



Clinton County LEARN / LICC Meeting Minutes

Date: August 31, 2011

Attendance:	Marilyn Ely	Lycoming-Clinton Early Intervention
	Deb West	Lycoming-Clinton Early Intervention
	Barb Wilson	Lycoming-Clinton Early Intervention
	Karen M. Krise	Central Intermediate Unit # 10
	Laurie Welch	Penn State Cooperative Extension
	Candace Reeder	Department of Health
	Anita Rathgeber	Infant Development Program
	Tobi Diggs	CCIS Lycoming-Clinton County
	Vickie Dodds	STEP Lycoming-Clinton Head Start

Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves and what agency they represented.

Minutes:

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Candace Reeder moved and Barb Wilson seconded that the minutes be approved as presented.

Agency Updates/Correspondence:

Infant Toddler Early Intervention:

- Marilyn noted that Infant Toddler referrals in Clinton County are still slightly down from the past.
- She also discussed the \$450 million shortfall in the budget of the Department of Public Welfare, and the concerns about that around the state.

CIU # 10 Preschool Early Intervention:

- Karen reported that her secretary had a new baby yesterday, and would now be off for 12 weeks of maternity leave. Karen is attempting to keep up with Pelican duties, with a little help from one office staff.
- She has also hired two new speech therapists to replace ones that left.
- Sue Willis (CIU # 10 Special Education Director) will be retiring at the end of September; she will be missed as a former long-time preschool administrator.
- Karen also reported that the Preschool EI Program ended last year with 867 children, of which about 25 were Kindergarten Eligible (not counted in child

count). This was the highest child count in at least 11 years (she reviewed records back to 2000).

- There is some concern about the state government targeting the Medicaid “loophole”. Speculation is that this may be seen as a money saving issue for the state; however school districts and intermediate units rely heavily on billing ACCESS for revenue. The CIU # 10 Preschool Program received about \$500,000 from this program last year, a significant portion of our annual budget.
- Finally, Karen reported that the intermediate unit professional staff had taken a voluntary pay freeze this year, which along with the elimination of an administrative position and other budgetary measures resulted in a tight but balanced budget for the Preschool EI Program for 2011-2012.

Infant Development Program:

- Anita reported that the fall sessions at IDP began on 8-29-11. She noted that there are a few slots still open.

Lycoming-Clinton Head Start:

- Vicki reported that today is the first day of extended classes for 9 out of 36 groups (1/3 each day).
- Next Thursday (9-8-11) will be the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new building in Lock Haven at 10:30 am.
- Currently they have 541 children enrolled in Head Start/Pre-K Programs, and 16% of them have documented disabilities. This is a pretty high percentage to start out the year. Many more of these children had Infant Toddler Early Intervention services than before. Vicki has also noted that more children seem to have hearing or vision impairments than in the past.

Department of Health:

- Candace noted that new regulations for school-age immunizations have taken effect, which results in her office being very busy right now. TDAP has been added for adults, measles/whooping cough has been going around.
- The Amish are also now getting their kids immunized more frequently.
- Immigrants entering the country do not have the same immunizations as people in the United States.

CCIS:

- Toby stated that CCIS has been very busy, and that there is a wait list in both counties.
- She also has a Contract Specialist position open.
- There are several new daycares in the area, as well as a couple that have closed.

Penn State Cooperative Extension:

- Laurie reported that she attended a parent involvement webinar last week. She said it provided general information and was not as in-depth as she had hoped.

- She has an upcoming training on 9-17-11 that will provide 3 hours (half day) or 6 hours (full day) of training for early childhood professionals.
- The Fall Family Festival will be held on 9-24-11 at the fairgrounds (9am – 4pm). A number of local agencies participate, and there are activities for children. Laurie plans to have a table; if she can't attend she will get someone to fill in.
- Keystone Central School District has given permission for kindergarten teachers to attend a school transition event to be held on October 14, from 9 am to 3 pm. Laurie will have the participants plan for school visitations by preschools in the spring. She has asked LHU Early Childhood faculty to facilitate, but she has not heard back from them as yet. Act 48 hours will be available for this event.
- The Kiwanis club from Mill Hall is very interested in partnering with the LEARN Team for a local event, perhaps a fall festival. They typically have a Kid's Day in July. Laurie will keep us informed about this as it develops.
- The annual "Leadership Breakfast" will be held in Williamsport at Penn College on October 21st, 2011. This is in partnership with the Lycoming County LEARN Team. This year the theme is the connection with the criminal justice system.
- Grant update/review: Laurie passed out copies of the grant. There is a big push for parent involvement this year, and as always, this is a concern in Clinton Co. Laurie will put an ad in the paper to advertise the next meeting. Our goal is for two new parent partners to join the LEARN Team this year.
 - Marilyn stated that Infant Toddler really needs to be inviting families to the LEARN Team/LICC meetings.
 - A possibility of developing a new general brochure with inserts for specific events was discussed.
 - Discussion of a possible "invitation letter" for parents was also discussed.
 - Laurie suggested a brochure and an invitation letter. Suggestions were brought up for the brochure:
 - What is LEARN and what does it do? Why?
 - Upcoming trainings for families and professionals.
 - List of partner agencies.
 - Pictures of children and activities (with releases).
 - Contact information, web site, Facebook page
 - Laurie will do a draft and will send it out for comments. She will plan to have one ready for the September meeting to review and discuss.
 - Laurie will also write a letter to daycare and preschool facilities to invite their participation in the LEARN team. Discussion was held on other possible partners to invite: WIC (not permitted to attend meetings), Library (already attends Collaborative Board).

On-Going Business:

Finance:

No report.

Screening Committee:

Barb & Deb distributed the new flyer for screenings for the 2011-2012 year.

PA One Book:

No report.

New Business:

- Laurie asked for everyone to consider a good event for spring – to promote Kindergarten transition.
- Marilyn briefly discussed the required Technical Assistance plans recently developed by Early Intervention agencies. Karen will attach the CIU # 10 / Lycoming/Clinton County plan to the minutes. LEARN Team members can suggest additional trainings to add to the plan. Infant Toddler has money that can be used for trainings, but it must be listed on the plan. A few suggestions were discussed:
 - Parent partnership/engagement
 - Thanksgiving/Fall Festival theme celebrating families
 - Family Fun Night
 - Partner with Library
 - Ice Cream Social

Next Meeting: September 28, 2011 @ 9:30am at IDP (980 E. Water Street, Lock Haven, PA 17745)

Respectfully submitted by Karen M. Krise, Secretary

2011-2012 Officers:
Chair: Laurie Welch
Co-Chair: Tobi Diggs
Secretary: Karen M. Krise
Treasurer: Lisa Bangson
Screening Co-Chairs: Barb Wilson
Deb West

