

Integration and Alignment Committee Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2023

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Members Present: Shauna Ejeh, Trish Rooney, Jill Andrews, Karen Berman, Cerathal Burgess-Burnett, Kristy Doan, Lauri Morrison-Fricthl, Phyllis Glink, Marcy Mendenhall, Denise Monnier, Teresa Ramos, Robin Steans and Bryan Stokes II

Non-Members Present: Grace Araya, Rita Armstrong, Naomi Black, Lisa Brock, Tranae Brockhouse, Missy Brown, Tracy Carls, Melissa Coleman, MacKenzie Eisen, Cicely Fleming, Kayla Goldfarb, Courtney Hatcher, Lori Orr, Janice Moenster, Jaime Nichols, Kisha Petties, Brenda Smith, Sharon Warning and Pam Womack

Welcome: Shauna Ejeh introduced Trish Rooney as the new IAC Co-Chair. Trish serves as the Associate Director of IDHS/DEC. An overview of the agenda was shared, and the Racial Equity Definition was reviewed with the IAC. Shauna Ejeh, IAC Co-Chair, also provided a recap of the Committee's charge and priorities.

IAC Charge & Priorities:

Charge: Support efforts to continuously improve delivery of ECEC services equitably and in a seamless way for children & families, including supporting efforts to improve governance.

Priorities:

1. Review functions of ROEs, B-5 Action Councils, CCR&Rs and other regional intermediaries to identify efficacies, efficiencies, and alignments for T&TA, supports, resource and referral, including supply and demand analysis, etc.
2. Review/provide feedback for cost modeling consultation to address Early Childhood Special Education services, as well as costs for supportive infrastructure. This will support preschool-aged children with disabilities within inclusive environments across the mixed delivery system (Community-Based Organizations, Schools, Head Start).

Analysis of Regional Intermediary Structures: Wendy McCullough, IDHS Consultant, provided a reminder of the PDG B-5 Assess and Align Capacity of Intermediary Structures Project scope and goals. Wendy reviewed how regional entities provide select functions (overlaps, similarities, differences) and she presented themes from stakeholder listening sessions.

An IAC member recommended noting that some regional intermediaries are not funded through the State, but they are funded through other sources. IAC members also shared that they were surprised at the fragmentation and silos that exist at the top level within the State's early childhood infrastructure.

Break Out Groups: Shauna Ejeh, IAC Co-Chair and Wendy McCullough, IDHS Consultant, facilitated break out groups to discuss potential alignment solutions. There were two break out groups, Group 1 focused on direct services and Group 2 focused on community development.

Each group:

- Reviewed some starting solution options and evaluated (subjectively) how each supports the impact goals (15 min)
- Identified additional solutions, or edited starting solutions, for assigned function(s), if needed (5 min)
- Prioritized solutions for potential recommendation / to explore further (5 min)
- Prepared for debrief to share out and collect perspectives from other groups (5 min)

Break Out Debrief: Wendy McCullough, IDHS Consultant, shared a summary of the stakeholder engagement process. Feedback from the stakeholders included:

Group 1: Recommended incorporating a system with a single point of contact to ensure families have a warm hand-off when connecting to services. This group also recommended for the State to connect and scale regional supports to a universal referral structure. During the discussion, one member of Group 1 suggested implementing a “one-stop shop” for referring families and providers to the various regional intermediaries.

Group 2: This group shared they would like the early childhood system to be enhanced to align job embedded professional development to award credit toward credentials. Group 2 also noted that it is important to include a dedicated area to discuss the local collaboration’s role within the early childhood education and care system.

Next Steps: A follow-up IAC meeting will be held in August 2023 to further consider/explore the solutions that were recommended by each group. The IAC members shared they would like to explore ideas for solutions regarding Training and Technical Assistance. A recommendation was made to combine PowerPoint Slide #'s 7 and 8 to define collaboration model across structures and co-locate regional staff. Wendy McCullough, IDHS Consultant, will send a survey to the Committee to gather recommendations for solutions. The key questions that will be analyzed next are:

- What is the value of these solutions?
- Align contract renewal dates; alignment at the state level-how does this align with the governance changes?
- What is the right cadence? Where and with whom will these recommendations be shared?
- Determine how local collaborations can align with State regional intermediaries.

Public Comments & Announcements: There were no public comments.

Closing Comments & Adjourn: The next IAC meeting will be held on August 28, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.