

ND INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

April 10, 2025

Virtual via Teams

PRESENT

Matt Nelson
Amy Casavant
Michelle Ragan
Eric Gault
Kim Frohlich
Karri Morris
Janakate
Angela McSweyn

Louise Greff
Danielle Westerhausen
Jodi Hulm
Jill Staudinger
Sarah Carlson
Jordan Anderson
Shannon Grave
Lisa Erwin

STAFF

Jackie Adusumilli
Colette Perkins

GUESTS

John Copenhaver
Emma Zarate
Jacqueline Balzer

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

Jill reviewed the agenda items plus timelines for each.
John will review the standard operating procedures.

TOPIC: FAMILY STORY

Michelle – Jacqueline Balzer – 3 kids and twin boys turned 3 and in early in at 8months. Boys born 7 weeks early and stayed for 3 weeks. Need oxygen and feeding tubes and couldn't be held. Lived at the hospital while boys were there and received lots of information. Wanted screening for her boys. Initially screened in May 2022 and some cognitive delays. Remember kindness of all teachers. Each interventionist was outstanding. Boys loved the interventionists also. Receiving support was a huge component and eased my nerves. Wished program took us through age 4 prior to preschool. It would be nice to have online documentation of the

progress that is acceptable to the parent. Best part has been the interventionists. Champion early intervention program and an early resource. Thank you for your support and time that you listened to me. ICC members expressed their appreciation to Jacqueline for sharing her family story.

TOPIC: FEBRUARY ICC MINUTES

A motion was made by Sarah Carlson and seconded by Michelle Ragan that the ICC voted to pay \$60 for a scheduled ½ day ICC meeting and to pay \$120 for a scheduled full day ICC meeting; and if the full day scheduled meeting ended as a ½ day, the ICC would still pay for the full day of \$120. Motion carried.

TOPIC: NEW BUSINESS

Standard Operating Procedures

John Copenhaver – discussed the training and orientation and then moved to prioritization settings and he looked at our operating procedures and knowledge Matt and Jackie for helping and guiding him through the operating procedures. Jackie distributed a draft to the members.

The last time our procedures were updated was 2012. The purpose was to look at the operating procedures and the focus was on membership requirements and making sure they covered those and more of a description of what each category means and who they are representing. They were able to do this. John to make recommendation to the group and Jackie on the operating procedures. The ICC operating procedures can be amended at any time. Make sure they are in concert with your local open meeting requirements. John went through each section of the operating procedures. Parent representatives were not sure what parents were supposed to do on the Council. Parents didn't know what they had the power to do and where they were expected to speak up. John reviewed other states operating procedures

Compensation for members – John moved this from the back, closer to the front of the operating procedures

Maybe have an operating procedures subcommittee to review every year and report at the beginning of the year with their recommendations.

Appendix – includes Part C General Supervision document and how the state supervises early intervention. We also included early intervention personnel qualifications and exceptional circumstances in hiring Infant Development personnel for better understanding of members.

John will develop a power point on our operating procedures and use as a training tool for new members.

Matt – NDICC Leadership – and refer to this being executive committee but do not see that as a reference. Emma will note this, and it will be added.

ICC Priority Committee Work

Operating Procedures – Jordan as chair and Amy note taker.

The contract with John goes through the end of June. Send comments to the operating procedures committee and review them and then send them to John. Jordan some minor description and who has the role and what is needed. Jordan will send an email regarding the need for comments. Final version needs to be sent to members 15 days prior to the meeting so a vote can be taken. May 28 is the last day to have changes submitted.

Compensation to parents – Matt, Eric-notes, Sarah, and Danielle.

Discussion about the WY policy on parent representatives and childcare and develop a draft.

Originator submits and listing of who was there and then it gets sent out. Don't attend the whole meeting and group needs to discuss – what are the parameters, was it an emergency and needs to leave. Appreciate it is tied to an existing rate and will change as the rate changes.

Increasing public awareness- Missi, Jill, Michelle, Lisa, and Shannon.

The state needs to create an easy referral portal.

