

Early Intervention Planning Council Meeting
City-County Building Room 118
October 18, 2006

Present

Brant Ping
Dan Carmin
Marilyn Pfisterer
Barbara Gillenwaters
Rhonda Allen
Patricia Jones
Kent Burrow
John Kennedy
John Brandon

Support Staff

Eric Wright
Laura Littlepage
Drew Klacik
Eva Witesman

Commission Members not present:

Judge Marilyn Moores, Lonnell Conley, Christina Ball, Rita Akins (resigned)

The meeting convened at 8:20 A.M.. Minutes from August and September were approved. Dan Carmin notified the Council that there would be an agenda change. Rita Akins resigned as an EIPC member on Monday October 16, 2006. She was scheduled to present the Review of Current Challenges and Reform Initiatives in Mental Health. Since she was not able to make that presentation, Dr. Wright asked Eva Witesman to present on the progress of her work on Risk Factor Prevalence in Marion County. Drew Klacik was asked to present his findings from a fiscal analysis of Family and Child Services in Marion County.

PowerPoint presentation by Drew Klacik (Fiscal Analysis of Family and Child Services in Marion County) will be posted with the minutes.

During the presentation there were points of clarification provided by Dan Carmin, Kent Burrow, and Brant Ping. These points included background on the decreasing expenditures at the Boys and Girls School—fewer children are being sent there, instead the courts are opting for more treatment programs, which can help explain the increase in the Department of Child Services (DCS) budget. There was a discussion about how the budget is funded. DCS, a state agency, makes projections of its budget for the coming year and presents it to the City-County Council who sets the levy needed to raise the projected budget. There was a discussion about having to pay for something with no local control, but Dan Carmin reminded the group that the children are all from Marion County and would need the services no matter how the services are funded.

There was a discussion about the projections for child services costs- how are you they calculated? Should they be revised because of administrative changes that took place between

2001 and 2005? It was mentioned that Senator Luke Kenley is introducing legislation to establish a new funding mechanism.

During the discussion of the difference in utilization of federal funds compared to the national average, Dan Carmin mentioned that one major block to accessing federal dollars is that eligibility standards for Title IV-E are higher in Indiana than in many other states.

PowerPoint presentation by Eva Witesman (Risk Factor Prevalence in Marion County) will be posted with the minutes.

Eric Wright- has anyone seen any estimates like these? This should contextualize the need for services to have boundaries for costs. It shows how we could curtail downstream effects. We can see potential gains, but we need to see the scope of demands to do this. This is a step in the right direction. Any additional questions?

The other information in your packet is for your information. The last item on the agenda is the revised plan. My vision is to use these as action steps, specific things we are going to do. It is organized by overarching goals. I adapted Goal 1 to focus on the larger social context, including social marketing. Other changes in Goal 2 include focusing on suggestions that Marilyn Pfisterer made about building on the community center network. How could we build on this diffuse network? Sunil is working on a database of youth-serving organizations. Many of these organizations seem to be remote, not close to the neighborhoods that have many of the problems. The community center structure is a backbone to build upon. We spoke with Marquis Bridgeman in the Mayor's office about the opportunity to connect with faith-based organizations. Goal 3 – there seems to be some consensus on the need to expand mental health services. Goal 4- issue about coordinating information and resources – cut back a little. Goal 5- added because of conversations with Drew and Laura about complexity. The other point that Mr. Burrows alluded to, and listening to Drew, there is a critical gap on information. It seems to suggest that there should be some level of tracking of expenditures and revenues within the county. Figure out where it would best be. Those are my suggestions. I incorporated the recommendation on cost per unit consumption. I am not optimistic about connecting to outcomes in the short term, but it's a good step. I did not e-mail this to you. Each of you may want to take a crack at revising these.

