

## **Cluster G Executive Committee Meeting Agenda July 12, 2024**

**Objective 2: Ensure the First Steps program is responsive to the needs of children and families.**

- Address concerns received by the LPCC within 60 days of receipt and forward complaints to the State office within two (2) business days.

**Objective 4: Increase and improve communication and collaboration among all early intervention stakeholders in the cluster(s).**

- LPCC membership includes at least:
  - Two (2) parents or family members who have participated in early intervention services with an eligible infant or toddler, in Indiana or another State, under IDEA Part C
  - One (1) representative from each First Steps provider agency in the cluster
  - One (1) LEA representative
  - One (1) social services representative
  - One (1) Head Start or Early Head Start representative
  - One (1) early care and education/childcare representative
  - One (1) local DCS representative
  - One (1) health or medical services representative

**Objective 5: Adhere to operational requirements; maintain documentation to meet State policy and State and federal regulations; and support First Steps program improvement.**

- Ensure that LPCC staff have working knowledge of the First Steps system, system policy, and all State and federal regulations governing the Part C program. Compliance with all regulations and policies is required.
- Ensure all LPCC staff adhere to the Professional Conduct Guidelines as outlined in the First Steps Early Intervention Policy Manual.
- Maintain up-to-date rosters for the LPCC and cluster transition committee

### **1) Introductions (if needed)**

### **2) Approval of Minutes**

### **3) Annual Meeting Recap**

### **4) Advocacy Efforts**

### **5) Membership**

### **6) Announcements/Close**

**CENTRAL INDIANA FIRST STEPS  
LOCAL PLANNING & COORDINATING COUNCIL  
Cluster G Executive Committee  
July 16, 2024**

**Present:** Jason Berty-CTC, Sarah Bailey-Infancy Onward, Jamie LeSesne Spears-ChildCare Answers, Debbi Davis-SPOE, Angela Touseull-LPCC, Stacy Williams-LPCC, Katarina Groves-LPCC, Terri Holmes-Parent, Melissa Myers-Collab for Kids.

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Items
<b>Welcome/Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacy welcomed everyone. Introductions were not needed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Sarah made a motion for approval. Terri seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by the committee.</li> </ul>	
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacy opened the discussion by asking for feedback on the Annual Meeting which was held on May 10, 2024. Missy felt it was a great event and was very emotional for her. Stacy asked about the flow. Missy felt some award nominations were too long. Jamie said she wished she would have known she could speak after receiving her award so she could have prepared herself. Stacy replied this is done intentionally and anyone who feels strongly about saying a few words is welcome to speak. Jason suggested it would be good to put the award winner's nomination on the power point like what is done at the First Steps conference.</li> <li>• Sarah felt it was good to be able to eat while a portion of the meeting was taking place.</li> <li>• Jason felt it was engaging to have the keynote speaker show pictures during their presentation. Katarina agreed and added it sets the tone for why we do what we do. Stacy asked if there were suggestions for a keynote speaker for 2025. She wondered if Mariana should be considered. She also said she was approached after the meeting by someone who felt it would be good to have someone who is more diverse. Jason liked having a legislator and along those lines thought Kim Dodson might be a good candidate. Jamie thought a Haitian family could highlight the cultural differences among that population. Stacy reminded everyone that Willaine was the keynote speaker a few years ago. Willaine told the committee she was born in Haiti and there</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send theme ideas for the 2025 Annual Meeting to Stacy, Katarina, and Angela.</li> <li>• Continue to forward names for a keynote speaker to Stacy, Katarina, and Angela</li> </ul>

	<p>are significant ethnic, religious, and socio-economic hurdles to overcome as a Haitian immigrant in the US. Sarah asked if we have ever had a provider speak. Stacy replied that Connie Merkel and Sue did several years ago. Willaine wondered if it would be good to have a doctor speak. Missy suggested Dr. Giese might be a good option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacy asked about the overall impression of the event being held at Valle Vista. Missy felt the space was good and the food was fine. It is easy to get to and parking is easy.</li> <li>• Stacy mentioned some changes which were made to the 2024 event based on feedback from the Executive Committee. These included more robust explanations of the awards, allowing award winners to bring a guest if desired, and adding a Community Partner award. She asked if everyone felt we should continue the Community Partner award for next year.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Advocacy Efforts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a budget year for the legislature and there are questions about the best approach to take with lawmakers. There was a \$1,000,000,000 deficit with Medicaid, and many are worried budget cuts will need to be made. The group agreed this would make sense. Stacy asked the committee how they wanted to handle advocacy. We want to be prepared with a consistent message as we go on visits at the statehouse.</li> <li>• Angela gave a recap of the legislators from the Ways and Means committee as well as the Appropriations committee that are up for reelection. Meetings with Senators and Representatives can be time consuming but being able to contact those who either are running unopposed or not up for election is a good way to utilize precious time leading up to November. Angela also expressed a need to have consistent talking points and concrete data to share. It can be uncomfortable to not have basic information when legislators ask questions. In the past, we have agreed to follow up with specific answers to questions we were asked during meetings but unable to answer in person. Keeping this to a minimum is preferred to relay the best message. Angela said some individuals respond to the emotional message we share but</li> </ul>	

	<p>others press for specific financial information. The study we typically refer to, which cites the value on the return on investment for the state when children utilize early intervention services, is very dated. New research or more current information is needed. Jamie said they have had success with stating they can't answer specific questions because they aren't permitted to lobby. They offer unbiased data. They combine parent stories with data to make their points. Sarah wondered if Katie Herron has access to current studies. Jamie reminded everyone that Kindergarten readiness is a hot button right now which should be helpful. Katarina wondered if Juliann Woods with the FGRBI model would possibly have some data on the return on investment for early intervention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katarina added we need to set ourselves apart from other organizations, possibly highlighting drug issues as we have done in the past. Being creative is key. While an increase is always needed, it might be considered a win to not have cuts considering the deficit which will need to be made up.</li> <li>• Debbi suggested we show the progress that was made because of the last increase and the immediate impact that was provided to the families in our program. Jamie added we can thank legislators for the increase.</li> </ul>	
<b>Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacy reminded the committee they are charged with ensuring our LPCC membership includes specific stakeholders as listed on the meeting agenda. We have not had issues meeting this objective. The Executive Committee will be appraised of the membership status on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements/Close</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next Meeting:</b> January 10, 2025 via Teams</li> </ul>

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Touseull