

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 ICC Council		Attending: Ginger Brath, Provider (Chair); Jennifer Bibler, Department of Public Instruction (DPI)/ Early Childhood Special Education; Jacci Borchardt, Provider; Rachel Cissne Carabell, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI); Linda Hall, DHS/Office of Children's Mental Health; Lisa Hankes, Department of Children and Families (DCF); Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent; Deb Rathermel, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services; Trisha Wicinsky, County Representative; Theresa Wixom, Parent
Date: 3/8/2023	Time Started: 9:02 AM Time Ended: 12:00 PM	<p>Council Members Excused: Laura Holmes, Child Care Representative, Kristine Nadolski, DPI/McKinney-Vento; Lisa Subeck, State Representative/Legislator.</p> <p>State Staff Attendees: Clara De La Garza (BCS); Lydia Essenmacher (BCS); Regena Floyd-Sambou (BCS); Tessa Freedberg (BCS), Laura Triller (BCS); Cooper Parnell (BCS); David Sorensen (BCS), Debra Borquist- Conlon (BCS), Dan Kramarz (BCS);</p> <p>Public Attendees: Michelle Davies (CESA5/RESource)</p>
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath

Minutes

Welcome

- Call to Order, Greetings, Introductions, and overview of the agenda
- Council Members Updates and Announcement
 - No announcements

Public Comments:

- No public comments given

General Business

- Approve Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2023
 - Rachel Cissne Carabell motioned to approve.
 - Jaclyn Borchardt seconded. Motion passed.

Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Data

- Provided an overview of the Enrollment/ Disenrollment background, shared data of two years: 2021 (total of 6058 children enrolled) and 2022 (total of 6635 children enrolled); including enrollment by race/ethnicity as well as pending referrals and total disenrollment.

Council Discussion

- Additional Data Points to consider for future reports
 - Enrollment: Length of enrollment, average age at enrollment
 - Referral sources

- Diagnosis
- Disenrollment, reasons, ages, refer to LEA.

Revising Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS) Follow-Up for Local Determinations Project

Regena Floyd-Sambou shared Local County Determination project overview.

- Beginning with a Determinations background information. Including the requirements and federal guidelines. Also, shared the statuses programs can receive (meet requirements, needs assistance year 1, 2, 3 or more, needs intervention and needs substantial intervention).
- The goal for this project is to implement improved follow-up activities that are meaningful and helpful to county programs bringing all programs to “meet requirements” status by 2026.
- Project seeks to standardize determinations follow up activities and support local program remediation to reach improved determination status.
- BCS held forum with local program participants, to solicit input

Council Discussion, input, and recommendations for Determinations

Members of the council inquired about current determination status, shared website link [Birth to 3 Program: County Performance Data](#).

Currently, 50 programs out of 72 are in the meets requirements status. The council expressed the hard work linked to this project comparing with a similar process of determinations for the school district

Part C Grant Application – Status Update and Posting

Tessa Freedberg shared Part C application update. Funds became available on July 1, 2023. Wisconsin has received the same amount in recent years (\$7, 837,067), not including the American Rescue Plan Act one-time allocations.

- Reviewed the proposed areas the ICC members suggested previously January 25, 2023.
- Part C funding plan: The Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS) is planning to allocate similarly to historical categorical uses.
 - Staff positions: \$400,000
 - Supports and subcontracts: \$1.38 million
 - Direct services: \$6.05 million

Continuing the work around Professional Development, with the RESource team, implementing insights from the Social-emotional grants, partnering with University of Wisconsin’s Capstone certificate program and stipends for other trainings.

- BCS plans to post their grant application on the DHS website on March 15, 2023, for public comments. Deb Rathemel provided additional information about the two new requirements.
 - General education provision act (GEPA) section 427 form, Assuring Intentionality of Inclusion, previously was only a check-box available and now a description is required.
 - Explore interest in extension option. Wisconsin has an opportunity via our application cover letter to express interest in exploring the extension option.

Council Discussion, input, and recommendations for Part C application

- ICC members inquired about who could potentially benefit, and how this could impact Part B funds. This will provide an opportunity for those turning 3 years old and exiting the program. Members of the council shared this option could be beneficial for those with summer birthdays and with complex needs. Also, the importance to consider the resources available in the community during the summer months.
- Children must be previously eligible through Part C and eligible to receive services under Part B.

ICC council break: 10:13 am – 10:25am

Quality Protocol Overview and Status

Lydia Essenmacher provided an overview and results for the Quality Program Review Protocol. Initial background and format shared, including the purpose of the tool.

