ICC MEETING
March 9, 2017

In Attendance: Melissa Adams, Brenda Allair**,** Lori Book, Jennifer Chabott, Ellen Cullen, Liz Fancher, Laurie Tobey Freedman, Julie Hanes, Roxanne Hoke-Chandler, Helene Liedtke, Lauren Meatty, Kristin Micalizzi, Evelyn Nellum, Marie Peirent (Proxy), Chris Pond, Lindsay Rosenfeld (Proxy), Lauren Viviani, Robin Weber, Pam Wildnauer

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Zulmira Allcock, Bob Gagnon, Gretchen Rowe,

Welcome and approve the minutes from November 2016 and January 2017.
Vote: Motion to accept – Lauren Meatty, Seconded: Ellen Cullen, all in favor, no opposed

Director's Report: Patti Fougere for Ron Benham:
In the Repeal and Replace legislation, the House will pass legislation not sure what the Senate will do at this point. EI is considered an essential health benefit. Rate issues: general EI is on track, still working out the rate increase for Autism. Mass Health will transfer money to DPH through an ISA then DPH will distribute the money to the vendors. We are not positive on the timeline but it should be soon. It may take some time to get the money out to the field. Each Vendor agency will get the total amount for all their EI programs and then they will distribute it. Assistant Deputy Director of Finance – Alda Rego from EOHHS ~ A meeting was held with Patti, Steve and MEIC to begin preparation for the next rate increase. Addressing the challenges of retro activity and he best way to move forward and to plan earlier.

Assistant Director's Report: Patti Fougere
Phase III of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is due April 21st.
Highlights: Evaluation activities, met with the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) stakeholders; very positive results of the Mission & Key Principles (MKP) trainings. Prior to the MKP trainings and then after the MKP trainings using the placemat activities to look at child outcomes. Evaluation of the BDI fidelity TA EITC increased % of fidelity – opportunity for programs to receive ongoing TA from the EITC. We are currently holding a pilot with 5 EI Programs of the new IFSP and the tools developed to support the new document. Preliminary feedback: people really like the form itself and the clarity of the materials and support document. Collecting data using survey for staff and families. DPH will hold a face to face focus group with all participants in early April. We are looking at the comments and the themes of the training materials. There is no roll out date of the IFSP at this point.

Specialty Services Co-Chair: Brenda Allair:
Went over the newly revised Starting Points for Service Coordinators working with children with Vision Loss. As you can see we streamlined the way the form looks and tried to make the language more consistent across the forms. What are specialty services will be consistent on all forms and then we will specialize each of the starting points based on the target population.
Reasons for referral – to be clear who should be referred to Perkins. More specific information about who to call to get more information about services and if they should be referred
What is Perkins going to provide to families? Perkins can be a resource

Things to consider: next steps
Need to find where to add the Mass. Commission for the Blind as a resource, there is legislation that a physician must register a child if diagnosed with a vision loss with the MCB. The committee will look into this and add this to the document.

Next Steps will be similar across the starting points forms
On the back – resources for families with links. More updated and accessible information combined HL/VL resources – Perkins' partners with the DeafBlind Program.

Reminder to Service Coordinators about how to keep the information current. SSP next steps is to work with the DHH document, the committee will look at transition documents for each of the starting points once the Starting Points documents are complete.

Vote: Motion to accept the document with suggested additions: Julie Hanes, seconded: Roxanne Hoke-Chandler All in favor, none opposed.

ICC Updates:
Robin Weber: few items and provider happenings
- EIIS Service Pack 19 update to reflect the changes in the eligibility factors – form changes. Goes into effect April 15th so everyone should get this update at their program by the end of March for full implementation on April 15th. PIWI trainings and process currently in the 2nd cohort. This is an unfunded mandate – does not reflect the entire cost of training the entire program and loss of productivity.
- Web-based data system – providers are on notice that this is going to come and that it is really going to be life changing, additional training and learning how to use the devices is going to take time and resources ~ this is really going to change the climate. MEIC Conference Registration is open – Monday and Tuesday, May 8-9 at the Sheraton Framingham.

