

Interagency Coordinating Council
October 23, 2012
Minutes

ICC MEMBERS

Ann Woolfolk (*Chair*)
Bruce Orr
Bhavana Viswanathan
Billie Friedland
Pam Reuther
Kathleen Orr
Susan Starrett
Verna Thompson (*Proxy for DOE*)
Nancy Widdoes (*Proxy for Susan Cycyk*)
Hazel Cole
Rodney Brittingham
Ann Meduri
Beverly Weigand (*Proxy for Glyne Williams*)
Robin David (*Proxy for Linda Nemes*)

INTERESTED PERSONS

Freda Collins (CDW)
Jill McKinney (CDW)
Anna Ornelas (PIC)
Pam Green (CCHS)
Nancy Condon (DuPont Hospital)
Diane Foor (CDW)
Flo Kinney (Sunny Days)
Dennis Rubino (DE State University)
April Hill-Addison (DOE)
Wendy Strauss (GACEC)
Ximena Uribe-Zarain (U of DE)
Fiona Vivar (DOE/CDW)
Mavis Strain (FSCAA/DPBHS)
Carrie Melchisky (DE Family Voices)

STAFF

Sue Campbell
Inita Joyner
Carolann Schumann

Participated via conference call ~ no participants

Meeting Called to Order and Approval of ICC Minutes

Ann Woolfolk, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Meeting participants were introduced. Ann went over the name tags for all attending to remind members, proxies and interested person of who can vote. Yellow tags ~ ICC members (can vote), Blue tags ~ Proxies for Members (can vote), Orange tags ~ Interested Person (cannot vote) and Green tag ~ staff (cannot vote).

Rodney Brittingham moved to approve the ICC minutes. Pam Reuther seconded the motion. All in favor.

Parent Perspectives ~Exploring the needs of Hispanic families in Sussex County

Anna Ornelas, Family Support Specialist, Parent Information Center of DE (PIC) gave a brief discussion about “Growing As Parents” or “Creciendo Como Padres” (CCP) which is designed to serve Hispanic families with young children from birth to age eight in Sussex County. It is designed to:

- Familiarize families with service systems, practices and regulations
- Teach parents how to effectively use information and maximize available resources that promote their children’s health, education and wellbeing
- Help families communicate with service providers such as physicians, nurses, social workers, teachers and community agencies’ staff
- Assist families understand and complete forms and questionnaires and offer translations when necessary
- Give families the know-how and skills to speak up on behalf of their children with disabilities and special health care needs

For more information, please email Anna at, aornelas@picofdel.org

Handout given~ PIC Announces: “Growing As Parents” or “Creciendo Como Padres”

2012 Delaware Family and Child outcomes data

Ximena Uribe-Zarain, Ph.D., Delaware Education Research & Development Center, University of Delaware went over the 2012 Family Survey for Child Development Watch that was handed out. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information about families perceptions and satisfaction with Child Development Watch (CDW) Program Services. It is also used to determine the impact of CDW services on families’ quality of life. The overall comments received from parents were very positive. (Please see handout).

Handout given~ 2012 Family Survey for Child Development Watch

Questions to ask parents of young children via Families Know Best to focus 2013 priority areas

Hazel Cole, Parent Information Center of DE (PIC) gave a follow up discussion from the last ICC meeting which was held on July 24, 2012 in reference to information that was gathered from Providers and parents to see if they felt the same way about early interventions greatest Challenges.

Hazel asked the ICC meeting attendees to look over the questions to ask *Parents of Young Children* that was handed out and see if they make sense and also give input on the wording etc., so that the questions can get finalized. The ICC members gave their input and the questioned were updated. Once finalized, we will then talk about serving the parents and getting results. At the July 2012 meeting, we also talked about getting the same perspective from Child Development Watch and the Family Service Coordinators to see what they feel are the greatest challenges for the children. (Please see handout).

Hazel said we are looking to ask the provided list of questions to parents whose children recently transitioned from CDW and whom are in the school age range of 3years to 8years old. This tends to be the age group in which parents start to see a difference between their child and other children of the same age.

Wendy Strauss, Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) recapped on a few suggestions that were brought up at the July 2012 ICC meeting which include *Family Knows Best Survey* which is a group of Parents whom volunteered to take the Survey, however the number of parents is not very large right now; *Child Development Watch Survey* which has just been completed and the data is about to be reviewed so we will not see this again until about Summer 2013; Forming *Focus Groups* with the support of GACEC; using information from providers (list of agencies and clients) also taking the survey and sending it out to the providers, PIC has a parent data base that we could use to pull together parents whose children are between 3yrs and 8yrs old. Also we have the ICC parents that we can contact individually about these questions. Wendy talked with the ICC members about working on various ways of distributing this survey.