Talked about what we want on the portal, looking for an evaluation, not sure what you want, etc. Excited about the single page flier Jordan is working on to present to human service centers and help those calls at the human service centers to direct those calls. And extend to other community partners. Statewide right track brochure but there is no early intervention brochure to share with public health, outpatient clinics, our drs, etc. Talked about family stories and little infra commercials to understand early intervention and the process. On the DHHS Website, early intervention is

embedded into the website and hard to find. Ways to link to link to early intervention and right track. Statement that says – anyone can make a referral and go down to right track and early intervention and how to make a referral and button on how to make a referral. Make the referrals a little more streamlined. QR code on flier to take you where you want to go. Sharing information about right track and early intervention in the prenatal classes people take.

Legislative Update

Hb 1067 – passed through – disregard survivor income or child support – is not counted towards recipient liability. This will allow more children to access the HCBS waiver. This is effective July 1, 2026.

HB 1012 – Jackie put a link in the chat. It is in committee work yet. Provider rate increases are now 2% and 2% but I'm not sure if it has changed.

Occupational therapy license – offer some flexibility to provide services in another state and signed by governor.

2305- family paid caregiver – passed house and senate and don't know how it ended. Approved – appropriation for \$7m and was to sunset this year and goal to continue to support families already enrolled and capture a % of families on the waiting list. Leaning to the Dept. to make some changes. Make sure the babies are represented. Have a kid on a vent not determined eligible and has needs. Needs to define the extraordinary needs and have Jackie and Jordan provide input. This would sunset again and as cross disability waiver and could access as a resource in the future gov budgets.

2113 – cross disability advisory council is in conference committee.

Missi – building anew women's prison and bill to allow some nursery for pregnant moms and healthy families is watching this. When the prison is built, if mom is pregnant and released under 18months birth and have baby with them and working with community partners and program to make sure baby is meeting developmental needs.

Paid family caregiver - how will DDPMs be trained on presenting to families. Jackie not involved and will check into this.

Shannon – looking at job posting – on the horizon with billing and we know there are issues with Depts at the federal level. Wrote a grant to make slots available for someone to get EI/ACSE masters and all of those are currently indefinitely on hold without being reviewed. All OSEP grants are on hold.

TOPIC: STANDING NDICC AGENDA ITEMS

ICC Member Updates

Missi – week of 20 – 26 is home visiting week – national and state proclamation. Promote shout outs to different organizations.

Matt – Grand Forks will have a Sib Shop on May 10 and is supported by the DD Council – siblings of kids with disabilities. December starting a new group - paid response team – putting together play language for families to be able to navigate what is going on nationally and Matt will share with the members.

Sarah – HB 1012 – DHHS bill – improvements and changes to rates to providers effects are kids in early intervention. Panel for public health conference in May and represents parents of kids with disabilities – receiving public health in rural areas and reservations and kids that need complex health care. Public policy on federal level individuals with ed act and how it impacts services that we offer Part C kiddos. I think we should discuss this as an ICC. Encourage to think about – families are increasingly experiencing a difficult time accessing in-home and respite and not sure what is going on with this – in the last several years and supported families in the appeal process and rejection of in-home supports and not tied to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Not sure denial letters are getting sent out to families. Jackie stated we would definitely want to have Kayla F in attendance at this discussion. Some families it is not a good fit for their child to go to childcare settings. Can we put down as a potential item for June and see if Kalya is able to attend – Jackie will check into this.

REIL Grant – we are able to retain that grant.

ICC Committee Reports

Membership – nothing from the committee

2 parents applied/requested appointment – Nikki M and Kendra V and Jackie recommended their appt. Lisa and Jackie talked and when we have a parent vacancy thinking she will apply. Not sure when the appts will be completed and Jackie will check into this.

Public awareness – had Lisa join us and very active and great ideas.

Executive committee – did not meet.

Family survey – did not convene a meeting last time and will move forward with the same process as last year.

Teleintervention – have not done any work with that. Keep on with next waiver renewal and changes with virtual visits and early intervention and see if we want to use that committee.

Operating Procedures – fell into what we did with John today.

Adjourned at 11:48am.

Next meeting is in June, and it is face to face.