

Early Intervention Planning Council Meeting July 12, 2006
Minutes

Present

Commission members:

Dan Carmin

Rita Akins

John Brandon

Dr. Barbara Gillenwaters

Kent Burrow

Christina Ball

Brant Ping

Support staff:

Eric Wright

Laura Littlepage

John L. Krauss

Commission Members not present:

Judge Marilyn Moores, Rhonda Allen, Patricia Jones, Marilyn Pfisterer, Lonnell Conley, John Kennedy

Dan Carmin called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Review and approval of minutes

Kent Burrow had two corrections- deleted attorney CFO for Kent Burrow, check the spelling of his name. Dan Carmin then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. John Brandon so moved, Dr. Gillenwaters seconded, motion carries.

Principles of Prevention

Presentation by Eva Witesman

A copy of the Power point and handouts will be attached to the minutes

Eric Wright- handed out a model of the theoretical continuum of care for child services (will be attached to minutes). Eric mentioned faculty advisors (Jeffrey A Anderson, William H Barton, Lorraine C Blackman, Roger Jarjoura, and Beth Pfau) who are working behind the scenes. This is a draft framework of what the faculty is developing. Systemic prevention is hard to justify from an economic point of view because hard to measure what doesn't happen. By adding the developmental sequence and key junctures along the spectrum we can focus on development key points and look for holes in the system. Of course there will be overlap among the age groups. We are developing a database cross classifying services, using a grid to identify areas of large need with little coverage. Risk and protective factors help us to understand the nature of issues and identify key points of intervention. Any questions, discussion?

Rita Akins – I was appointed by council as liaison with mental health systems and I have worked in mental health and criminal justice system and social work education. From my experience, everything has always come back to assessment. All of this is wonderful, but inherent in all of

this is the assumption that quality assessments are being done at each of the levels- that is a lie. There is no quality control in assessment. It is not done because of financial considerations. Mental health systems are the guiltiest party in not doing a thorough assessment- medical/psy/social. If people conducting thorough assessments were married to this model and not constrained by financial they would save money. A news bulletin came out in 2000 about a study done at University of Chicago- small study but it showed that children with low levels of cortisol in their saliva were much more likely to have aggressive behavior. How many kids have their cortisol levels checked? If you ask in a mental health center to have cortisol levels checked they would respond- why and Medicaid won't pay for it.

Eric Wright- it also means that assessments need to be coordinated. An interagency state committee that has met over the past year to decide on a common assessment/outcomes tool for child-serving agencies has chosen the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) instrument as the tool to be used state-wide. Currently, needs and outcomes assessments are system and/or agency specific. All of the major child-serving systems were involved in choosing this one. It should be noted that it usually takes 2-4 years for a new source of data to develop to make policy decisions.

Rita Akins- I would envision a separate agency doing overall assessments and then referring kids out. Ultimately it would save everybody a lot of money and save kids and families from further involvement in systems.

Dan Carmin- we are hoping to have Dr. Lyons for kick-off of the state-wide CANS meeting. The federal government is now onto this too. In the first round of funding every state was dinged for lack of assessment. This is part of their improvement plan. Indiana will be the 4th state for the next round of reviews next April. These are reviews the Feds use to determine funding. Federal participation in Marion County is \$20 million.

Dr. Gillenwaters- I think this framework in very good. I was just looking at list of prevention programs that Dr. White had asked me to put together on early intervention. United Way is working on a similar database. We would be happy to share that.

Dan Carmin- we started the Jumpstart program assessing kids 3 and under in our care. After several hundred of these, more than 60% of kids coming in have untreated developmental disabilities. In the developmental stages when we get into early young adulthood and young adulthood we see early parenthood as one of the risk factors.

John Brandon- in terms of prevention, look at protective like youth development, Boys Girls Club, etc. I agree that the problem is how you measure it. Some work done by the Center for Youth Development- "A matter of money" We can save money in the long run.

Eric Wright- The federal government is about to launch the largest study of children ever conducted. It will follow kids from prenatal to adulthood. If we are going to make a case for early intervention we need a study like this and a large sample size (100,000)

Dr. Gillenwaters- It is really important to be focused on the results. In Eva's presentation- she mentioned we should promote resiliency. In terms of a long range goal we must be deliberate in getting the results we want.

