

Minutes of Early Intervention Planning Council
Wednesday March 14, 2007

Members Present

Dr. Barbara Gillenwaters
Marilyn Pfisterer
John Brandon
Patricia Jones
Kent Burrow
John Kennedy
Rhonda Allen (by conference call)
Cherish Pryor (Proxy for Lonnell Conley)
Brant Ping

Members not present

Judge Marilyn Moores
Christina Ball

IUPUI Staff present

Eric Wright
Laura Littlepage

Meeting was convened at 8:10 a.m.

Kent Burrow – I have reviewed the directions from the City-County Council and I have concerns about the plan as it stands because it does not have budgetary data. These are some issues that need to be resolved before we move forward. We need a review of budget information. I think we should postpone a vote on the draft plan until we have the data we need to make a decision.

Rhonda Allen – What timeline are we on? Are we are behind schedule? We could go back and ask for a longer timeline. It seems fair to wait to vote if people need more information.

Eric Wright – It seems to be the consensus that we should postpone the vote until the next meeting when the plan is better formulated. We just received the executed data sharing agreement. We were worried about the timeline and felt that the plan addressed what is appropriate and what is possible. This is a good opportunity to take a little more time. No one has an issue with the principles expressed in the plan, but there are operational questions.

John Brandon – Was it the hope of the Council to have something before this budget?

Eric Wright – Yes, there is a tension between what exists and our mission of early intervention. Perhaps we need to take a closer look at the other end of spectrum.

Marilyn Pfisterer – Early intervention has not been a point of discussion yet. The questions are going to be about funding. Most of my notes on the plan end with a question mark.

Eric Wright – It sounds like we should ask for more time if that is the sentiment of the group. What do people want to know? Then we could put a timeframe on it.

Rhonda Allen – I need to know what is needed because we are going to draw from different datasets.

Eric Wright – I think the big question is, what are we spending our money on currently? For education, we haven't gotten anything. What is the current array of services and how might that intersect with early intervention?

Kent Burrow – In our October meeting, Drew Klacik gave a presentation surrounding the child services and juvenile justice budgets. Now that we have a plan what are the specific questions we need to ask? There are types of issues I'd like to follow up on in writing, share via e-mail with group. We need to get an understanding of costs associated with the plan.

Eric Wright – We can solicit questions from the broader group and then go back to the Rules and Policy committee and tell them that there are still issues that need to be resolved and we need more time.

Marilyn Pfisterer – In the plan it mentioned exploring the use of user fees, private sector, philanthropic dollars, but we need some suggestions. Given the budget cycle, could we have a budget recommendation by July?

Eric Wright – That is the role of the official body to take on a long-term basis. It is premature for us to come up with a reasonable approach. This should be a long-term commitment. One of the thoughts was that we change our role with this new group. Originally, we were going to evaluate this plan, but instead we can offer technical support to this new group. There is a need to put something institutional in place. EIPC may be the place to do this.

Dr. Gillenwaters – Is the intent to project a dollar figure onto each of those goals to give the Council some sense of these recommendations? Is that the intent?

Kent Burrow – That is part of my concern about being a member of this group. We haven't seen enough detail to ask the right questions. To the Council's questions, if we do not have recommendations by budget time, we could have a report on changes. We could present the trade-off of DCS and JJ so that councilors are able to see that money is going where it should be. We haven't seen enough detail to see what the data in Marion County are. What are some of the historical costs?

Comment [TB1]: I don't know what he means here. I don't need to, but I can't tell you if these are the right initials.

Marilyn Pfisterer – We need to look at the larger picture. I think the EIPC objectives are good. The questions I have are related to costs: how can we move these forward? We need some clarity.

Cherish Pryor – We need more numbers in here. As far as the budget process, some agencies are beginning now. Going back to the rules committee to get an extension is a good idea to get more information and more details. A few questions related to a new entity—some structure could be

part of an existing entity—will there be money to fund that new entity? We have a lot of organizations already out there. The Council will want to know answers to that.

Eric Wright – That is where we got stalled. We have an agreement on an entity, but disagreement on who and where, etc. My concern has been the details. Is it worth our while to spend some more time? It needs to be an entity with a staff attached to it. EIPC is a part-time body. Who will do supervision? We have been approached by nonprofits about organization among them. There is no organizing body to keep nonprofits moving. They feel they need more in that direction. Voting on the draft plan meant to me the beginning of the process. I saw this as a midpoint of the discussion, not an endpoint.

