

Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC)

Monday, July 14, 2014

Alabama Industrial Development Training Center

The AIACC met on Monday, July 14th, 2014, at the Alabama Industrial Development Training Center. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson, Bama Folsom Hager. Also in attendance were Council members: Karen Amos, Fred Biasini, Greg Carlson, Jerimie Goike, Becky Nordgren, Sarah Ryan, Hanes Swingle, and Todd Tomerlin. The following proxies were in attendance as well: Russell Green on behalf of Stephanie Azar, David Savage on behalf of Cary Boswell, Beth Schaffer on behalf of Nancy Buckner, Holli Cawthorne on behalf of Myra Jones, Courtney Tarver on behalf of Jim Reddoch, Debbie Lynn on behalf of Kathy Welch and Dawn Ellis on behalf of Don Williamson.

Minutes from the April 14, 2014 meeting were approved and adopted.

Chairperson's comments – Dr. Folsom Hager announced that four members will be rolling off the council, starting with herself, and including Hanes Swingle, Kathy Welch and Jerimie Goike. They have all served since the beginning of the Council, six years ago. Each departing member/agency representative present took a moment to share their comments on serving on the Council.

By-Law Committee Report - Kim Hill shared that there will be vacancies on the council due to those members rolling off. Applications will be accepted through today – positions available include two service providers, one adult with ASD, one parent of a child with ASD and, a position that has yet to be filled, one Health Insurance Representative. In October the Council will be electing a new co-chair as well as a new member to The Executive Committee.

State Coordinator Comments: In Anna McConnell's absence, Katie Naman, Public Health/UAB Intern shared a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Anna McConnell regarding the Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Tarver shared an update on the BCBA Licensure Board. An announcement has been sent out for positions for the board. Nominations for all positions have been received and will be submitted to Commissioner Reddoch for appointments. The Department is looking for this to be implemented by October 1, 2014.

Funding and Finance Committee Report - Per Greg Carlson, due to the General Fund Budget for next year, they will be coming together to decide if the next legislative session will be the right time to ask for money toward Regional Centers/Networks. In regards to Medicaid Reform, the 1115 waiver proposal has been submitted to CMS and CMS is receiving comments at this time.

Becky Nordgren said that members of the legislature are more in tune to the needs of Autism than one would expect. They want to see real solutions; however, it is a delicate balance between the budget and dealing with the health insurance industry. At its core, they all agree on the progress that needs to be made. She does expect incremental progress for the ultimate goal.

Bama Hager gave the update for Special Projects Committee on behalf of Melanie Jones. The Special Projects Committee continues to work on a Resource List with Anna as well as the Autism Friendly campaign. The Autism Society is focusing on this campaign as well and already has decals for businesses who want to be identified as Autism Friendly.

The Diagnostic Clinics Standards of Practice – Update given by Fred Biasini includes the news that Standards are now finalized for the Diagnostic Clinics for the State of Alabama.

Dr. Hanes Swingle expressed praise for the Audiologists, who worked on the standards, as a model of collaboration who came together to finalize the recommendations.

Member Updates were given by Todd Tomerlin of the Autism Society regarding the Network Leader Conference held in July.

Bama Hager for Autism Society shared they are continuing to work on a safety net campaign, Project Lifesaver, currently available in 55 counties.

David Savage shared that Rehab Services is currently in the midst of the required needs assessment surveys for Children's Rehabilitation Services and the special health care needs of children. Mr. Savage also shared that they will be conducting focus groups around the state that will center on fathers, youth, and Spanish speaking populations.

Eric Lott of the University of Alabama Autism Surveillance Project stated they are currently in the 2012 study year with a goal to finish by December and submit to CDC. Beth added that a copy of the community report is available on-line at the CDC website.

Holli Cawthorne spoke for the DD Council. RFPs are currently out for innovative ideas. The Family Sunshine Center is adding a component to their anti-bullying campaign that will focus on those with DD. Also, Shoals Crisis center is developing a sex education curriculum for persons with DD.

Karen Amos expressed concerns about the lack of screening availabilities around the state and asked for an update on what primary practices are doing now in the state to work toward improvements.

In response to Karen's concerns, Beth Johns mentioned "Help Me Grow Alabama" and a project through the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics which are both working on increasing the number of pediatricians that will offer early screening. In addition, Sarah O'Kelley spoke about the CDC's *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* program for improving screening and referral around the state. They have finished the tool kits and they are ready to be distributed to interested providers. Fred Biasini UAB Sparks Clinic shared that one problem is that of pediatricians and other professionals not following the same screening protocols. Kim Hill added that Early Intervention also has several programs focused on early screening.

Sarah Ryan of the University of Alabama stated the Acts Program has 7 students starting this year, and has added a full-time Transition Coordinator to work on helping individuals for gaining employment after they finish their degree.

Marilyn Archibald of the Rett Syndrome Alliance announced their 8th Annual Conference on August 2nd that will be open to the public on Saturday and will include speaker Pete Wright from Wrights Law. Sheryl Hand added that the Rhett Syndrome Alliance is now officially partnered with the AIACC per proclamation by the Governor.

Greg Carlson stated that Glenwood is currently conducting summer teacher training programs.

Easter Seals has contracted with Childcare Awareness to provide the service members at Maxwell Air Force Base with up to 12 hours of respite care a month available to families with

children with special health care needs. They will also be holding a 10 week life skills class to be offered in the fall for teenagers.

Sarah O'Kelley announced that the annual Alabama Autism Conference will be held on February 27, 2015 in Tuscaloosa and will feature more workshops and topics including sensory challenges.

On the program for this meeting was Scarlet Thompson of The ARC of Jefferson County, who is also the parent of a child with Autism. Scarlet is the Assistant Director of Development at the largest ARC in the state of Alabama. There are seven campuses across the state of Alabama as well as seventy-two homes that provide residential services. This non-profit serves individuals of all ages with disabilities. They serve persons of any age, regardless of severity of disability.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting: October 20, 2014.

Recording Secretary

C. S. Weldon

Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC)

January 14, 2014

Alabama Institute for Training and Development

Minutes submitted and approved

Chairman, Senator Cam Ward