

Early Intervention Planning Council Meeting

August 9, 2006

Minutes

Present

Judge Marilyn Moores
Christina Ball,
Rhonda Allen
John Brandon
Dr. Barbara Gillenwaters
Patricia Jones
Rita Akins
Kent Burrow
Marilyn Pfisterer
Lonnell Conley
Dan Carmin
John Kennedy

Support staff:

Eric Wright
Laura Littlepage

Dan Carmin convened the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Review and approval of minutes

Any additions or corrections to minutes of July 12? Hearing none, is there a motion to approve? Patricia Jones so moved, John Brandon seconded. All approved.

Kent Burrow- I will need to excuse myself early. If we want to hold meetings in City-County Council will make it easier for Channel 16 and Jean Milharic says that rooms are available. We have not seen any financial information or details on who is getting funded. I want to express my concern that we will get to the end of this and not understand the numbers. We have spent enough time to understand the theory, now we need to get practical.

Eric Wright- in October we will have a four hour meeting on finance, including federal, state and local finance. We will send a more comprehensive agenda on that before the meeting.

Current Challenges and Reform Initiatives in Juvenile Justice

Power point presentation given by Brant Ping and Christina Ball will be posted with minutes. Any Questions?

Marilyn Pfisterer- is the Fairbanks charter school ever used for kids having drug problems?

Christina Ball- Officers are familiar with it.

Marilyn Pfisterer - I know that they are limited in number of kids they can take.

Eric Wright- how many kids in the system are on Medicaid?

Judge Moores- it is a floating number. Once kids are detained their Medicaid eligibility ceases.

Eric Wright - governors agenda want more children to get on Medicaid. Potential windfall if could get them on Medicaid- only 20% of those eligible on it.

Dan Carmin- every CHINS case is enrolled into Medicaid. If they are accessing it is another issue. Not the case with probation, there is an application process, access 4E.

Brant Ping- a barrier is mental health system and patriarchal system where only Mental Health Centers could access Medicaid. We have encouraged partnering with Mental Health Centers. Midtown Mental Health is a Medicaid provider we use as much as we can but they limit the number they will take.

Judge Moores- Midtown is now providing mental health services to juveniles while in detention. Detention stays are fairly short except for kids charged with murder. We are in planning stages of looking at mental health diversion court because we are seeing kids where mental health is a reason. Get them out of detention and the help they need. It makes them Medicaid eligible and gives them jurisdiction over family. Mom- you have a bipolar kid. Intercede; get kids proper treatment now before it is too late.

Brant Ping- some years back CRWO option and many wanted to do it, but failed.

Dan Carmin- under discussion, but currently we only have Medicaid rehab option.

Eric Wright- one of the clear policy things we need to advocate for is expand Medicaid eligible providers. This is creating a bottleneck and we could expand services if we had more eligible providers.

Judge Moores- Midtown doesn't have inpatient juvenile beds. There are 12 juvenile inpatient beds in the state.

Rhonda Allen- Its not just access it's a philosophical difference. Mental health sees it as voluntary service and Probation it as mandatory. They need to be more proactive.

Eric Wright- there are adult models with assertive treatment.

Rhonda Allen- yes, there are.

Eric Wright- there are teams that could be put together. In these presentations we are looking at issues and challenges and we will be going for low-hanging fruit, some of the legislative challenges may be harder.

Dan Carmin- anything else? Chris and Brant had an outstanding presentation.
Break for 5 minutes

Review of Current Challenges and Reform Initiatives in Education

Dr. Gillenwaters and Patricia Jones and Linda Hogan, director of Even Start program. Dr. Lewis was in attendance. We represent IPS and Decatur personally but are representing other schools and have had dialog with other systems.

Power point presentation will be posted with the minutes.

Marion County calculates truancy differently- it makes it hard to implement any program in the county because each district has a different definition.

Rhonda Allen- trying to get a county-wide definition of educational neglect and truancy.

Question from audience- do you know how many stay in Marion county schools?

Patricia Jones- many do.

Dr. Gillenwaters- looked at dropout rate- if they stayed in school; they stayed in surrounding township schools. Very few going outside Marion County

Judge Moores- have you computed your graduation rates the same?

Patricia Jones-As far as we know we used the same formula.

Judge Moores- how have these been calculated?

