

Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention
October 23, 2015
1371 Harvard St NW Washington DC 20774
11:30AM – 1:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Almo Carter	[Parent]
Jeri Berman	[MACS]
Nicole Lee-MWandha	[OSSE]
Royace Hagler	[United Planning Org.]
Colleen Sonosky	[DHCF]
Cynthia McEwen	[Parent]
Jeri Johnston	[OSSE]
Toby Long	[CSPD]
Elizabeth Groginsky	[OSSE]

Members not in Attendance

Charles Coward	[LFH]
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Guests in Attendance:

Raeshawn Crosson	[Parent]
Pamela Brown-White	[LFH]
Kim Morrison	[OSSE]
Renee Murphy	[CLC]
Sharon Ringwalt	[ECTA]
Sharon Walsh	[ECTA]
Justin Lawson	[MOTA]
Steven Walker	[MOTA]

OSSE Support Personnel:

Melanie Newkirk	[OSSE]
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The meeting was called to order at 11:40 am. The Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Early Learning, Elizabeth Groginsky welcomed everyone to the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Early Intervention quarterly meeting. She also introduced Steven Walker, Director of the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointment (MOTA) and thanked him for attending the ICC meeting.

- Mr. Walker stated his purpose to the audience and completed the swearing in process for ICC re-appointments and new appointments for the ICC:
 - Nicole Lee-MWandha (Homeless Rep), Elizabeth Groginsky (OSSE rep), Toby Long (CSPD rep), Jeri Berman (Provider Rep).

Council Chairman – Almo Carter, continued with the meeting agenda

- Members completed roll call and the agenda began with a welcome from the Board Chair.

Approval of meeting minutes from July 20, 2015

- Minutes were not available for approval by the Council.
- Council Chair discussed her need to have information on attendance prior to the meeting.
- She discussed the importance of membership growth and involvement moving forward.

The council continued open dialoged about membership. Chair pointed out several vacant positions are due to several issues. Chair agreed to discuss with MOTA challenges with appointment due to residency criteria. Chair opened the floor for discussion from the Council.

Chair acknowledged Jeri Berman as she requested to give the Nominating Sub-committee report which addresses several membership concerns.

New Business

- **Sub-committee Quarterly Reports:**
 - Nominating Committee provided quarterly report of committee outcomes. Jeri Berman gave report in the absence of the Nomination Committee Chair, Charles Coward. Jeri Berman also reported that Mr. Coward would like to resign from his position as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Board Chair requested that resignations be addressed during the Council retreat. Board Chair reported that two parents resigned from the Council.
 - Legislative and Social Policy Committee discussed the efforts made to bring attention to the legislation passed to lower the eligibility criteria for Early Intervention services in the District. Toby Long gave the report. A robust discussion was resolved with a separately scheduled meeting on November 10, 2015 at 1:30pm at Department of Healthcare Finance, hosted by Colleen Sonosky. In addition to Colleen, other members planning to attend are Almo Carter, Elizabeth Groginsky and Toby Long. Comment from the public – Rene Murphy added that the community is in support of the legislation, i.e., DC Action for Children, and several Charter schools testified in support. Almo Carter requested that Deputy Mayor, Jennifer Niles be invited to the retreat. Elizabeth Groginsky requested that a broader discussion be convened to take a holistic approach about services across the board for district children. Colleen Sonosky agreed that this was a perfect time for the discussion as Department of Health Care Finance is solidifying the FY17 budget and the change in legislation is on their radar as they develop rates for providers.
 - Executive Committee reported on the update for the ICC Retreat. Almo Carter gave the report. The council agreed to a scheduled date of December 11, 2015 from 9:30am – 1:00pm at 1371 Harvard St NW in the Presidential Board room which was approved by the council. Almo Carter discussed the importance of filling positions so that appointments for standing committees can be resolved. The By-Laws continue to need to be updated and finalized. The Executive Committee is in need of a Vice Chair to assist with all duties. Criteria for Vice Chair were reviewed.
 - Public Awareness and Program Development – Chair and Co-Chair agreed to meet to discuss topics before next meeting.
 - Parent Advocacy – Cynthia McEwen discussed her interest in leading this Sub-committee. Almo Carter acknowledged her interest in serving in this capacity.
- **DC Early Intervention Program Quarterly Highlights**
 - Strong Start Program Manager, Jerri Johnston-Stewart reported on the Partners in Progress three day conference held September 17-19 at Gallaudet University for EI provider community. The conference focused on the therapeutic intervention of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Assessment Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS) for Infants and Children. Over 85% of the provider community attended. A master training program will select 200 provider to enter a certification program. Toby Long added that the routine based coaching model will help in service delivery.

- Representatives from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center presented the State System Improvement Plan progress report. Sharon Walsh and Sharon Ringwalt partnered with Kerda DeHaan to lead the discussion on Phase II to the Council. Kerda DeHaan agreed to send out the data report from the State System Improvement Plan. Almo Carter asked why Medicaid covered children was the data pool. Kerda DeHaan explained the rationale as it impacted by the indicator. Early Childhood Technical Assistance reps agreed to send out Tipping Point Survey which is the data reports for Medicaid.

- ICC Meeting Business
 - None at this time.

The Council Chair opened the floor for public comment.

- Public Comments
 - Rene Murphy [CLC] asked how other states manage the high need for Early Intervention. It was disclosed that Virginia has a carve out with the approval from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service.
 - Request for other states data to be sent to the council.
 - Raeshawn Settles [Parent] discussed limited pool of providers as the program embrace the legislation change. She also stated that service coordination is key and training of service coordinators is imperative. There must be a public relations campaign to address the real stigma for parents with children with special needs. The real problem with transition must be addressed. She gave an example from her family as there were only seven slots and her child received one of them. She discussed how all the kids in her child's class need vision services; however the parents are not aware of resources, therefore they are unable to advocate appropriately. She pointed out only four of the seven students were involved with Strong Start. The systemic issues of child care centers are deeper than inclusion, "they are not being paid". She also said transition is a huge problem and asked that a representative from Part B be included.
 - Almo Carter and Elizabeth Groginsky discussed the importance of a seamless process. Elizabeth Groginsky reported that an overlapping position will be housed under division as the 619 special education coordinator linking Part C and Part B processes as well as training on Child Outcomes.

The council and public engaged in a robust discussion about the successes challenges of the Early Intervention Program. Everyone agreed that the Program has grown and is headed in the right direction to continued success.

The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled during the retreat December 11, 2015.

Adjournment – Almo Carter adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm