



*Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services*

*First Steps*

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<p><b>Interagency Coordinated Council Meeting Minutes-DRAFT</b>  <b>March 10, 2021</b>  <b>10am-12:30pm EST</b></p>	
<p><b>Council members in attendance:</b> Barb Blain, Ben Smith, Karen Carradine, Rep. Ed Clere, Gina Doyle, Thom Fisher, Mariann Frigo, Mark Guyer, Jennifer Owens, Kenya Rogers, Brittnee Smith, Jake Stein, Claire Szpara, Stacy Williams, DeAnna Woodruff, Gina Woodward</p>	
<p><b>State team in attendance:</b> Christina Commons, Maggie McCall, Meghan Smith, Sondra Tarter, Jessica Tomasino, Connie Young, Kaela Cousins (intern)</p>	
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Barb Blain called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the. Brittnee Smith shared a story from one of her provider’s families about their experience with First Steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Therapy was something very foreign to us when we first began our sessions for our daughter. Now we are 6 months in, and I can’t even begin to explain the impact that our amazing provider has had on our daughter. Even as her mother, I struggled to get through to my daughter due to her sensory concerns. It was so difficult to see that she was in her own little world alone because she didn’t know how to communicate in the real world as we do. Our provider was incredibly patient with her, which is all she needed to help her break down those walls and reach through to her. I can’t thank you enough for becoming our daughter’s first friend.</li> </ul> <p>DeAnna Woodruff, a parent member of the ICC, shared how she come to learn about First Steps and what the program did for her and her daughter.</p>
<p>Approval of January 2021 minutes</p>	<p>Barb Blain asked if there were any edits/comments about the January meeting minutes. Thom Fisher made the motion to accept the meeting minutes and Gina Doyle seconded the motion. A Zoom poll was launched, and 14 members voted to approve the meeting minutes, and no one voted to not approve. The motion was carried.</p>
<p>First Steps Updates and IN EI Hub Update</p>	<p>Christina Commons shared the First Steps and EI Hub update via Power Point. She stated that referrals are increasing each month. When looking at the number of children served compared to last fiscal year, we are down 8%. Other states are down as much as 25%. Three states have seen</p>



	<p>an increase in the number of children being served by their Part C program but only by a few percentage points. Christina believes the decrease is due to COVID-19.</p> <p>El Hub went live on 3-8-21 but is a statewide pilot program due to the issues that were encountered. The deployment of the system did not happen as expected. Many providers and agencies were not able to log onto the system. She takes full responsibility for the issues that were encountered. The state is working closely with PCG to fix the issues. A few of the provider agencies stated moving from one system to another can be hard at first but believe it will be worth it once the bugs are worked out. Transitioning is never easy. Power Point will be sent out to everyone and posted to the First Steps website.</p>
<p>FFY19 APR Data</p>	<p>Maggie McCall, Quality Assurance Manager went over the FFY2019 APR data that was submitted on February 1, 2021. She reviewed all the indicators each state reports on in the APR. The Power Point will be sent and posted to the First Steps website. You can find the document at this link: <a href="https://www.in.gov/fssa/firststeps/files/IN-01-SPP-PART-C-FFY-2019-20.pdf">https://www.in.gov/fssa/firststeps/files/IN-01-SPP-PART-C-FFY-2019-20.pdf</a></p>
<p>Legislative Update</p>	<p>Representative Clere shared that there is nothing specific to First Steps in the long session that started the first week of January 2021 and will end no later than April 29, 2021. It is a long session due to it being a budget year.</p> <p>Jason Berty from Children’s therapy Connections asked about the Tele-Health bill. Hannah Carlock from the ARC of Indiana stated via chat that both the House and Senate versions of the Tele-Health bills passed each chamber and have yet to be heard in committee this second half of session. They are agenda bills, so we foresee them getting a hearing soon.</p> <p>The budget is the biggest policy of the session. Representative Clere also stated for everyone to continue to advocate for First Steps-there are a lot of new legislators to talk to about the program. May and June will be ideal times to reach out after the long session has concluded.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Report Out Summary</p>	<p><b>Advocacy:</b></p> <p>Thom reported for this group. The group of 12 believes there is still a need for a brochure in a paper form they can physically hand out to people and a PDF that can be emailed. This could enhance what is already being used by the LPCCs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They also think that work could be streamlined between the LPCCs and the agencies.</li> <li>• Improve coordination between the ICC and the LPCCs</li> <li>• Meet with legislators-create specific talking points</li> <li>• Discussed that a survey to agencies and providers to gain what is working and not working that the advocacy committee can help with.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Finance:</b>  Mariann reported that their goals are in limbo until the EI Hub is in full swing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want to work on outreach for reimbursement</li> <li>• Run sample assessment team to help with getting appropriate codes for billing.</li> <li>• Need to get better at getting the correct codes to get better reimbursement for services rendered.</li> </ul> <p><b>Professional Development:</b>  Connie talked about what values the committee members bring to the committee and why they decided to join this group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EI Hub/LMS and SSIP are all linked together</li> <li>• Group will be in the advisory capacity for FGRBI</li> <li>• Karan Carradine is the new chair for the sub-committee</li> <li>• Want to develop a global survey to get better data around the PD that is being offered to providers.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	<p>Katie Herron shared information about the upcoming First Steps conference and that it will be virtual, and anyone can attend due to no attendance limit. The conference is still looking for sponsors. There is a family track and sponsorships are available for families to attend. There are 40 slots available. Katie shared information about registration for providers and families and also sponsorship information to share with anyone interested.</p>
Adjourn	<p>Barb asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. Brittnee Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Thom Fisher seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:52am.</p>

**Next meeting: May 12, 2021**  
**Location: Zoom 10am to 12:30pm**