

**STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOUNTIBILITY COMMITTEE**

**VIDEO-CONFERENCED MEETING**

**JANUARY 26, 2007**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jack Mayes, Chairman, Jan Crandy, Vice-chairman, Mary Bryant, Mick Coleman, Mary Liveratti, Cheryl Dinnell, Tina Gerber-Winn, Janelle Mulvenon, Dr. Tom Pierce, Jon Sasser, Barbara Jackson, Jane Imboden, Connie Anderson, Lisa Erquiaga, Jane Gruner, Rorie Fitzpatrick, Bridget Speer, Tracy Smith, Melanie Whitney, Debra Wagler, Deborah Brown, Ernie Neilson, Connie McMullen, Todd Butterworth, Diane Randall

**Absent:** Jim Osti, Karen Taycher, Gary Olson, Reggie Bennett, Veronica Wilson, Jeff Brenn

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Mayes at 12:40 p.m. Mr. Mayes asked that all those present introduce themselves for the record. It was established that a quorum was present.

**#2 Approval of Minutes of September, 2006 meeting:**

Mr. Mayes asked the Committee to take a few minutes to review the minutes. After two small corrections Dr. Tom Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mary Bryant and the Committee approved them unanimously.

**#3. Public Comment:**

Mr. Mayes asked for any public comment from either site. There was none.

**#4. Update from Subcommittee on Early Intervention Services:**

Dr. Pierce started his comments by commending Janelle Mulvenon and her staff for all the hard work in getting up-to-date data to the sub-committee. He stated that there have been two meetings in the last few weeks. He stated that Dr. Wang had also be very helpful and had done an outstanding job.

Ms. Mulvenon commented on the *State Health Division, Bureau of Early Intervention Services, Annual Fiscal Report 2006*. She referred to pg. 8, which shows current data on waiting lists and children waiting to be served. She stated that it has greatly improved. She spoke of the *entry teams* which are required to determine eligibility and development of a family service plan within 45 days for the child.

Dr. Pierce wanted the Committee to be aware that there are still unmet needs within Early Intervention Services, but he stated that there is now data to work with. Some of the data is in draft form and was not presented today. The Sub-committee plans to continue working with EIS and will report when more progress has been made.

Ms. Crandy stated that one of her biggest concerns that came out of this report was the low number of referrals. She wondered if they were reaching the total number of children that needed to be served. Ms. Crandy suggested that Child Find be invited to a SPAC meeting sometime in the near future.

The Committee asked Ms. Crandy if the Sub-committee felt confident that the data was correct now. She stated that it had greatly improved but still had a ways to go. She said that in her opinion as this system grows and develops, the Sub-committee needs to look at the accuracy of the data.

Ms. Mulvenon thanked the Sub-committee and stated that at the last meeting one of the points that came out of that meeting was *how many children re-open their case and come back for additional services?* We are also looking at the Assistive Technology component of our services. For example, we had one of our lead people move out of state. Now the 20 people waiting for services will wait longer, until we fill that position, so that affects our waiting lists. The data does not explain the problem, it just shows the waiting lists.

She stated that there is also a problem with Federal compliance. She said that the Feds. require 100% compliance where as we have 76.5 percent compliance as far as the 45 day wait for service is concerned. She stated that EIS was required to submit quarterly reports on compliance and strive to reach 100% compliance within the year.

Ms. Mulvenon stated that the budget reflects additional caseloads for 2008-2009 as based on population growth. Ms. Crandy stated that she thought some of the budget funds should be directed to the pedicatritions for education and referrals to Early Childhood Intervention Services for the children that are being missed. She said that Child Find had to be involved.

Ms. Crandy stated that the Autism services don't seem accurate by the data that is available. Data states that 1 in every 166 children are autistic and yet the referrals are way down from that. She told the Committee that she has requested much more data and will report back to the SPAC. Ms. Mulvenon informed the Committee that Melanie Whitney is working on that report.

Rorie Fitzpatrick, Dept. of Education, explained that there are 17 school districts and each on has a Child Find program.