Kent Burrow- I think this is a good outline of some of the things we have gone over. It helps focus our attention on a few goals because we could come out of these meetings overwhelmed. Are the next steps to flesh out and add costs and action steps? These are good recommendations, but what's being done, who should bear the cost? We will have to make some assumptions and decisions, but it makes the plan more likely to occur if some of this work is being done up front. Is that the vision of the plan?

Eric Wright- that is exactly the plan. It is our role to do this. Often great plans are created, but nobody is identified as the implementer. Our role is thinking about the technicalities and nagging the process along. You are all overwhelmed by your day-to-day activities. We can play a valuable role in pushing this forward. The timeline says we have objectives, and beginning in January, a plan outline would go to the City Council for prioritization, and they may feel one or

two goals is important. In January and February, we will begin a public dialogue process. We will then shift to an implementation mode. It's built into our budget to do estimates. We don't want to do a shotgun approach. We are happy to adapt this. If you have requests for information, we can do it. We will be having public meetings, and you can help us think through the details. The reality is, where are we going to find the funds to fund all of this? We may need a dramatic increase in resources, and then we get into constraints of the City County Council. We may have to prioritize these based on changes in legislative process happening.

Barbara Gillenwaters- one of the things education is always conscious of is that we are given mandates without the funding to implement it. Thinking through our curriculum and where family life is, will there be funding to implement it? In the No Child Left Behind environment, we have to prioritize, so will there be funding to do it? We have to keep that in mind. If there is a mandate, there should be funding attached.

Eric Wright- it goes back to resource issue. I am keenly aware of mandates. We have drifted to the education system being a de facto social services system. How do we do this education work? We might not want to require this. There may be alternative avenues of education, like peer led sessions, rather than incorporating it into the curriculum of schools. It is not good practice to recommend policy without bringing resources to bear on it. If we can't, maybe we shouldn't be doing it.

John Brandon- what you are asking is for us to digest this, provide feedback, and list possible partners?

Eric Wright- Yes, we do have a listserv so we could do a discussion. We will distribute it electronically and get your feedback. I'd like to get an outline of what we are trying to do for the Rules and Policy Committee.

Kent Burrow- one of the goal areas is the revenue and funding areas. Drew made a good presentation and one of the issues we need to flush out is, are there impediments to allowing us to get to the national average of federal reimbursement? We should be able to say that we have looked at this, here are the barriers, here are the steps to change this, this is the federal regulation that conflicts with state legislation. We need to lay out a road map and have that level of detail in there.

Dan Carmin- I am concerned about the action step that says increase the county tax rate.

Eric Wright- how are we going to infuse X millions of dollars? Where do you find that amount of money without raising taxes?

Kent Burrow- I would come back to the wording in goal number one- cost per service, understanding revenue sources, where we think needs will be. I want to make sure Bart Brown and Drew Klacik get together to get the historical context. Going forward, what is the payment plan of debt? We need to fully understand that.

Eric Wright- I know Drew has talked to different people. One conclusion that was interesting is that there is not one single person who knows the whole picture.

Kent Burrow- that's why this group was appointed – it's 13% of the budget and no control or decision-making. The City County Council doesn't have good information. Hopefully we can provide good information. I am glad Drew said what he did.

Dan Carmin- this has been some good stuff. We have come a long way in a short time. We have put together a good discussion. This is meaningful and will have a good impact on our community. Our next meeting is November 8.

Kent Burrow- Please add the telephone number to order a tape of this presentation to the minutes for those who missed this meeting. (327-2018) Drew's presentation is useful for them to review. It's one of the better ones I've seen on this topic.

Eric Wright- Please send draft additions and deletions by November 1 to either me or Laura. If everyone gives us something, we will have a lot to reconcile. We will do the nagging. I know you are busy, but we are trying to keep the process moving.

Barbara Gillenwaters- I would like to issue an invitation. Parents as First Teachers will have a kick-off event on November 14. Circle that date at 11:00 at Wishard Hospital at the Primary Care center. All are invited.

Dan Carmin- any other final comments, questions? Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.