



Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Service

First Steps

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First Steps Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda

October 9, 2024

10AM-1PM (EST)

ICC Members in attendance: Cory Best (Chair), Jason Berty, Laura Burklew, Representative Ed Clere, Erica Deathe, Robyn Duffy, Mariann Frigo, Alexandra Hall, Charie Gibson, Kristi Linson, Jennifer Owens, Courtney Willis (Proxy for Courtney Penn), Dr. Megan Purcell, Ashley Walke, Stacy Williams, Sarah Sailors

ICC members not in attendance: Deanna Woodruff (Vice Chair), Rachael Foster, DJ Glander, Lindsay Holley, Erica Miller, Tanya Merritt-Mulamba, Jessica Minor

First Steps State Staff in attendance: Christina Commons

Welcome and Introductions

Cory Best, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Alexandra Hall (parent and ICC member) shared her own family story about her positive experience with First Steps.

Approval of July 2024 minutes

Cory Best asked for a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Dr. Megan Purcell made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Jennifer Owens seconded the motion, and a vote was taken, 17 members approved the motion. The motion was carried.

First Steps Update

Christina Commons, First Steps Director, provided a First Steps update (see Power Point). She covered the following topics: DSM Federal Monitoring, Indiana Systems Strength, Gaps & Opportunities, 2025 Bureau Priorities: Policy/Strategic Initiatives, Training/Outreach, Quality Assurance

Sub-Committees Updates:

- 1) Workforce Development:
 - a) Erica Deathe provided a summary. She states that the committee is focusing efforts and discussions on developing attendance policies, increasing provider pay, decreasing provider barriers and recruitment priorities.
- 2) Technology:
 - a) Jason Berty shared a summary. He shared the committee's focus area of identifying areas to leverage technology in the marketplace. They are narrowing their focus on troubleshooting the current technology system. The committee identified a list of technology recommendations that were shared with the ICC.
- 3) Other State Systems:



- a) Jennifer Owens reported that this committee plans to meet in October and Indiana University will share data on how other states offer their tiered TA.

Next Strategic Planning Session and 2025 ICC Meetings:

Cory Best reported that the next Strategic Planning Session will be held in May 2025. The council approved the 2025 ICC meeting dates which will include a shortened meeting in May to allow for the Strategic Planning Session for ICC members only.

Proposed and approved 2025 ICC meeting dates:

1. January 8, 2025 (10am-1pm)
2. May 7, 2025 (10am-11am) then Strategic Planning Session for ICC members only
3. August 20, 2025 (10am-1pm)
4. November 5, 2025 (10am-1pm)

All 2025 meetings will be held at Easterseals Crossroads, 5th Floor. There will also be a Zoom link provided for virtual participation.

2024 Governor’s Report

A copy of the draft Governor’s Report was shared. ICC members plan to add additional data sharing the importance of early intervention. All changes must be made by 10/11. The report is due to the Governor’s office by 11/1. Edits will be made and a final report will be sent out to all ICC members.

Executive Committee Nominations for 2025

Cory Best named all current ICC members as well as the current Executive Committee. Cory Best made a request for anyone interested in joining the 2025 council, including nominations for the roles of Chair and Co-Chair. The requirements are listed in the by-laws and state that the committee must consist of at least fifteen (15) but not more than twenty-five (25) members.

There were no new nominations. Cory Best requested a motion to approve the vote for all positions to remain the same in 2025 as they are in 2024. Robyn Duffy moved to approve the nominations and Dr. Megan Purcell seconded the motion. Cory Best will remain as Chair and Deanna Woodruff will remain Vice Chair for the ICC in 2025.

Legislative Update:

Representative Clere provided an update. He stated that it is critical that First Steps continues to be a priority following the November elections. Medicaid and potential rate cuts will be discussed in the upcoming session. Rep. Clere encouraged members to share the importance and impact of First Steps with their legislators. IN-ARF and ARC of IN can help identify legislators if needed. Christina Commons stated that diversified funding streams are a major asset and any cut to these funding sources could greatly impact early intervention programs.

Council Member Collaboration:

Dr. Megan Purcell shared that the Indiana Department of Education has a new statewide apprenticeship program to assist with recruitment and help educate incoming teachers on the importance of early intervention. Purdue is one of the partnering higher education institutions along with Ball State, Ivy Tech, etc. Mariann Frigo also shared that Jacob’s Ladder is working to increase early intervention education for incoming pediatricians through recent grant funding.

Public Comment:

Cory Best opened the floor for council members. No comments were made. He then opened the floor for public comment and no one from the public had comments.

Adjournment:

Cory Best requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Next Meeting:

January 8, 2025

10AM-1PM (EDT)

Location: Easterseals Crossroads 4740 Kingsway Drive Indianapolis, IN 46205 Conf. Room 5th Floor

Meetings were respectfully submitted by Megan Hershey, Transform Consulting Group