

FSSAC QUARTERLY MEETING

MINUTES

Family Support Services Advisory Council

Date | time Friday, January 14, 2022 9:00 – 11:30 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Chair Laura McKee

Type of Meeting: Interagency Coordinating Council

Note Taker: Wendy Studt

In Attendance

Members: Laura McKee, Abigail Harris, Nicole Goeddel, Carol Clayton-Bye, Karen Thornton, Hollin Buck, Karen Underwood, Laura Christiaens, Amber Bell, Jessie Counts, Susan Brown, Kathy Rich, Jack O'Connor, Patty Butler, Stephanie Goble

Members Excused: Brandi Loch, Daylinda Radley, Catherine Murphy, Leslie Lee

Guests: Lora Cowee, Margie Vegoren, Kalli Decker, Jackie Mohler, Brittany Tronaas; Sandy Peaslee, Theresa Baldry

Members Absent: Keira Kirschner, Senate Majority Leader Sue Vinton, Breanne Main, Dr. Lux

State Staff: Sandy Cade, Wendy Studt

Approval of December 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved.

Introductions, Ground Rules, and Agenda Review

Laura McKee led introductions, the agenda review, and a review of the FSSAC Ground Rules. Laura shared news of the resignation of Co-Chair Bonnie Ramage.

ACTION: The Council is seeking a Parent Representative from Region 3 (Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, and Yellowstone Counties) as well as a Parent Co-Chair. Please share any interest or suggestions with Laura McKee at mckee4@charter.net.

ACTION: Additionally, Laura asked that all providers reach out to families asking them to share their family story. Please follow up with Laura at the same email address with family story suggestions.

Ground Rules:

- Watch your air time.
- No axes to grind.
- Follow FSSAC Guidelines.
- Respect for all comments: all voices are heard as we work together.
- Assume positive intentions and take responsibility for impact.
- Be here now.
- Listen to learn – active form of participation.

Part C Updates:

Montana's Part C Program is in the first Cohort for the Office of Special Education Programs' Differentiated Monitoring System. Fiscal monitoring began in September 2021 and the focus of monitoring will be on integrated monitoring, sustaining compliance and improvement, and the data systems. The monitoring team will conclude monitoring in June 2022 and present any findings in July 2022.

The data management system, Med Compass, continues to be refined. The system currently is a repository for infant and toddler Individualized Family Service Plans, Child Outcomes Summary information, and Transition Planning. The current focus is creating reports to meet Montana's required reporting.

Part C American Rescue Plan work is underway focused on a State-wide Child Find Media Campaign led by the agency, Windfall. The approach will also include specific regional resources. This agency is also creating the Family Stories videos. Currently, two parents have volunteered to be part of the video series. We continue to seek additional volunteers; therefore, a Family Stories Work Group was formed. Laura McKee offered to lead the group. Volunteers thus far: Laura Christiaens, Susan Brown, Nicole Goeddel, Abby Harris, Sandy Cade, Wendy Studt, and Steph Goble.

ACTION: If you are interested in being part of the Family Stories work group, please reach out to Laura McKee at mckee4@charter.net.

The University of Montana Rural Institute will be developing the Family Outcomes Survey with expected implementation July 2022.

What Does the Montana – Deaf Blind Census Tell Us About Early Identification?

Theresa Baldry and Amber Bell presented on the status of Montana's current Deaf-Blind Census. Slides and informational hand-outs will be attached to the minutes. A suggestion was made to create a Deaf-Blind Work Group to review data and chart a course for increased referrals to early intervention. Theresa Baldry, Carol-Clayton Bye, Amber Bell, and Jessie Counts volunteered.

ACTION: Please follow up with Theresa if you are interested in being part of the Deaf-Blind work group at theresa.baldry@mso.umt.edu.

FSSAC Strategic Plan

Goal: Workforce – Increase multidisciplinary engagement and collaboration.

Break out Group 1 (Hollin Buck, Karen Thornton, Laura McKee, Karen Underwood, Carol Clayton-Bye, Patty Butler, guests Kalli Decker, Jackie Mohler, Brittney Tronaas, and Sandy Peaslee) reviewed information and discussed:

- How to avoid duplicity and ensure infants and toddlers are not assessed too often;
- How to be sure families understand the responsibilities and functions of the multidisciplinary team and how they can be involved;
- How to connect to medical professionals such as doctors and nurses to be part of the team in a meaningful way;
- Referral forms – are they consistent and understandable?
- Funding – previously evaluation clinic contracts were available in MT. Those contracts ended a number of years ago. How can we make do with the funds available to create the best possible multidisciplinary teams?
- How to ensure pediatricians know to make referrals to the local agency?

- Turnover – who are the new pediatricians in town? How do we introduce them to Montana Milestones?
- Montana is made up of five regions – how can agencies pool resources?
- Share information about Montana Milestones – represent and promote all regions during presentations. Hollin will be presenting and is interested in including all agency logos in the presentation. Please forward the agency’s logo to Hollin Buck at hbuck@childdevcenter.org.
- Reach out to nurses such as during a staff meeting as a way to get to commitment.