Evelyn Nellum – EEC
Upcoming Community of Practice (COP) on the Pyramid in April

ICC Chair -Chris Pond: How to revitalize and engage the ICC members. Helping members understand what your role within this advisory body. We value what you are doing and value how your work can inform the ICC as whole.
Patti wanted to let the group know that Ron Benham sits on the NAS Task Group who shared recommendations being proposed. NAS automatic eligibility for EI for 3 years.
Enhancing the relationship with the family 3-year automatic eligibility for NAS/SEN (using this term interchangeably) need to look at the definitions.
Average determination – limit if the child is not seen by a physician and comes in after a year; timing of the child coming into the system.
DCF connecting substance exposed means there is probably substance abuse in the home.

Lauren Viviani – DESE
- Reflecting on the Federation for Children with Special Needs Conference this past weekend. Couple of ESE sessions, is putting a plug in about the importance of connecting with families to resources and state agencies at this conference.
  - Communicating 5 strategies – improve family engagement into all the strategies
DESE is looking for a tag line – if anyone has any thoughts on the best way to communicate this message anyone with any ideas please let Lauren know. Massachusetts is #1 in reading across the Nation. A lot of successes that we should share with DESE

ESSA **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** is moving forward and is up for public comment.
For a more comprehensive description of the Department of Education's proposed regulations, see a [chart about how they compare to NCLB,](#) read a [summary of the regulations](#) or the full [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#).
The NPRM will be on public display with the Federal Register starting on Thursday, May 26th, and can be accessed directly on our website at [www.ed.gov/essa](#). There will be a 60-day public comment period starting

May 31 through August 1. The Department welcomes comment from all interested parties on the proposed regulations.

Emily Webb – EITC
New www.eitraingcenter.org website went live this week. Information has been stream-lined, there are also grab-n-go training materials available, information on functional assessment, writing high quality outcomes, standardized interview procedures.

Pam Wildnauer – Headstart
New performance standards going into effect November 2016 using a 5-year roll out to change the duration of the school day. 6-hour school day and adding 2 weeks to the school year. Funding has been received to increase duration of Headstart, Beginning in September (increasing 10 to 20 hours)
HS and EHS as referral sources; 10% enrollment is held out for over income children, 10 % enrollment is held out for children with special needs/disabilities

Suzanne Gottlieb – DPH
March is NCSEAM family survey month. Additional surveys will be mailed out this week to those programs who requested them.
Family TIES has a new director: Laura Noble
The 2017 Family TIES resource directory has been printed and is available from your regional FT staff.

The ICC viewed the 2 videos developed by the IDEA Data Center (IDC) – which has developed a variety of resources to support states and share with families in a family friendly way.
Reactions and use of videos – The EI one would be good to share with families about how the information that EI collects helps to inform ongoing services. Collecting data is more than just the data. The Story of Data: An Early Childhood Tale: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a33rDTGfQ7M
Reactions to the videos:
- Like the video, may or may not be good for families, not all kiddos will be ready for kindergarten. This is the ideal, but the data needs to be collected. Needs more support from the programs to share the data – use a video with data. Specific on how this data is shared with the Federal Government, important to have the tools in place. Online data collection – use videos in the Parent Portal as a resource.
- Share videos with school committees/School Advisory Committees (SAC) at the local level. Suggest at the 1st meeting of the year.
- Maybe show this at the MEIC conference, think about ways to share at the conference on a loop.
- Showing a cartoon video with staff; we would need to preface this as we do serious work in EI. Data being collected and sharing it with organizing and empowerment video, how to communicate the ways that we can use this video. Need to set the stage local to state to national data.
- The videos are for all.

