



Department of  
**Education**

Tennessee Early  
Intervention System

## State Interagency Coordinating Council for Tennessee's Early Intervention System

April 19, 2016  
9 a.m.–12 p.m. (CDT)

### Meeting Minutes

#### **ICC Members in Attendance**

Ned Solomon–TN Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Rachel Saine–Foundations  
Karen Pryor–Health Sphere Wellness Center  
Amy Jenkins–Siskin Children's Institute  
Joey Hassell Department of Education  
Jessica Beaver–Therapy and Learning Center  
Vickie Trice–Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Steven Shumate–Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Gary Smith–Department of Education  
Jacqueline Johnson–Tennessee Department of Health  
Pablo Juarez–Vanderbilt/TRIAD

#### **ICC Guests in Attendance**

Linda Hartbarger–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Catherine Goodwin–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Jill Rigsby–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Margaret Headrick–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Jill Rogers–LeBonheur Early Intervention and Development (LEAD)  
Anita Teague–Child Development Center of the Community Development Center  
Elizabeth Hailey–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Karen Willis–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Jeanna McCloud–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Georgia Garrett–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Vickie Olds–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Regina Bowman–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Shannon Pargin–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Rene Bard–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Joan Kennedy–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Claudia Weber–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Barbara Thomas–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Lise Earwood–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Mitzi Myers–Tennessee Early Intervention System

Kim Ketron–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
John Hall–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Serena Blanton–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
JoAnn Hinkle–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Susan Rollyson–TNAAP  
Laura Harrell–Prospect  
Michele Valadie–Signal Centers  
Kendra Wurm–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Anna Ramsbottom–Emory Valley  
Charmaine Segó–Project Memphis  
Heather Higgins–First Steps  
Alacia Stainbrook–TRIAD  
Kathleen Simcoe–TRIAD  
Ashley Vogel–TRIAD  
Michelle Fox–Foundations  
Amanda Dunlap–MTSU HCBEI  
Lisa Manis–Physical Therapy Services  
Jenny Patterson–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Kerry Kaufmann–LEAD  
Sherry Owens–Tennessee Early Intervention System  
Diane Kuhlman–Tennessee Early Intervention System

### **Meeting**

SICC Co-Chair Jacqueline Johnson opened the meeting with introductions of SICC members, guests, and lead agency staff.

Approval of Agenda.

Approval of Minutes for January with a motion by Ned Solomon and a second by Pablo Juarez.

### **TEIS Agency Reporting–TEIS Updates**

Assistant Commissioner Joey Hassell shared news on the regional site visits with TEIS POE offices around the state. Topics of interest were the Read to be Ready Initiative, Update on the TEIS Budget, SSIP, Assessments, EIRA-Problem Solving, and the SWOT Analysis Report. Assistant Commissioner Hassell also stated the need to speak with Commissioner Candice McQueen on sustainability for the 2017-18 budget.

Linda Hartbarger shared through a power point that in meeting with TEIS staff in West Tennessee there were both strengths and weaknesses stemming from internal factors as well as opportunities and threats from external factors.

With federal funds of 8.7 million which includes a 400,000 increase, the two main concerns are funding and providing services to families.

Also for each of the nine TEIS offices, twelve positions have been reclassified for Service Coordinators translating to at least one additional staff being added to each POE office.

For AEPS after July 1 EIRAs are to begin doing assessments first, then at 6 months and again at annuals. There is also discussion on children turning three and deemed ineligible for school system services and how to impact that age demographic.

Looking at the retention rate of staff for both EIRA and TEIS offices was suggested to be a discussion topic for the July ICC meeting.

### **Training Updates**

Jill Rigsby gave a training update stating that the AEPS training had been completed by both Service Coordinators and EIRA new hires. A Building Best Practices Conference will be held in May with a current registration of 435 noted for attendance, this will be for EIRA and POE staff combined.

After reviewing procedures in POE offices regarding Developmental Specialists and their use of OAE and refractive instruments, it has been determined that all OAE screeners previously in use by TEIS will be designated to the Department of Health.

A mini pilot phase for staff credentialing will begin in July.

### **APR and SSIP Updates**

#### Annual Performance Report (APR)

Part C monitoring coordinator Catherine Goodwin reported that the FFY 2014-15 APR was submitted timely on February 1 through the GRADS 360 system. One change was requested by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) during the federal period of clarification. A box in GRADS 360 had not been marked ensuring data submitted were within the timeframe and were accurate. This oversight was corrected. The APR will be posted on the state's website with the link provided in the May TEIS newsletter where the report can be accessed.

#### State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase II and III

The SSIP is TEIS' portion of the department's strategic plan to improve child-level results for infants and toddlers. Catherine reviewed the theory of action, including the state identified measurable result (SIMR) for improving results. A conference call was held with membership on March 22 to review the Phase II report prior to its submission on April 1. The submission included a narrative report along with an excel workbook containing the implementation and evaluation plans for the four improvement strategies: eligibility procedures, IFSP team function, family centered services, and early childhood outcomes data. TEIS is currently waiting to hear from OSEP on the approval of the report. After approval is received, the full report will be posted on the state's website.

TEIS is now entering Phase III which covers the timeframe of FFY 2015-18. This phase involves plan implementation to achieve the SIMR. Reporting on progress along with any warranted plan adjustments will be completed annually. SICC membership will be kept abreast on progress. Stakeholders will be involved in SSIP implementation. More information will be forthcoming as TEIS examines work to be accomplished in the implementation phase.

## **ICC Business**

Karen Pryor stressed the need to refer children early in regard to speech therapy.

Pablo Juarez is working on developmental services in West Tennessee.

Gary Smith shared that out of fourteen states applying, Tennessee has been selected as one of six states to be a part of a sixteen month intensive Inclusion Cohort that will work toward designing and implementing an improvement action plan to support the increased inclusion of preschool-age children in Tennessee with disabilities being served in settings with typically developing peers.

Amy Jenkins shared news about a field test study with AEPS 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Siskin is partnering with TRIAD to grow East Tennessee.

Ned Solomon shared the Partners in Policymaking Program for adults with disabilities and family members of persons with disabilities. The application is available on the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities website with a May 2, 2016 deadline.

Karen Willis shared that the newly updated TEIS Brochures have been delivered to the nine TEIS Point of Entry offices.

Claudia Weber shared that various Audiology students across the state make calls to families regarding their children's hearing screenings.

Joan Kennedy announced the Division of Early Childhood Conference will be held in Louisville KY on October 18-20, 2016.

## **Public Input**

There was no public input.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

## **Next ICC Meeting**

July 19

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) meeting

9 a.m.–12 p.m. (CDT)

Holiday Inn Opryland Airport, 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, 37214