

Minutes of Early Intervention Planning Council
Wednesday December 13, 2006

Members Present

Dr. Barbara Gillenwaters
Brant Ping
Marilyn Pfisterer
Dan Carmin
John Brandon
Patricia Jones
Kent Burrow
Judge Marilyn Moores

Members not present

John Kennedy
Rhonda Allen
Lonnell Conley

IUPUI Staff present

Eric Wright
Laura Littlepage

Meeting was convened at 8:10 a.m.

Dan Carmin: Any additions or corrections to November's minutes? Patricia Jones moved, seconded by Dr. Gillenwaters. Minutes approved.

Dan Carmin: On November 28, Dr. Wright and I gave an update on progress to the policy committee of the City-County council. It went well. The reports we presented will be mailed to you.

Discussion of Draft Plan

Eric Wright: the draft plan reflects our previous discussion and now has some language from the previous reports. One of the things to think about today is to prioritize the action steps. We need to order them in priority order. At the January meeting we could think about the timeline. Does that seem reasonable? Should be go through it goal by goal?

Goal 1: the text is awkward, we will work on that. Goals 1.3 And 1.4 might be subsets of 1.1. Are there any other strategies anyone wants to add? We want to link this discussion with the public safety discussion of increased revenues.

Kent Burrow: I am supportive of increasing revenues and expanding service. Where is the dedicated office at the local level? What are the various things being spent now that would be coordinated?

Eric Wright: The logic would be to have one entity or person to deal with financing issues and deal with state and another to coordinate the system and bring the players together because there

is no one bringing these groups together. They would begin a planning process to coordinate services. Who that would be has not been specified. Whether it is someone existing or new has not been voiced.

Marilyn Pfisterer: I am in support of the goals. Goal 1- increase revenues to what? Is there going to be a report that will say how much will be needed?

Eric Wright: that's up to us. The system is structured so that there is a lag between spending and funding. We don't have a dollar figure yet because we haven't made some decisions about the action steps. In the spring we will have more concrete dollar amounts.

Marilyn Pfisterer: is there a menu of potential costs? Item 2 gives different sources of revenue. One source of revenue could be a user fee of some sort.

Eric Wright: what would be the principles we would follow to fund the early intervention services?

Dan Carmin: in our discussions with court staff we are attempting to implement a standard for parents to contribute to costs. That is possibly a user fee we could use.

Eric Wright: do you see that feeding back into Department of Child Services or the courts?

Dan Carmin: it would reimburse the Family Children fund and reduce the need for taxes. The reality is that many of our families are close to poverty level. It is important for parents to contribute financially but it won't solve overall funding problems.

Marilyn Pfisterer: it isn't intended to be a significant amount but it gives the parents an investment.

John Brandon: are we only looking at public dollars or investments from private/philanthropic dollars? We have a strong history in our community of these investments. This office is a resource development office and should it go after private?

Dan Carmin: I would support wording that we would look to the private sector.

Eric Wright: we can reword it. We have to think about the long-term. One possibility would be to have an office of resource development.

Kent Burrow: I am worried about creating an office outside of the City-County Council or Mayor. I'd like to hear from the controller's office. Perhaps they can appoint a deputy controller to be responsible for funding oversight. I want to be sure those in charge of budgeting in Marion County will be assigned this.

Dan Carmin: I think that is a fair expectation. I don't think the intent was to create an office that had direct control over budget but had knowledge and could help various levels of government understand the budgeting process. I would always welcome someone from the Mayor's office or

the Council or the controller's office to be involved in the development of the budget. Potentially, dedicated individuals from each of these offices would be useful.

Eric Wright: they would be good at oversight but what about community advocacy for children's services? We are talking about coordinating schools, treatment facilities, etc. It sounds like a large job for a deputy controller.

Dan Carmin: that is true. The family children's fund funds probation for \$10 million. Those children never come through the door of DCS. They also fund mental health services.

Eric Wright: perhaps an oversight body based in government and a person based in child service agencies or a separate agency. Do we want to create a role outside of the system?

Marilyn Pfisterer: this person would be the advocate and go after the philanthropic dollars.

Eric Wright: they might be two entities. How does that reflect McCOY's vision? Perhaps the city could let an RFP.

John Brandon: that is what we are doing presently and we could be ramped up to fill this need.

Kent Burrow: this is bigger than a one-person office. It is really important that this group identify someone to be responsible for this effort- perhaps a Deputy Mayor.

Eric Wright: 1.2 action item is morphing into specifics- requesting the assignment of Deputy Mayor for Child/youth services and a deputy controller to report annually or periodically and working with a second agency to be identified in the community

Marilyn Pfisterer: how do the Governor and the state legislature fit into this?

Eric Wright: the independent group could work with them. We are trying to set into motion a plan that will carry us for a while. Create a structure that will work on this over the next few years.

Marilyn Pfisterer: the term that keeps coming up is complexity. I would hope that we get more clarity and state that as a guiding principle.

Eric Wright: if we can use child welfare as an example, working with DCS, it brought clarity. Someone has to take the time to pull everything together to get clarity. There is no central body. We want to think about the whole system.

Dr. Gillenwaters: I think both levels operating is a great idea. We want responsibility and accountability. How do we provide language that gives us both? We are moving in that direction. Those agencies with fiscal responsibility need to be connected to the field.

Patricia Jones: we need to have each stakeholder participate and accountable.

Dan Carmin: it is more than child welfare.

Eric Wright: it might suggest the need for this group to morph, we zero in on one piece of this, that we might be named poorly. Maybe create a supervisory council chaired by a deputy mayor and outside group with participation from other stakeholders.

