WYOMING QUARTERLY EARLY INTERVENTION COUNCIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009 CHEYENNE

Members Present: Sue Bacon, Dr. James Bush, Morita Flynn, Rose Fry, Holly Lebsack, Sara Mofield, Kathleen Orton, Darlena Schlachter, Betsy Schmick, Connie Strayer, Laurie Westlake, Lloyd Wilder, and Susan Wiley Anita Sullivan, proxy for Diana Currah Charla Ricciardi, proxy for Paul Ramirez

Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Division Staff Present: Cliff Mikesell, Christine Demers, Belinda McCluskey, and Carol Maliszewski

Guests Present: Terri Dawson, Tricia Whynott, Jack Knudson, and Susan Wagner

Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Wiley called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. A quorum of the Council was present.

Additions to the Agenda: None

BUSINESS

Review of October 2, 2008 EIC Minutes: Morita Flynn moved and Lloyd Wilder seconded to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting on October 2, 2008; passed unanimously.

Old Business

Early Childhood Development Council (ECDC)

Betsy Schmick is a member of the ECDC; she will serve in a dual role of EIC provider.

Data System Update - Sara Mofield

Sara reported that the new data system has to go through an RFP, Administration, and the data unit in the Department of Health before it will be approved. We will soon be in the bidding process.

Child Count - Sara Mofield

Sara reported the November 1, 2008 count, 1,145 in Part C and 2,584 in Part B for a total of 3,729. The December 1, 2008 count is in the process of being verified for Part C. The total for Part B is 2,607. The birth-to-five population has increased 9% from the December 1, 2007 count. As a state we are doing well in child find, but are still low in the birth to two child find.

Legislative Issues - Cliff Mikesell

Cliff Mikesell discussed the legislative issues that affect the DDD including the Early Intervention Program and the Medicaid Waivers. Based on a bill passed last year, the Division has promulgated emergency rules to provide a November 1 child count for next year's contracts with the regions. The November child count of 3734 was used in the Governor's Budget Recommendations to the Legislative Joint Appropriations Committee. This is an increase of 355 children over last year's December 1 count. In addition, the Governor recommended a 4.3% external cost adjustment as required by statute. The Division will use the November count to distribute state funding rather than the December count we used in the past years for determining contract amounts with the regions. In the Department's presentation to the Joint Appropriations Committee, the committee had no questions regarding how the numbers were derived.

In light of the sharp turnaround in the economy, the Governor and the legislature is concerned about revenue forecasts for the coming fiscal year as well as the next biennium. The budget for the 2011-2012 FY will be

developed this coming summer. In anticipation of reduced revenues, the Governor has asked agencies to be thinking about possible cuts and to develop scenarios for both a 5% and a 10% across the board budget reductions.

Medicaid Waiver Funding – Cliff continued, the department of Health included a request to fund portions of all three waiting lists for the DD waiver Programs. Of the three waivers, the Governor only recommended funding the Acquired Brain Injury Waiver wait list in the amount of \$2.8 million. There are ongoing discussions between the Department of Health, the Governor's Office and the JAC about how to fund waiting lists. One proposal was to spread the \$2.8 million recommended by the Governor to all three waivers giving preference to emergency cases (Emergency cases are defined by the Division as homelessness, loss of primary care giver, danger to self or other, etc). The Governor's Planning Council is drafting a paper on the waiver waiting lists.

There is a lot of concern from parents across the state. Many states have such large waiting lists they can not do anything for the needs of those on the waiting list. Wyoming wants to address the issues of the waiting list now before it becomes unmanageable (adult waiver waiting list is at 85).

Presentation from STRIDE - Tricia Whynott

Jack Knudson, the STRIDE board chairperson, announced the hiring of Tricia Whynott as Director of STRIDE Learning Center as of January 21, 2008. Tricia gave a presentation about STRIDE and the services they provide to Laramie County.