Handouts given~ Focusing 2013 Priority Areas; Webinars-Fall 2012 Calendar; Fall 2012 Workshops /Sussex County Workshop Schedule

Promoting Safe and Stable Program ~Overview of services components

Mavis Strain, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health gave a discussion in reference to the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF) which is a federally funded family

support and family preservation program for families who are at-risk or crisis. The program is free and it focuses on strengthening and stabilizing families and promoting child safety. PSSF empowers families to gain a better understanding of their concerns through an interview and self-assessment process. Families learn to identify support systems and develop action plans to reach their goals. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is also available for families who are experiencing behavior problems with children and youth. PSSF promotes positive Father Involvement and Healthy Adult relationships.

The mission of (PSSF) is to promote the healthy development of children by –strengthening and preserving families in a safe and caring community, when safety can be assured through a family support and consultation process; Using prevention and early intervention strategies and coordinated and supportive services. PSSF uses a unique family centered, strength-based intervention strategy that is designed to: reduce family stress and crisis; Reduce incidents of child maltreatment; Reduce family isolation; Teach the family a different way of planning and developing supports unique to their circumstances; Improve child and adult relationships; and increase networks of support and knowledge of resources and services; Increase awareness of family strengths and abilities.

The main objectives is to provide an overview of Title IVB subpart II Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act; To increase awareness of the Promoting Safe and Stable State-wide Community-Base Consultation and Support program services; To inform you why Fatherhood involvement is directly related to family support in reducing family stressors.

Primary Programming is one-on-one Family Consultation and Support; Priority Programming is to have Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Adult Relationships. Delaware is one of five states in the United States that has been successful in launching a statewide effort supporting the *Healthy Marriage/Adult Relationship and Fatherhood Initiative supporting child well-being*. Other states that have launched an initiative are Ohio, South Carolina, California and Texas.

Delaware is a national leader in the healthy marriage/adult relationship and fatherhood initiative and is on the cutting edge with this effort. Delaware has a local network called *The Delaware Fatherhood and Family Coalition (DFFC)* which was established to build upon the efforts of the community to increase collaboration and strengthen resources which support the involvement of residential and non-residential fathers in the lives of their children, build upon healthy adult relationships in the area of co-parenting, and to decrease the barriers that may challenge these efforts. The mission of DFFC is to embrace fathers and families in our effort to improve the lives of children by promoting positive father involvement and healthy adult relationships. (Please see handout).

Handouts given~ *Promoting Safe & Stable Families Program flyer; DE Fatherhood & Family Coalition (DFFC) pamphlet; Think of the Child First brochure; Accessing Child Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in DE brochure;*

ICC member sharing

Rodney Brittingham announced that the Delaware Division of Family Services is looking for a special caregiver to care for a 16 year old male Caucasian with many special needs. This youth is non-ambulatory and non-verbal, with developmental delays, yet responds well to gentle care. He needs a medically skilled foster home that will provide him with a nurturing, loving, caring environment to meet his many needs. If you have experience working with

youth with medical and developmental challenges and are interested in becoming a specialized foster parent, please consider partnering with us. Training services and support will be provided. For more information, please contact Travis Depew at [302 526-5694](tel:3025265694) weekdays 8:00 am to 4:00pm. **Update: Good news, we were able to find a home for this young man, however if you have any leads for youth who may come to our attention in the future please let me know and we will follow-up.**

Easter Seals has signed on as a subcontractor to University of Delaware's Institute for Excellence in Early childhood in Education Delaware's STARS program. They will be providing staff to go into childcare centers across the state of DE and focusing primary on Kent and Sussex counties. This will launch on January 1, 2013.

Delaware Technical College, Wilmington Campus Conference Center will have an event on Wednesday, October 31, 2012. Speaker *LeDerick R. Horne, Poet, Disability Advocate/ Entrepreneur* will talk to children about overcoming Barriers to learning and Experiencing Success in Education.

There will be a *Making a Difference Conference* for early childhood held on April 13, 2012 at Delaware Technical College, Terry Campus

Adjournment

Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00pm.

Future Meetings

January 22, 2013, 12noon to 3:00pm

Sheraton Dover Hotel
(Chardonnay Room)
1570 N. DuPont Highway
Dover, DE 19901

April 23, 2013, 12noon to 3:00pm

Room information will be sent via email before the next meeting date

July 23, 2013, 12noon to 3:00pm

Room information will be sent via email before the next meeting date

October 22, 2013, 12noon to 3:00pm

Room information will be sent via email before the next meeting date

For additional information or copies of information provided at ICC meetings, please contact Inita Joyner @ 302-255-9134 or Inita.Joyner@state.de.us

Documents may also be found on the Birth to Three website:

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/epqc/birth3/directry.html>