ACTION: Karen T. did not receive the documentation of the federal requirements including multidisciplinary team roles, Part C eligibility document, and the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) previously shared. Wendy will provide those to Karen T.

Goal: Coordination – Improve transitions for children and families exiting Part C services and supports.

Break out group 2 (Kathy Rich, Laura Christiaens, Jessie Counts, Sandy Cade, Abby Harris, Nicole Goeddel, Steph Goble, Jack O’Connor, and guests Lora Cowee, Rebecca Richards and John Gorton) met between FSSAC meetings. The work group includes State staff, family members, additional parent voices such as the MT Empowerment Center, and the Office of Public Instruction. The Transition brochure developed by Nicole Goeddel will be readied for printing. The team also is working on an acronym handbook and glossary targeted to be valuable resources for family members. The team is working with the MT Empowerment Center to develop a reader and family friendly version of their Parent Rights while in the Part C Program. This information should be kept at the forefront and planning is taking place on how to disseminate to the Office of Public Instruction and local lead educational partners. The goal is provide this document to families for transition activities . By sharing with our educational partners, families and all partners will be empowered. The team plans to present the three documents at our next FSSAC Meeting.

Montana Milestones Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) FFY 2021 – FFY 2025

Montana Milestones is entering into the next five-year cycle of the Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan focused on increasing the percentage of infants and toddlers with Individual Family Service Plans who demonstrate improved positive social and emotional skills (including positive relationships) by the time they turn three years of age or exit the Part C Program. Over the past five years, Montana Milestones focused on the following improvement strategies expected to lead to improved child and family outcomes:

- Professional Development System
- Social and Emotional Screening and Assessment
- Improving Data Quality Measures: Child Outcomes Summary Process
- Family Engagement Practices
- Results-Driven Accountability and General Supervision

The Program completed numerous activities leading to stronger systems for children and families:

- Learning module development for Family Support Specialists
- Montana Milestones Comprehensive Definition
- Two evidence-based practices promoting family capacity building implemented: Coaching Interaction Style and Routines-Based Interviewing
- Early Childhood Practitioner’s Registry for Primary Certification
- Social and emotional professional development series
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire for Social and Emotional Skills screener adopted
- Part C Pyramid Model Train the Trainer series
- Valid and reliable Child Outcomes Summary Process

- Inclusion of families during the Child Outcomes Summary ratings and during the multidisciplinary evaluation team.
- Tele-Practice Guidance to serve children and families in virtual situations
- Inclusion of strengths in annual performance reporting

Building on what we learned and how we want to improve, Montana Milestones identified the following improvement strategies expected to lead to improved child and family outcomes:

- Comprehensive System of Professional Development leading to Primary and Comprehensive Certification.
- Expansion of the Early Childhood Practitioners' Registry
- Pyramid Model Part C Home Visiting Program
- Specialized learning modules focused upon Pyramid Model Train the Trainer system
- Engaging more families through a Child Find Pilot which will scale up across the State
- Family Stories recorded that will become part of our media campaign and our Montana Milestones website materials

Montana Milestones Annual Performance Report for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

- **Indicator 1: The timely provision of services.**

100% of infants and toddlers received the services on their Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 30 days of the family's consent.

- **Indicator 2: Child Count and Settings**

98.8% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs receive services in their home or a community setting.

- **Indicator 3: Child Outcomes**

52% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs demonstrated improved positive social and emotional skills including positive relationships by the time they turned three or exited the Program.

54% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs demonstrated improved acquisition and use of knowledge and skills by the time they turned three or exited the Program.

56% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs demonstrated improved use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs by the time they turned three or exited the Program.

- **Indicator 4: Family Outcomes**

86% of families participating in Part C reported that early intervention services helped the family know their rights.

92% of families participating in Part C reported that early intervention services helped the family effectively communicate their child's needs.

89% of families participating in Part C reported that early intervention services helped the family help their child develop and grow.

- **Indicator 5: Child Find (Birth to One)**

.80% of infants, birth to one, with IFSPs.

- **Indicator 6: Child Find (Birth to Three)**

1.7% of infants and toddlers, birth to three, with IFSPs.

- **Indicator 7: 45-day Timeline**

98% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs had an initial evaluation and assessment and IFSP completed with Part C's 45-day timeline.

- **Indicator 8: Early Childhood Transition**

100% of infants and toddlers exiting Part C have an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months before the child's third birthday.

100% of infants and toddlers exiting Part C where notification to the State Education Agency and the Local Education Agency occurred at least 90 days prior to their third birthday for toddlers potentially eligible for Part B preschool services.

Parking Lot

- By-Laws
- Chair Requirements
- Acronym Dictionary
- Family Stories for upcoming meetings

Work Groups

Family Stories: Laura McKee, Susan Brown, Laura Christiaens, Abby Harris, Nicole Goeddel, Steph Goble, Sandy Cade, Wendy Studt

Deaf-Blind: Theresa Baldry, Carol Clayton-Bye, Jessie Counts, Amber Bell

Public Comment

No public comment.

Next Meeting

March 11, 2022, via TEAMS from 9:00 – 11:30: will include review of Montana's Application for FFY 2022 Annual Grant Funds.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.