Marilyn Pfisterer – Most of what we have talked about has been under city-county structure. How would the education system be melded into an organization?

Eric Wright – We haven't talked about taking over other organizations. DCS and JJ have good coordination, what is missing is coordination action at the front of stream where kids drop into the river. If we have a six-person coordinating committee—mental health, education, JJ, DCS, nonprofit, deputy mayor, and a City-County Council representative—if we want standardized outcomes assessment: are we getting what we are paying for? We need some sort of guiding body to force the system into some agreement. The state has taken three years to get to the CANS for child serving agencies—now a few more years to implement it.

Dr. Gillenwaters – Can we do multiple things simultaneously? Can we raise questions, and then respond to them? Plan for public meetings? We may not have dates, but the structure of them? I would like to be able to respond to the questions before public meetings.

Brant Ping – Dr. Gillenwaters raises an interesting point. We need to know the questions as soon as possible. How much is spent per child on what by whom?

John Brandon – What we are looking at is early prevention. What are we spending dollars on preventive measures that in the long run will prevent kids from getting into the systems? What are returns on investments that other communities have begun to realize?

Kent Burrow – That's a good point on the early intervention process. We need to understand that this is our cost for children with these issues and these needs. Does it make sense to make an extra budgetary commitment before we know this? Part of making that judgment call is what are we spending now? It makes a stronger rationale for investing in early intervention.

Eric Wright – It gives us a benchmark so that we would hopefully see a decrease in spending downstream.

John Brandon – We have to know what we are spending dollars on now or we won't be able to figure out change. It is not either/or but both/and.

Eric Wright – In existing community-based organizations what information is available on what is spent on kids for what?

John Brandon – Trying to separate dollars out is a challenge. Drilling down to get as much detail may be difficult. The United Way tried to do that recently for youth development with a broad brush.

Dr. Gillenwaters – Consider that the Council and the public have not had the benefit of our discussion. We need to create some way to capture it graphically, visually; concise and clean funding streams; how funds are intertwined and dollars are wed together.

Eric Wright – We need to show where we are and where we are going.

<Rhonda Allen left at 9:50.>

Eric Wright – e-mailing questions have not been fruitful so let's try discussing this now. What do you feel is the most important question?

Dr. Gillenwaters – The question about the new entity. We need to be prepared with a rationale on why. We currently have multiple entities and to look at funding for a new entity, the rationale needs to be solid.

Eric Wright – We can focus on that for next meeting. What is the mission, purpose?

Kent Burrow – Some of the issues related to this isn't the programming, but budgetary authority. At the end of the day, the mayor and Council are responsible. Having deputy mayor or Council staff involved is important. We need to split out budgetary issues from the program coordination side, making specific job titles and responsibilities. Can we keep some inside existing structures?

Eric Wright – What are other questions on the laundry list? Trends in spending in juvenile justice, children's services, mental health, education; description of what we are spending money on, and what are we spending our prevention dollars on currently. How is money flowing in the system? Who are DCS and JJ paying?

John Brandon – Major philanthropic dollars also go into these services—private, family, corporate, dollars.

Eric Wright – We should add those to the mix.

Marilyn Pfisterer – In the draft plan on page 7, it indicates expanding school-based mental health services. Would this be extended to private schools, charter schools, and home schools?

Eric Wright – It is revenue neutral to schools because they are placed in schools and billed to Medicaid, so it would not be limited to public schools.

Marilyn Pfisterer – We need to make it available in as broad a spectrum as possible.

Cherish Pryor – I am interested in what the committee is doing and you are doing a good job.

Eric Wright – Are there any other questions? We will nag you for your questions and put in action steps and flesh out the plan. We will get on rules and policy agenda and share draft.

Marilyn Pfisterer – There might be questions coming from that group that would provide clarity.

Eric Wright – I will let you know when the rules and policy committee meeting is scheduled. Should we talk about the public meetings? Perhaps use councilor districts as a starting point?

Marilyn Pfisterer – I have quarterly town meetings and use the Speedway channel. We could present in a district and film for Channel 16 and provide an e-mail for communication for additional comments.

Eric Wright – For another project we are having a listening tour. We put up power points and have a website for comments. Any other business?

Patricia Jones – Thank you for leading the charge for a project that is a moving target.

Kent Burrow – IUPUI and Eric Wright have done a good job. I know it is frustrating for Eric as well as it is for me. I appreciate Eric's diligence. See you in April.