grayson was not on target and barely said any words. At age three, he plays sports. In October, Grayson was screened and scored average to above average developmental skills, and he has no exceptionality. Merisa is thankful to EarlySteps for providing him with therapists that changed his life. All of the therapists worked with him, her, and the daycare.

Adjournment

Ursula motioned to adjourn.

Marc Garner seconded the motion.

With no opposition, motion passed.

Adjourn at 3:00 pm.