



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

First Steps

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Interagency Coordinated Council Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

10am to 12:30pm

ICC members in attendance: Jason Berty, Cory Best, Laura Burklew, Tonia Carriger, Representative Ed Clere, Erica Deathe, Robyn Duffy, Mariann Frigo, Mark Guyer, Alexandra Hall, Lindsay Holley, Jennifer Owens, Megan Purcell, Angie Vaughn, Stacy Williams

ICC Members not in attendance: DJ Glander, Clarissa Loveall, Tanya Merritt-Mulamba, Erica Miller, Kristi Linson, Sarah Sailors, Deanna Woodruff

First Steps State Staff in Attendance: Christina Commons, David Brandon-Friedman, Katie Goodwell, Barbara Sanders, Marie-Therese Smith, Jessica Tomasino, Connie Young.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:02am.

Mark Guyer, ICC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendance was taken.

First Steps provider, Jessica Teipen, SLP from Children’s Therapy Connection, shared her experience as a First Steps provider. She loves making connections with the families. She stressed the importance of children getting an early start, so providers can educate parents on how to work with their child during daily routines at home.

Alexandra Hall as well as other parents on the council echoed the importance of First Steps and starting early.

Approval of September 2022 minutes (Vote on Approval)

Mark Guyer asked the council if anyone had any edits or additions to the November meeting minutes. Mariann Frigo asked that the positions be added to the Executive Committee positions. Cory Best moved to accept the minutes as amended. Jennifer Owens seconded the motion. The council voted to accept the amended minutes by a vote:

10 Yes

0 No

1 Abstained

The motion was carried.

First Steps Update

Christina Commons, First Steps Director, provided the state update. Introduction to new state First Steps team members. New funding was allocated to the program in order to increase provider rates and System Point of Entry contracts in an effort to assist with recruitment and retention of high-quality personnel. (State Update Power Point is attached).



FFY2021 APR

Jessica Tomasino, First Steps Assistant Director, shared the quality review process, indicators monitored, the results for each indicator that will be reported in the upcoming submission of the Annual Performance Report (APR), and the factors contributing to State determinations with the council. (FFY21 APR Power Point is attached.)

The ICC members engaged in conversation around the data provided and how issues will be addressed to ensure future compliance. Questions arose around how the State collects subsequent data for correction of non-compliance and who is held accountable for non-compliance. Mark Guyer indicated that the Council would like to hear from System Points of Entry (SPOE) and Agencies at future meetings to hear about their efforts to address issues of non-compliance, increase program capacity to meet the needs of children and families, and identify how the ICC can support the program.

Council members Jason Berty and Mariann Frigo asked how EI Hub will be utilized to assist entities in monitoring their local programs to ensure compliance in the future. Christina responded that the State is working with SPOEs on getting all necessary data into EI Hub, train Service Coordinators on the use of the system, and refine roles so that dashboards can be turned on and accurate data reports can be pulled to assist in the monitoring of local systems. Mark Guyer requested that data be presented ongoing to the ICC for future support and planning.

Sub-Committee Work Summary

No sub-committee work was done at this meeting.

Legislative Updates

Representative Clere commented on the new First Steps funding from the Hoosier Family First Fund and the newly announced rate adjustment. He stated the additional funding proposed in the Governor's budget is a big plus for the First Steps program. He stressed the importance of all First Steps stakeholders reaching out to their legislators and his willingness to help people make connections with their district leaders if needed.

Public Comment

Mark Guyer, ICC Chair, asked if there were any comments from the public.

Amy Hill from Cluster D wanted to thank the state staff for all their hard work in getting service coordinators and other SPOE staff the raises they received. Many others echoed the hard work of the state staff and thanked them.

Christina Commons, First Steps director, stated that with the new rates, agency directors should reach out to providers who have left the system and encourage them to enroll again.

Drew Haverstock asked about new entities applying to enroll and the application process. He inquired if new entities would be held to the same standards as those already enrolled such as maintaining a required number of service providers and serving an entire service area. Christina indicated that the State had recently revised the application for agency enrollment, however, any

new entities granted enrollment would be held to the same standards and requirements. All entities new and old would be required to sign the provider agency agreement annually.

Adjourn

Mark Guyer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Cory Best made the motion. Alexandra Hall seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

The next meeting is March 8, 2023.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Janet Ballard, ICC Staff Support