



## Sunny Start Evaluation Committee Meeting Summary

**Meeting Date:** Friday, March 30, 2007 1:00 – 2:15

**Location:** Indiana State Dept. of Health Conference Room 8B

**Committee Chair:** Tony Lawson

**List of Participants:** Cheryl Miller, Tony Lawson, Marion Greene, Judith Ganser, Andrea Wilkes, Maureen Greer, Toni Harpster

**Summary of meeting:** Tony Lawson began reviewing the second evaluation report explaining that it is divided into three impact categories, Access and Utilization of Health Care, Source of Payment for Health Care and Resources Support and Development. Highlights from the report discussion are listed below.

### Access and Utilization of Health Care

Data was retrieved from Medicaid claims for children under the age of one living below the 150% federal poverty guideline (FPG) and children aged one through five living below the 133% FPG. This included a total of 218,046 children. Of these children, 61% of them visited a medical professional and 16.4% visited a dentist. Maureen Greer asked if there is any national data that compares those children enrolled and their frequency of visits to children not enrolled in Medicaid. Is there a higher percentage of children with private insurance that seek medical care? Mr. Lawson stated that this is something their team will look in to.

Maureen Greer also suggested that Sunny Start look at the Developmental Calendar and make changes to reflect the importance of regular medical and dental care.

Cheryl Miller explained that Head Start has data on approximately 17,000 children at the end of each year which includes information on Medical Home, Dental Screenings and Immunizations. She suggested that we once again ask Sunny Start Partners about data they might have available that could be used in the report. Dr. Ganser suggested that we compare the data we currently have in the report to Head Start to draw further conclusions.

Immunization information used came from the Indiana State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Dr. Ganser explained that the CDC data is from a random phone sample and is thought to be the most accurate.

Maureen will discuss First Steps data with Tony Lawson. The numbers reflected are actually the number of children enrolled not necessarily those that were served throughout that point in time.

#### Source of Payment

Dr. Ganser noted that the Children's Special Health Care data includes children 200% the FPG. Approximately 14% of those children should be served by Children's.

According to the Census Bureau, there are approximately 532,000 children in Indiana age five and under. 52% of those children live below the 200% FPG. 79% of those children are enrolled in Medicaid, 10.5% are uninsured and 10.6% fall into a different Medicaid category (CHIP, etc).

Maureen Greer asked that information on the gap in data be added to the report. Tony Lawson agreed and stated that it is more a gap in access to the data as the data exists, it is just not easily accessible.

Dr. Ganser asked if information was used from the national Children's Health Survey. Mr. Lawson stated that to his knowledge this data is not weighted by State and therefore he could not use it. He will look into that data further and report back to the committee.

#### Resources, Supports and Payments

Looked at child care data and found that there are 3,600 licensed child care facilities. Of those 3,600, 89% of those are equipped to handle infants and toddlers.

Maureen Greer and Andrea Wilkes suggested looking at the Childcare Fund Report for more data. This report is posted on the Sunny Start Website [www.sunnystart.in.gov](http://www.sunnystart.in.gov). It was also suggested that Mr. Lawson contact Melanie Brizzi from the Bureau of Child Care for more information on data.

Suggested Changes – Add a statement clarifying that Child Care Development Fund dollars stipulate that centers must be either faith based or licensed. Also add a statement which explains the requirements for faith based and licensed child care centers.

The report also looked at training opportunities for professionals, families and both. Based on data posted on the Early Childhood Meeting Place, there were a total of 1,323 training opportunities offered during the calendar year 2006. There were 873 for families, 402 for families and professionals and 450 offered to families. About ¼ of the trainings were offered in rural areas. It was suggested that information showing which counties are considered rural and which ones are considered urban be added to the maps.

Data from Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is also included in the report showing that 137,000 individuals were served in 2006. Of that 137,000, 39,000 were infants, 62,000 were children and the remaining were women.

Data from the Department of Child Services (DCS) is also noted regarding the number of abused and/or neglected children or children declared a Child In Need of Services (CHINS). This represents 6% of the population within this age group.

Finally, the report looked at providing families with a single source of available resources through the Early Childhood Meeting Place. The site was monitored. During the calendar year 2005 and 2006, there have been 154,809 visits to the site with approximately 43,485 unique visitors (see attached graph). Tony Lawson explained that he needs to get further clarification from Michael Conn-Powers on the specifics of unique visitors. Andrea Wilkes added that in the future it would be helpful to see how many visitors accessed the new Family Resource and Directory section that has been added through Sunny Start.

#### Final Discussion

It was noted by the group that information should be included regarding the gap in data and the lack of accessibility to available data. The biggest gap seems to be regarding medical home information statewide.

Mr. Lawson agreed to discuss with the Sunny Start Core Partners at the next meeting how we can get better opportunities to retrieve data through each of their systems.

Mr. Lawson will send the current report to Toni Harpster which she will forward to Sunny Start Core Partners.

Andrea Wilkes explained that there will be an Early Childhood Summit for legislators this fall or next spring and that the information from this report will be very useful during those discussions.

#### **Administrative Follow Up**

Toni Harpster to forward latest version of report to Core Partners in time for the next meeting on April 24, 2007