



Nebraska's IDEA Part C Results Driven Accountability Annual Stakeholder Meeting Arbor Suites, UNL East Campus – Lincoln, NE

Meeting attendees, in-person or via zoom: Jim Ageton, Jean Anderson, Jessica Anthony, Sue Bainter, Mikki Bohling, Sami Bradley, Sheila Broderson, Jordyn Brummond, Amy Bunnell, Tracie Burton, Jennifer Calahan, Micki Charf, Amy Colwell, Bridget Corbin-Tipler, Wendy Craig, Patti Drewes-Hynek, Barb Esch, Stacie Faber, Kim Falk, Jeanne Fielder, LaRae Flood, Summer Fousek, Sarah Hansen, Shelby Henderson, Jessie James, Alissa Jangulo, Cole Johnson, Shaistha Kiran Karipi, Tina Kilgore, Dr. Lisa Knoche, Candi Koenig, Tara Korshoj, Janice Lee, Jeanette Lengemann, Holli Lovegrove, Cara Lucas-Richt, Cheri Matthews, Dr. Kerri Miller, Ruth Miller, Mindy Moyer, Andrea Nelson, Darsha Pelland, JoDell Phillips, Kristine Ray, Michele Rayburn, Amy Rhone, Sarah Roesler, Kara Saldierna, Connie Shockley, Carissa Simonson, Mark Smith, Liliana Velasquez, Amanda Wharton-Hunt, Jennifer Zysset

Welcome & Introductions

Amy Bunnell/Jessica Anthony/Cole Johnson EDN Co-Leads

The group was welcomed, and meeting details for the afternoon were provided.

RDA and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Overview

Janice Lee, and Tina Kilgore, RBEI State Coordinators

Lisa Knoche, UNL – Nebraska Academy for Early Childhood Research; Project Director, Getting Ready Project

Updates were shared about Nebraska's Early Intervention Plan, including things that have been learned. Background information was shared and updates given for the SSIP. Lisa Knoche also shared about where programming current stands with the help of TA Supports and Professional Development opportunities. Use of the RBI and Quality Home Visits are resulting in higher quality levels in IFSPs. Lisa Knoche shared about CEI – Coaching in Early Intervention, a program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that promotes outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities through evidence-based practices. Project objectives and accomplishments were shared. Advisory board and focus group information was shared, as were the names of project team members and state/mentor coaches.

Co-Lead Updates

Information was shared with the group regarding the Nebraska Part C Annual Performance Report (APR), the latest Child Outcome Data, and the 2024 Family Survey Results. The survey returns were noted as, once again, being high, due in large part to the efforts of Services Coordinators. The next survey will get underway in the next couple of months.

Stakeholder Input & Recommendations

Some more in-depth discussion was had, and input shared regarding Part C Child Outcomes. Comments included the frequency of family meetings needs to increase. A suggestion was made about placing ChildFind-related information and education in Mother's rooms can be helpful because a Mom is there for a period of time when nursing. When a family's priorities are identified in an RBI, they will be recorded and may become a goal. This

honors what is important to them. A comment was made that a family will share what will make their lives better, and then the team helps find the path and process for them to get there. A Services Coordinator shared thoughts that, sometimes, when meeting families where they're at, it can feel like they're not quite clicking. Taking time and building the relationship first is important before they can truly begin sharing information. Regarding frequency and intensity – if an IFSP is written with 12 goals, and a provider meets with family once a month, and hits one, two, or three things, a chunk of time may pass where they don't ever touch on some of the other goals. Therefore, it is felt there is a need to stick with all of the goals? Importance of Informed Clinical Opinion; are kids being identified early enough? The average age of the kids being referred is being reviewed.

Upon reviewing service logs, that include frequency and intensity data, the question was asked whether kids are being captured early enough. For example, are kids coming into the program at 20 months of age thought of as being "late?" Settings and location data-file reviews have revealed that visits were occurring in a childcare instead of a home environment. Given this information, what are thoughts/feedback about these facts. Table talk had about frequency and intensity data, with input gathered. Clarification was given about whether Primary Service Provider model was being used. It is also very important to encourage practice between visits and checking in with parents.

For average length of time in EDN, if families/children are meeting their goals, is that being captured as a reason for ending services? Data question, again, is there information about those families that have finished services? This data should be in CONNECT and can be pulled. A question was asked whether there an exit code in CONNECT tied to this. There is.

Data isn't getting to the people who make decisions and, therefore, a difference. So, there is a need to look at how resources are allocated. Some challenging thoughts about reality that the speaker felt needed to be said out loud.

A parent suggested sharing more ChildFind resources in pediatrician's offices, and in libraries during story times. A note made about average age of children when they are referred, and that there are sometimes multiple referrals by doctors, however, parents are not interested.

Differentiated Monitoring Support 2.0

Information was shared about the four-day OSEP visit at the NDE Office of Special Education from October 21-24, 2024. A timeline was shared that led up to the meeting with steps beginning in January. Thanks was shared with those offices that responded to special requests for information during the visit. Follow-up information requests continue, and a written report is expected within 6-8 weeks, and will be shared out.

Wrap-Up & Next Steps

Amy and Jessica provided some time for any feedback and thoughts from the group.

A question was asked about where things are in current SSIP cycle and when will targets be set again. Answer: SSIP targets were last set in 2021, so 2026 will be next time they are set, and with help from this group.

Contact information for Amy, Jessica, and Cole was shared to the group.

Adjournment

Thanks was shared to the group for its time today, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.