Patricia Jones- we can get a copy of this formula for you at the next meeting. There is dialog as we speak on this issue. It impacts the dropout rate. Indianapolis has one of the highest dropout rates in the country. What is the percent who enter as 9th graders and do not graduate? This has affected reforms. If we could do one thing that would have an impact, it would be all day kindergarten. Parents don't have a sense of what is available to them. We are having immunizations done on site and have agencies there at registration.

Lonnell Conley- how solid are PTA and PTO's in getting the word out?

Patricia Jones- trying to get all families connected. We have so many mothers and fathers working at minimum wage jobs.

Lonnell Conley- we are missing a lot of parents.

Patricia Jones- we are being creative in accessing them but more needs to be done.

Dr. Gillenwaters- many are single parents and many have 2 or 3 jobs and move 2 or 3 times a year. For many of our schools we don't have strong PTA. How do we build community? How do involve residents to support our schools? Families, residents, community are all important. We are working with Annie E. Casey on this issue.

Judge Moores- we have an IPS school in the detention center. They have the best attendance of any of the IPS schools.

John Kennedy- maybe you could have parents meetings after church.

Patricia Jones- we are meeting with ministerial alliances and trying to get information out to churches. There are links on the computer, with the child's grade, attendance. To make a request for physical presence of parents is not always realistic. We try speaker conferences.

Christina Ball- one of the reasons we put probation officers in schools so the parents get into school more often. If they have to come to meet probation officers they can have school personnel in meeting.

Patricia Jones- this has been successful.

Lonnell Conley- seems like something worked so well and seems like we have gotten away from it.

Dr. Gillenwaters- we are starting with birth to 5 to try to get a good start for kids.

Audience- we need to work on connecting with the community. As we were doing things that we thought were beneficial (bussing) we were disenfranchising them- not connecting them to community.

John Kennedy - is there any literature that suggests that case management works in schools? We know it works in mental health, etc. Identify kids who come in at-risk and case management services might help.

Patricia Jones- attendance issues in grade school may be parent issues.

John Kennedy- maybe the homeroom mother could be case manager. There are not enough administrators to be case managers.

Patricia Jones- sometimes the best person is bus drivers – they see they don't get on bus, etc.

Dr. Gillenwaters- the important thing is to have caring adults for kids

John Kennedy- structured in other systems

Judge Moores- we working on a family truancy court. Truancy is a symptom, I overslept, I am caring for my sibling, I am caring for my Mom, etc. DCS will be part of the team, oriented to life lessons- if you go to school, it is valuable. Trying the carrot instead of the stick.

Audience- part of the heart of the problem goes back to desegregation, as it is dismantled, parents disenfranchised, good to have parent involved, never taught so don't know any different. Hard for schools to build community because we tore it apart.

Patricia Jones- who was the population who bore the brunt- those with no other options. We did an experiment on kids that adults can't do.

Judge Moores- not the least the length of the time on the bus.

Rita Akins- has your social work staff increased, decreased, role changed, etc. I hear from school social workers they were spending a lot of time subbing, etc. Social workers have strengths training, systems perspectives.

Patricia Jones- we try to protect their times.

Dr. Gillenwaters- our needs are so great we use them as much as possible. Have not been cut but need more. As I talked with colleagues there is a need for additional support staff- counselors, support staff, some major school districts you would think would have many, don't because they think they don't have population in need, so don't need social workers, when they do.

John Brandon- are you pressured by 65/35 drive? 65% instructional

Patricia Jones- yes

Judge Moores- what is Yoruba?

Dr. Gillenwaters- I will ask Marilee and get back to you at next meeting. (Note: *Yoruba is a West African language spoken in several countries.*)

Dan Carmin- thank you

Eric Wright- if I could point out one thing- in your packet, there is a data request form. Identify overlap. FYI- this is a wish list. Each of you will be approached to help work through this. Some of you may be touched on by this so we wanted to mention it.

September meeting at Mental Health Center? Discussion of place for October meeting.

Eric Wright- Based on Kent's suggestion we will look into city-county building and have back-up with Carter building.

Rita Akins- have HIPAA concerns and not lots of meeting rooms in Midtown.

Eric Wright- Introduce Dr. Jeff Anderson and Dr. Judy Bealke, part of the faculty advisory group. They will be lurking at meetings.

The next meeting is September 13th at 8:00 a.m. in the City-County building. Number of staff and community members will be at SLC practice meetings. Propose to move October 18th at 8:00 am- noon. So moved. October meeting is scheduled for October 18th.

Dan Carmin- Thank you so much. Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.