Marilyn Pfisterer: the Deputy Mayor would be the fiscal agent?

Eric Wright: yes, that would be the idea. We have some work to do on elaborating this. Create this organizational structure with description of these relationships as 1.1 with governing council and connect to public safety. 1.2 increase revenues and add issues about user fees and private dollars to investigate this. In the spring we could project how much we need to raise and make projections.

Goal 2, we might want to assign some of these to the new group. Some of these are multi-year strategies.

Dr. Gillenwaters: I like this goal. If there were a group or agency to look at this goal, they could look at other professions so that everyone is focused on the same goal.

Eric Wright: in many ways, Goals 2, 3, and 4 might be things to assign to the new group

Marilyn Pfisterer: especially 2.1, that could be PSAs, etc.

Dr. Gillenwaters: some of this is already going on, but pulling everyone together to focus on one goal and I get excited about this.

John Brandon: there is a family strengthening coalition that was started with United Way and is in Clarian but haven't been given enough resources. Their focus is Healthy Families.

Patricia Jones: we could do this across sectors and organizations.

Eric Wright: this is one of the challenges. We have some efforts in these areas but they are under-resourced. It could be ratcheted up so the plan is really Goal 1.

Marilyn Pfisterer: it comes back to how much? Much of this shouldn't cost that much because there are resources that we could leverage.

Dr. Gillenwaters: we found other agencies that had their own funding streams but had to get them to the table and agree on the goal. Coordinating goals, human, and fiscal resources so it doesn't have to be funded 100% by the city.

Eric Wright: that speaks to the need of someone with the big picture. We need to think about all the federal, state, and philanthropic dollars that are feeding into the system. Some groups are paying for things already.

Dan Carmin: there are 18 regions in DCS. Marion County is its own region. We have a Council that approves all contractual services. The services that it funds are determined by its strategic plan. Dan, Judge Moores, two magistrates, foster parents, director of child advocate. As decisions are made on these issues there needs to be communication.

Eric Wright: we have a lot of coordinating bodies. How can we reduce this? There are a lot of conversations in different places. The question becomes can we use something that already exists or do we need a 'super' body?

Kent Burrow: is there a list of who actually has budgetary authority or expenditure authority? Is that one of the things you have put together?

Dan Carmin: the Regional Servicing Council is it for us.

Eric Wright: in Juvenile justice is there an equivalent group?

Judge Moores: not really. Under city law we don't have to, it is the Executive committee of the court. The budget is signed by presiding judge. We are the court, they are the folks who monitor the budget. The juvenile court is different.

Dan Carmin: Judge Bradford is a signatory and the controller, Judge Moores, and Dan Carmin also sign.

Eric Wright: we need to do some homework to get the list.

Judge Moores: the family and children's fund doesn't pay for a lot of detention. There is a Marion county juvenile advisory board. I can get you that information. There is also the Mayor's taskforce on violence. Kids are victims as well as perpetrators.

Dan Carmin: one child a week continues to die in Indiana from abuse or neglect.

Eric Wright: we would also want designated representative from the school boards, and mental health centers.

Judge Moores: Midtown furnishes mental health to the detention center. We are looking to them for a triage center for kids and families in crisis to have lower numbers in detention.

Eric Wright: there are six mental health centers. Perhaps have one representative from each. Have we set as a mandate for the new group to address Goals 2, 3, 4, and 5? Should we do that or keep control in this group?

Marilyn Pfisterer: Goals 2, 3, 4, and 5 are all fiscally dependent. To make them effective how do we identify any fiscal impacts?

Judge Moores: in Albuquerque they have a community mental health center for juveniles and their families and they get reimbursed pre-adjudication. They are close to breaking even. If we can work out something like that, do you think Dr. White would give me school 37?

Dan Carmin: also think about the Guardian's Home, they have space.

Judge Moores- they have a beautiful facility and are in a good location on a bus line.

Dan Carmin: the family and children fund invests \$1.5 million annually in the Guardian Home as well.

Judge Moores: as soon as I get information on that program, I will forward it to you.

Eric Wright: there are some structural issues where the state has managed Medicaid dollars that may need some legislation to change. All have to be community mental health centers.

Eric Wright: we need to find a way to pay for lower level services rather than wait for the need for severe services.

Eric Wright: how do we want to proceed on Goals 2, 3, 4, and 5?

Dan Carmin: I agree with you. Should we delegate to another body?

Eric Wright: we need to create a priority list- mental health services, public service- what are key action items?

Dan Carmin: expansion of mental health services is important.

Eric Wright: Goals 2, 3, and 5 become the charge for his new body. Goal 4 makes more specific targets, establishing juvenile mental health centers, in community centers.

Marilyn Pfisterer: have we listed those that need state legislation?

Eric Wright: this is an issue in other counties, not just a Marion County issue. It is a critical problem in the state.

Patricia Jones: if children can get immediate help when they begin to have a problem, it will save money and serve the children better.

Judge Moores: it saves money in the long run. If you wait until someone has decompensated it costs much more. There are 62 beds in this state for kids. Most kids need home-based which is cheaper and more effective.

Eric Wright: it's not just Indiana. We have defunded mental health services. We are spending much less than in 1960. This is a question of where we want to invest our public dollars.

Judge Moores: we have much better treatments, medications, etc. than we used to.

Eric Wright: we will rework this document yet again and reduce it to two goals. Goal 1, and the new body would be charged with Goals 2, 3, and 5. Goal number 4 would become goal 2- with an explicit agenda. We could do some budget projections based on this. Short-term plan and long-term plan would be new agency/board. We did commit to send this to the City-County Council in January. We will send you a revised draft before the next meeting.

Adjourned at 9:35.