- Review of the categories backgrounds and results:
 - Family engagement
 - Transition
 - Socio-emotional (SE) practices
 - Child Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) outcomes
- BCS contracts with an external agency MetaStar to conduct the file review.
- MetaStar reviews 2-9 files per county
- Birth to 3 Programs received a narrative of their results, including strengths and opportunities to grow.
- There has been increases results for all four categories of the quality tool

Next steps: share results with Birth to 3 Programs, review the tool for updates and use the data and insights to identify opportunities for program improvement efforts.

Council Discussion and input for Quality protocol

- Council inquired about the total numbers of files reviewed each year, and clarification was provided that are 2-9 files per each county. Discussion around the family engagement area.
- Council members expressed expectations need to be clear, currently discovering what needs to be captured. The importance of proper documentation to meet quality measures. Finding a balance on how to evidence and being described.

BCS Updates

- **Governor Evers Budget Recommendations**
 - Recommendation of 6.17 million in each year of the budget to include support for infants and toddlers with blood lead level threshold in line with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) threshold.
 - A final state budget will include negotiations with the full state legislature.

Council Discussion

- ICC council members inquired about how lead exposure was selected. The unique funding allocation in Wisconsin as well as past experiences led to believe the strategies to focus on specific areas with an impact across the state is positive approach that could increase the possibility to receive funds. Other members expressed that every year this approach needs to be evaluated and can vary on what the legislature will be focusing on. Sharing the following resource [Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning \(wi.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/health/preventing-childhood-lead-poisoning)
- Lisa Hanks, DCF, shared insights about the redesign of Wisconsin's Child Welfare system recognizing the overlap between both programs and the importance of collaborations. This includes investing \$35 million over the biennium to support an intensive, evidence-based parenting skills program designed to safely prevent children from entering out-of-home care or to reunify them with family as quickly as possible. Also, strengthening support for kinship caregivers and children and families in crisis. Shared the following webpages for more detail information: [budget-families-first.pdf \(wisconsin.gov\)](#); [DCF 2023-25 Biennial Budget](#)

Council Discussion

No questions or discussion from the ICC members

Birth to 3 American Rescue Plan Act Projects

- **Local Pandemic Relief Grants:** 23 Birth to 3 Programs received grants, February marked the mid-way of the project. Programs provided report of activities and funding expenses. The next step will be a media campaign end of March; highlighting the creative and unique ways of programs to support children and families.
- **Infant Mental Health Consultation and Services Pilot:** In partnership with UW-Madison, five Birth to 3 Programs (seven sites) are piloting ongoing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation to improve social-emotional outcomes of children and build workforce capacity. The second arm of this project offers IECMH consultation to individual cases across the state, initially the eligibility only included children

referred follow by Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) referral. The eligibility expanded to any children currently enrolled where the team believes could benefit from this opportunity. Currently there has been 11 referrals. Pilot set to end September 2023, following guidelines under American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

- **Program Participation System Enhancements:** DHS recognizes the current PPS system limitations, investing a portion of approximately \$330 000 funds to fix/implement changes enhancing program functions.
- **Reimagining Professional Development System:** In partnership with CESA 5/RESource there has been a lot of work towards the reimagination of the professional development (PD) system, considering the findings as result of the work of the Research to practice project team. Currently, the project has secure name for the PD system “EI in WI” and includes the branding and logo. The focus now is to build content for the website in collaboration with the children and family program specialist (CFPS) team. Recognizing there has been many other activities informing the PD project such as efforts to strengthen relationships with the higher education system, the creation of Community of Practices and Professional Leadership forums.

Council Discussion

Funded by Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) ARPA, approximately \$ 3.7 million.

No Wrong Door-Supporting Kids Together Project

Debra Borquist-Conlon provided an overview of the project funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for Home and Community-Based services this initiative timeline has until March 31, 2025, to utilize funds.

- Focusing on simplified journey for families in Wisconsin
- Collaboration with other stakeholders
- Media campaign lead by Pigorsch; surveying families and providers. Receiving approximately 1153 responses.
- Exploring marketing strategies to connect with families, providers and those interacting with children with disabilities

Council Discussion, input, or clarification

No comments from council members.

Wrap Up & Overview of Future Agenda Topics:

- Linda Hall shared May is Children Mental health month and there is an upcoming webinar in April to offer suggestions on how you can celebrate and other activities. Linda Hall will share detail information.
- Future 2023 Meeting Dates
 - May 12 – Circles of Life Conference Wilderness Resort Wisconsin Dells and Remote. Future topics will be more family friendly.
 - October 18

Linda Hall motioned to adjourn Seconded by-
Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail seconded Adjourned
11:34 am