**State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)**

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** VirtualZoom Meeting

**Members Present:**

Marilee Andrews

Tracy Barker

Mike Billings

Leslie Doyle

Jennifer Hannon

Kathryne Hart

Antiqua Hunter

Colleen Klein-Ezell

Angela Lorio

Shanida Mathieu

Ursula Oustalet Meaux

Chriscella Metoyer

Tawnya Moore

Joy Pennington

Ann Phillips

Bambi Polotzola

Fiona Ritchey

Brenda Sharp

Libbie Sonnier-Netto

Kahree Wahid

**Members Absent:**

Rebecca DeLaSalle

Marc Garnier

Soundra T. Johnson

**Others present:**

Melanie Washington

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

**Quorum Present**: 20 of 23 Committee members present (12 required)

**II. Old Business**

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes from Past Meetings**:Minutes of the **October 8, 2020** quarterly meeting were reviewed.

**Motion to approve October 8, 2020 minutes by Bambi Polotzola. Seconded by Tracy Barker. Motion Carried.**

1. **New Business**
2. **Family’s EarlySteps Journey – No story shared during this meeting.**
3. **Executive Directors Report:** **Melanie Washington**

The SICC has submitted Representative Kathy Edmonston’s name to the Governor for approval to sit on the SICC representing the Louisiana Legislature. The SICC has two EarlySteps **provider seats** open to be filled.

The SICC webpage has been updated to include the form that members can submit communications that they would like added to the webpage.

As of today, we will continue to plan virtual meetings until otherwise notified. These plans can change in the near future.

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

Annual Performance Report (APR): Met 7 performance targets at 100%, 10 indicator targets were not met and improvement was made in 8 indicators. Beginning in the spring, targets will be set for the remainder of the 2020 – 2025 reporting period. Targets have already been set for the 1st 2 years. Stakeholders will be able to participate in this activity. Information will be sent out when it becomes available.

APR Indicator 3/Child outcome data, the process was revised on how they measure how children improve from entry to exit. For a few years, 55% of children were exiting at the level of their peers so target was set at 55%. For two years ES met that target. However, this year the target was not met. They achieved 52%. After evaluating the numbers, each quarter prior to the pandemic they were high percentages of children with exit scores. The last quarter (March – June) was much lower, which is when the pandemic began to impact the state. The data will be monitored next year to see if that target will be maintained or if it needs to be revised.

The APR will be sent to the SICC for the Chairpersons signature.

**State Systemic Improvement Plan:** This plan goes in on April 1, 2021. This plan will be submitted with the APR next February as part of the new information collection period. Two of the three workgroups will be reporting on the SSIP activities. They are working on updating the training modules to reflect the improvement activities and goals for evidence-based practices.

State of the Region Reports: All regions had RICC meetings this quarter except regions 3 and 5. These two regions do not regional coordinators at this time.

**Budget and Finance**

**Cost Participation Report:** Cost participation for families who are still experiencing the impact of the hurricanes and/or the pandemic have been suspended upon request. Collections are down.

**State Budget:** Fiscal Year 2021-2022 - Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) will meet sometime in January. They are meeting a little later so state departments currently do not have their allocations. State departments are preparing budgets and looking at different priority scenarios.

**EarlySteps COVID-19 Sequence of Events (Ongoing**)

Guidance was issued on November 9, 2020 for service delivery allowing up to 4 home visits per day plus visits to childcare centers in parishes with < 5% positivity rate. Teletherapy would continue if teams agreed. Currently, no parish is <5% positivity rate. Home visitors are now eligible for the vaccine.

**Child Count**

EarlySteps referrals have continued to drop on a monthly basis and in total. August 2019 had the highest number of children in the history of the ES program at 5700. Then the numbers started to flatten prior to the pandemic. Therefore, it is difficult to know the impact of the pandemic on the child count.

The target was set for the number of birth to one year olds enrolled in February 2019 and birth to three year olds. For the first time in many years, the target was not met for the number of infants and toddlers for the 2019 child count. For the first time, ES has exceeded its target for birth to three years old. They are well over 3%, which is the national marker.

**SSIP Committee Reports**

1. **Family Assessment Workgroup –** Monica Stampley (EarlySteps COS): This workgroup met January 14, 2021 for their quarterly meeting. They have been reviewing ES training module family centered practices and it was finalized in this meeting. It has been sent to the lead agency. As soon as feedback is received, they will move on to other modules.
2. **Service Delivery Supports Family Priorities** – April Hearron (RC for Region 7 – Shreveport Area): This workgroup met via Zoom and completed the practice profile. The updates add teletherapy practices to the documents. Next steps are to incorporate these practices to the updated practice manual. Professional developments were reviewed from the DEC RP. Also, this workgroup will look into equity and service coordination practices and how those relate to service delivery and fit into the Services Delivery work plan.
3. **Team Based Practice Supports** –Brenda Sharp (RC for Region 3 – Lutcher Area): No report.
4. **Nominations Committee** – Ursula Oustalet Meaux: On December 2, 2020, the Nominations Committee met to discuss officer nominees.

**Ursula Oustalet Meaux moved to nominate and present to full Council the following Council members as SICC officers for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years: Angela Lorio for Vice Chairperson, Bambi Polotzola for Secretary, Kahree Wahid for Parliamentarian, and Mike Billings for Parent-at-Large. Joy Pennington seconded. Motion carried.**

1. **Other Business**
2. **SICC Officer Elections**

The Chairperson opened the floor for additional nominations, none were made. The presented slate was voted on and the proposed officers were elected. Angela Lorio for Vice Chairperson, Bambi Polotzola for Secretary, Kahree Wahid for Parliamentarian, and Mike Billings for Parent-at-Large. Shanida Mathieu will remain as the appointed Chairperson.

1. **Children’s Medicaid Option Discussion (Susan Meyers) –** Planning is in full stream. The goal was to start the program on January 1, 2021. There has been no approval from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) yet. April 1, 2021 is the intended target for approval to start the registration and enrollment process. Level of care assessment for children with nursing home and hospital level of care is being finalized, except for children with developmental disabilities who will use the existing level of care.

This new program is modeled on TEFRA Option for children with disabilities (birth to 18) to receive Medicaid services regardless of their parental income. There are no waiver services. It is for children with significant disabilities but the child has to meet the SSA definition of disability and has to meet level of care by three pathways, Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), nursing home, and hospital levels of care. The children do not really have to spend time in any of those places but the hope is that this program will allow children to stay in their homes and prevent them from going into any of those facilities. All children in Act 421group will quality for EPSDT services, dental benefits, and any services available under state plan if services are medically necessary. There will be an enrollment cap but hoping to serve the vast majority of people who register for services. They expect to serve around 3000 people and if there are more registrants, there will be a wait list. Email [Susan.meyers@la.gov](mailto:Susan.meyers@la.gov) if you would like to participate in the stakeholder group.

1. **Agency Updates**

**LDOE (Leslie Doyle):** Leslie reviewed The Early Learning and Development Standards that will be submitted to BESE for approval. There is a brief survey out that stakeholders can participate in.

**Public Comments**

None.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Libbie Netto, seconded by Kahree Wahid. Motion Carried.**