Kent Burrow- I have a question about the database of community programs. Will it include outcome information, number of children, funding, etc.?

Eric Wright- Yes and we want this to be a resource- that's where we want to go. It will include not only the agency but what services being provided for how many children. We need to be able to do that to identify holes.

Dan Carmin- any more questions? Excellent job, Eva. Now we will talk about what CPS does and the change in culture in our agency. It is important to team with families. We had never asked families what they need. Our presenters will be Susan Kennedy and Teran Duncan

The PowerPoint is attached-CPS/Child Welfare.

DCS has 2000 calls per month. They investigate 1000; substantiate 300-400, which results in 150 CHINS out of home, in home service going up. There are currently 3,037 children in care in Marion County- this time last year around 3000. It had doubled from 2001- 2005, but is now steady.

Rita Akins- this is exciting. Case managers have the most contact with families- do you have any resistance to this?

Susan Kennedy- this is a feel-good practice. It brings workers back to why they chose this field. It is a huge cultural change and apprehension comes with change. I think we're so excited we want to start right now. Most people are very positive. Reducing numbers in case loads helps. Its like the perfect storm- reduced case loads, going through this practice, the result should be good. Will some people have a hard time- sure. For the most part, it will be positive.

Dan Carmin- something critical to this culture change is the community. We can't do this alone. That's why groups like this are critical. They can help us to identify gaps, help make more useful. Assessments are expensive and we want them to be used. The community kick-off for August 25th for this model in Marion County. We want to bring as many people as possible. McCoy will host. Any other questions? We currently have 1500 in foster care, 500 in higher level of foster care and 800- in relative care.

John Brandon- what do you think are the current challenges that you are facing as a system?

Dan Carmin- working together and listening to each other. We didn't listen to families, to other people involved. We need to listen to each other because we have different perspectives.

Eric Wright- where did this occur? At the case worker-level? Where there institutional factors?

Susan Kennedy-Yes. Nobody that works with kids has enough money and time to do this. We're in a great position now because we have resources. CPS has become the place you call when you have a problem with kids. Sometimes they don't have services to help kids in individual systems.

Eric Wright- Do you have specific types of kids you can think of that you're not serving well?

Susan Kennedy- Kids with severe mental health issues

Rita Akins- There are too few mental health beds. Not many places for dually diagnosed. Often courts say you take care of it while the mental health system is saying it's a criminal problem.

Teran Duncan- Every system gets caught in that problem. It's their problem- no, it's our problem. It's the coordination. Everyone gets their funding from different places. If kids get into court systems they have more funding.

Rita- I know a family that was asked to give up custody of child to get services for child. Mother was devastated that she had to literally abandon child to get services.

Dan Carmin- what percentage of cases have alcohol/substance abuse issues on the part of the parents? 80-85%. Mental health? 80-85% also.

The next meeting will be held August 9th at Conference room D at the United Way 3901 N. Meridian.

Schools and juvenile justice are the systems on the agenda for the next meeting. Patricia Jones and Dr. Gillenwaters will present. They will give us an idea what is happening in education- challenges, issues, identify kids of certain types- based on primary needs of kids. Make some policy recommendations. What is happening and what are opportunities for change?

The minutes will be posted on the EIPC Website- www.urbancenter.iupui.edu/healthpolicy/eipc

The September 13th meeting is tentatively scheduled for Midtown Mental Health Center – Rita will check into a room.

Dan Carmin- I can arrange an opportunity for anyone here to ride with CPS worker. Of course they need to sign a confidentiality agreement. Should we keep the meeting at 8:00 a.m.? Yes.

Kent Burrow- I think that Brown has taken the place of Conley.

Eric Wright- I think it's the other way around but we will check.

Kent Burrow- Channel 16 should be encouraged to cover these meetings. It would give a video record of it. It is the purpose of channel 16 to do this. I think they would be happy to fit in next couple of meetings on their schedule. They can also put the power point on the video. Kent will

follow up with them on this for the next meeting. I spoke to Jean Milharic about a link from county council website to our website.

There is a group in the Mayor's office- township liaisons- as you develop our database, those people have a handle on what is going on at the ground level- if have trouble accessing them, ask Kent.

There was a *Wall Street Journal* June 20 article on a Cincinnati program. Check it out.

Dan Carmin: Any further business? With that we are adjourned.