Template data sets available through the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) Looking at the Federal compared to state data and then we can add the program to see how each program is doing compared to National and State data.
As you can see on this chart the state is below the national average on social emotional, we can provide the data in a variety of ways to allow people to understand what the data is telling us.
- Data sets are great – analyze the results. We need to celebrate where we are, but also where we can make some improvements.
- Improve performance of child outcomes
- Clarity, another suggestion of where to find the formula (how did we get to those numbers) using the algorithms. Any change – we always go back to why we chose that area to focus on, why do we need to improve?

History – other data to show the "why" when you know why we are making the changes and collecting the information.
As in the video, data comes from many sources and all of this helps us improve program practice.
The Trend Data shows that we are improving over time.

How can we use data in committee work? How the data can inform the work of the committees?
Standards: data showed the importance of the collaboration between DCF and DPH to increase best practice. If we can assess the families that should be referred to EI.
Program Planning – this is what we have been talking about Supervision – look at the need to address social emotional. Evidence based data on the efficacy of intervention on the child by increasing supervision. Changed behavior of the staff – reduce burn-out staff not feeling supported is the number one reason for burn-out.
Looking at family engagement data – do families go from:

- referral to IFSP?
- IFSP to services?
- decrease no shows

NCSEAM Family Survey data – what is the data telling us
Supervision survey – go back to staff (data is telling us that we need to work on supervision)

Looking at Special Health Needs and EI – better communication with EI and referring physician. A small pilot has been funded; we may need to expand this pilot to increase programs to collect more data. Number was too small to collect good data.

Using an EI Program Summation Report to look at: use of the BDI data –
- looking at programs who received TA
- when we limited group hours, did that have an impact on child outcomes?
Other states have different ways to conduct EI – so national data is not able to be compared
We have qualitative data but not quantitative data

Supervision Pilot – data set
- We need to collect more data – turnover of staff and the impact on families (how do we look at the quality of the data)
- Link it back to the research – what are the improved outcomes?
- What if we don't have the resources for best practice? Using the data to improve program practice and advocate for more resources
- We could use the data to justify a supervision rate – but we need to collect the data first to justify
- A supervision rate is built into the Autism rate but not the EI rate.
  - Supervision rate for Autism – this is not the same as EI, service providers are an assistant role and EI staff are provisionally certified.
  - Not all 3rd party insurers pay for supervision other than supervision of directions to the technician to conduct the service
Is anyone looking at the data of the increase of DCF referrals? And the tie to no-show/cancellations?
Fiscal – bringing together polity and fiscal to advance the questions. Need to look at that data.

ICC Members: how you can share the data that you collect?
- MCDHH – how many families are connected to a SSP after they are enrolled in EI?
- EEC – how our date sharing agreements can track children and what services they are receiving
We need to be cautious – summary variables
    Question about the SASID pilot – assigned to children who enter EI and then tracked into DESE.
Why can't we assign these numbers at birth? All children are assigned a SASID at some point so why not at birth to be able to track what programs children utilize.

Federation for Children with Special Needs – PTI training data at this point, newly hired staff at the Federation with expertise in database and tracking. Looking at the data that is currently collected and what can be collected and used.

This is a helpful conversation – things are changing across the country but we need to understand how to share the data that is meaningful for staff and families. We are evaluating the activities.

Committee Updates:
- **Personnel Preparation:** looking at PIWI modules developed – choosing one module using the PIWI staff survey. General coaching with families, editing the module to make it more visually appealing.
- **Standards Committee:** eligibility factors will go into effect 4-15-17, DPH is working on the EIIS service pack updates to allow this to go into effect on this date.
- **Program Planning:** No additional updates
- **Fiscal:** No additional updates
- **IFSP:** is not meeting until May after the pilot is complete. Pilot is planned for January through March.

The ICC Co-Chairs appreciate everyone who attended and participated in the conversation today.

Vote: Motion to Adjourn: Robin Weber, Seconded: Laurie Tobey Freedman, all in favor

Meeting Adjourned 12:27 pm.