New Business

Part C SPP/APR – Christine DeMers

The draft Part C SPP/APR for FFY2007-08 was mailed out to council members before the meeting for review. There was discussion concerning the need to change the child find target for Indicator 5 (percentage of children birth to one years of age with IFSPs) or to leave as it is. Christine explained that a Wyoming stakeholder group set the targets and while OSEP reviews the information they do not consider the levels in their determination of compliance.

Kathleen Orton moved the EIC to create a taskforce to look at the improvement in the birth to 1 child find. Sue Bacon seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. The first meeting will follow the EIC meeting today, January 22, 2009. Members: Kathleen Orton, Morita Flynn, Susan Wiley and Christine DeMers. Betsy Schmick would like to be involved in the future as a representative from Early Head Start.

Part B APR and Report Cards - Carol Maliszewski

Carol reported that this APR FFY 2007-08 we reported on all children in all regions data systemically. In the past we have only reported on a percentage of those regions monitored. We did have slippage in Indicators 11 (60 Day Timeline) and 12 (Transition) because of more reliable and valid data. Sara Mofield reported statewide in Part B there were 11 written complaints, 9 with decision, 3 with findings. Many related to discipline, LRE, ESY and services. None involving the 3-5 age group. Sara also followed up on the discussion of Wyoming Part B indicators. There is no process to report at this time. The Early Intervention and Education Program (EIEP) continue to work with the Wyoming Department of Education on this matter and will keep the EIC updated as progress is made.

2009 Wyoming Early Intervention and Education Conference - Belinda McCluskey

Belinda reported that this year's conference will be August 10-13, 2009 at the Hitching Post in Cheyenne. Speakers have not been confirmed at this time. The EIEP hopes to have training for staff, parents, and board members.

Belinda also reported on the possibility of looking into becoming a part of the Early Intervention Family Alliance (EIFA), a national parent support group.

Family Survey Report - Susan Wagner

Susan Wagner, Data Driven Enterprises, reported on the results of the Part C family surveys (Indicator C4) and the Part B parent surveys (Indicator B8) for the FFY 2007-08. Part C had a response rate of 32.4%. In Part C, 96.1% of families report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights, effectively communicate

their child's needs and help their children develop and learn. Part B had a response rate of 41.4% In Part B, 80.5% of parents reported schools facilitated parent involvement. There was discussion on the need to increase the return rate while keeping the surveys confidential.

Child Outcome Summary Report - Susan Wagner

Susan reported on Indicator 3 for Part C and Indicator 7 for Part B. Result numbers are higher for FFY 2007-08. COSF results show results are higher when a child exits the CDC programs than they were at entrance.

Membership - EIC members and State staff

Charla Ricciardi will replace Paul Ramirez as representing Children's Special Health.

Morita Flynn moved and Betsy Schmick seconded the motion to recommend Carol Pickett, Christine Bullinger, Melody Tuiman-Love and Jana Reade to the Governor to fill parent positions on the Council.

Laurie Westlake moved and Sara Mofield seconded the motion for Kim Bock from Region 3 to fill the position of service provider on the Council.

Morita Flynn moved and Anita Sullivan seconded the motion to accept the verbal resignation of Laurie Sue Medlin from the EIC. Chairperson Susan Wiley will send a letter to Laurie Sue Medlin.

There was discussion about the enforcement of the attendance policy (3.3) any Council member who misses three unexcused, consecutive, meetings may be requested to resign his/her appointment. Sara Mofield will make verbal contact with Carolyn Paseneaux concerning her desire to continue on the Council.

Terri Dawson reported the Child Development Centers and Head Starts have received a CD called *Thoughts for Tots and Pen Notes*. These are available at no cost through PEN and through their website at www.wpen.net.

Next Meeting – April 23, 2009 – Torrington

Adjournment

Betsy Schmick moved and Laurie Westlake seconded adjournment. Motion passed unanimously.