



## Clinton County LEARN / LICC Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 1/25/12

<b>Attendance:</b>	Karen M. Krise	Central Intermediate Unit # 10
	Marilyn Ely	Lycoming-Clinton Infant Toddler EI
	Barb Wilson	Lycoming-Clinton Infant Toddler EI
	Vickie Lewis	Penn State Cooperative Extension
	Wendy Lupold	Infant Development Program
	Anita Rathgeber	Infant Development Program
	Lisa Bangson	Infant Development Program
	Lisa Bartholomew	Infant Development Program
	Lori Lohman	Building Blocks
	Michael Bruning	Lock Haven YMCA
	Lisa Tibbens	Jersey Shore Pre-K
	Carrie Pase	Mom's Inc.
	Jamie VanAmburg	Mom's Inc.

### Minutes:

Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

### Agency Updates/Correspondence:

#### **Infant Toddler Early Intervention:**

Marilyn reported that the Infant Toddler EI program will have verification next week. A team of people led by OCDEL will spend 3 days reviewing the program. She and the staff have been working on preparations for that process.

#### **CIU # 10 Preschool Early Intervention:**

Karen reported that her EI Advisor, Deb Noel, has agreed to take the position of Division Chief recently vacated by Frank Miller. Steve Gauvrey has been appointed as the new EI Advisor for CIU # 10 Preschool EI Program.

Karen updated the team on the Keystones to Opportunity grants that school districts were able to apply for recently. This is a large literacy grant opportunity that is a result of federal money being awarded to Pennsylvania (one of 5 or 6 states that received the money). The focus of the grant is literacy from birth to grade 12. This was a new concept for most districts, which have not really considered literacy needs for children who have not yet entered their K-12 system. The grant is very competitive, based on both demonstrated need and capacity for growth, and pre-applications were submitted last week. The pre-application process included extensive needs assessments and data analysis. They will be reviewed and an announcement will be distributed at the beginning of February to notify districts who will be "invited" to submit a full grant application.

Statewide, around 328 districts (out of 500) submitted a pre-application. The state has estimated it will award 50 – 75 grants (minimum award is \$250,000). Out of the 12 districts included in the CIU # 10 coverage area, 10 submitted pre-applications, including Keystone Central. If they are successful, it could mean significant training opportunities may be offered to early childhood providers. Karen will keep the team updated as the grant process progresses.

February is Transition to Kindergarten month for preschool students with disabilities. Meetings must be held in each district for children eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the Fall of 2012. CIU # 10 transitions about 250 children across all 3 counties.

**Infant Development Program:**

Wendy, Lisa, Anita, & Lisa reported that IDP is busy. They have no more openings for 3 year old children, and only a few for older children. Transition to Kindergarten meetings for 18 children are set up for February with the district.

They also reported that the IDP Board of Directors has decided to reinstate the position of Executive Director. Recently they had been using a team administrative model, but have decided to return to the previous model. Applications are being accepted and interviews will be done in mid to late February.

IDP had their DPW inspection in December, there was only one minor violation, which has been corrected.

**Early Head Start:**

Not in attendance.

**Lycoming-Clinton Head Start:**

Not in attendance.

**Department of Health:**

Not in attendance.

**CCIS:**

Not in attendance.

**Building Blocks:**

Lori was happy to report that she has submitted her application for Star 3 status. All 7 staff members who completed the Child Development Associate (CDA) program were successful and received their certificates. Another course will be offered by Laurie Welch in the future. Everyone at the meeting felt that would fill up easily as there are many individuals who would like to take the course.

Lori anticipates her inspection will occur in March, as well as her assessment for Star 3. She hopes that Building Blocks will receive Star 3 designation by April.

**Lock Haven YMCA Childcare:**

Michael reported that the Lock Haven Child Care had a slight set-back in the Stars program and has been designated as a Star 2 program (previously they were a Star 3). He emphasized that it was not a decline in the quality of the program, but rather issues with paperwork and requirements. He anticipates that the YMCA program will move up soon to a Star 2, and hopefully to Star 3 within a

year or so. The school-age programs are Star 2. Michael remarked that the teachers and staff are very committed to a quality program.

Michael also stated that they have been "braiding" programs more between childcare and the YMCA. A new program just starting is a free "Teen Lounge" at the YMCA. From 3:00pm to 6:00pm Monday through Friday middle-school age teens can play games, do homework, and hang out in a safe environment. He stated that buses will drop kids off at the YMCA at parent request, but the YMCA is not taking attendance, it is a voluntary program as a benefit to area teens.

### **Jersey Shore Pre-K Counts:**

Lisa reported that she recently updated the brochure for the Jersey Shore Pre-K program. She has also been tracking kids in the program with Dibels testing. She hopes to demonstrate the effectiveness of the program and will share the data with the superintendent. She is also planning the Kinder-Camp program for this summer.

The Pre-K Counts program currently has 20 slots: 10 are located at Mom's Inc., and 10 are located at All Things Bright & Beautiful. They would like to expand the program.

A transition event is being planned at an elementary building for the spring. The event will highlight the Pre-K Counts program, Kindergarten, and local preschool programs. Screenings and activities for the children will be included.

### **Mom's Inc:**

Carrie and Jamie reported that business is booming. The McElhatten location has expanded and enrollment has doubled since last May. The Jersey Shore location has about doubled as well, but they do have more slots available there. They commented that a lot of people seem to be moving into the area, with speculation that many are due to jobs in the natural gas industry.

### **Penn State Cooperative Extension:**

Vickie reported that she participated in the LEARN conference call last week. The following items were discussed:

- GPS program – Guiding Parents Smoothly
  - This is a computer based parenting program.
  - They are asking each team to identify a parent team of 2-5 parents to "pilot" the program.
  - It asks specific developmental questions and then gives information depending on the answers entered by the parent.
  - They want feedback from the focus groups by March 30.
- Keystone Shining Stars
  - Each region will conduct a contest to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Keystone Stars.
  - Parents are needed to tell what ECE programs have meant to them and their family.
  - This will be due March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mid-Year budget freeze by the governor (some programs cut by 5%).

Vickie also got information from Lycoming County about running advertising spots on WVIA. It costs under \$200 per county, and has an estimated 194,000 viewers.

### **On-Going Business:**

**Finance:**

No expenditures.

**Screening Committee:**

Barb reported the next screening date is March 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Department of Health at 9am. We need volunteers, so contact Barb to sign up.

**PA One Book:**

Vickie will be sending letters to providers to find out if they want readers for One Book. The author is scheduled to come to both Lycoming and Clinton Counties for events, but details have not been released as yet.

**New Business:**

Marilyn reported that she had updated the Community Resource brochure, and she passed out hard copies for the team to review. She also emailed the document to the LEARN team.

The team discussed the need for trainings in Clinton County. It was reported that evening trainings for 2 or 3 hours usually work the best in this area. A number of ideas were suggested, including:

- Child observation
- When to make referrals to early intervention (red flags to watch for)
- Parent conferences – how to talk to parents about referrals and their child's progress in general

Marilyn reported there is a training set up for April 28<sup>th</sup> at the STEP office in Williamsport, but the topics have not been finalized yet.

**Next Meeting: February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:30am at IDP**

*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

