

Committee Reports 2013-14



- **Our Vision**

Create a Community for All Children that includes everyone by supporting families through education, connection to other families and community supports.

- **Our Goals/Outcomes 2013-14:**

- *Work in active, consistent collaboration with partners (identify them), to more efficiently deliver supports to families (we will work actively to identify specific partners for the 2013-14 year)*
- *Provide and support multiple opportunities for families to have connections with each other to promote empowerment and self-advocacy (i.e. Meet and Greet style events)*
- *Strengthen awareness and supports available across multiple systems through education and training (and the education and training opportunities) that are available to support children and families in Early Intervention*
- *We will accomplish this goal through greater outreach to communities and families (PICC Leadership will attend more Community focused events throughout the year)*
 - a. We will focus on families who are difficult to reach*
 - b. We will focus on the groups below for the 2013-14 year*
 - *Asian families*
 - * Homeless families living in Shelters*
 - *Muslim families*

Committees of the PICC

- Communication Workgroup
 - * Newsletter
- FIRST (Family Involvement, Resources, Support and Training)
 - *Families First
 - *Family Fun Day
- Inclusion Committee (this was formerly a work group)
- Transition @ 3
- Transition @5

Communications Workgroup

Newsletter

- GOALS/OUTCOMES(2013/14): Provide and support multiple opportunities for families to have connections with each other to promote empowerment and self-advocacy (i.e. Meet and Greet style events)
- Strengthen awareness and supports available across multiple systems through education and training (and the education and training opportunities) that are available to support children and families in Early Intervention
- We will accomplish this goal through greater outreach to communities and families (PICC Leadership will attend more Community focused events throughout the year)
- We will focus on families who are difficult to reach
- We will focus on the groups below for the 2013-14 year
 - *Asian families
 - * Homeless families living in Shelters
 - *Muslim families
- ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Our winter publication was issued. Its focus was greater understanding of vision challenges and hearing loss.
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- DISCUSSION: IDS brought to the attention of the Committee that protocol was not followed in releasing the winter issue. It is important that the Lead Agencies approve the final proof before publication. It was also decided that only one issue would be published this fiscal year, rather than two, to allow for time between publications, planning, editing, approval, and distribution. The next issue will highlight choosing a healthy lifestyle.
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- ANY RESOURCES NEEDED: We would like to increase membership on committee.

FIRST Committee

Goals/Outcome:

Strengthen awareness and supports available across multiple systems through education and training (and the education and training opportunities) that are available to support children and families in Early Intervention

Activities to Support this goal:

3 events were held where families could meet and interact, there were also various resources:

- * Summer Send Off (9/5/13)
- * Holidays around the World (12/7/13)
- * Spring Fling (4/9/14)

There were also 6 Committee Meetings to plan and discuss activities

Families First

- Our Goal was to : Strengthen awareness and supports available across multiple systems through education and training (and the education and training opportunities) that are available to support children and families in Early Intervention
- We met our goals by conducting Eighteen “Traditional” and topical Families First sessions were from October 1, 2013 through May 4, 2014 throughout the city, during a variety of days and times based on the needs of the targeted neighborhood group.

- Number of Participants from 10/1/13 to 5/4/14 totaled Two hundred and sixty eight(268) for all sessions

- Fifty Four (54) were families from the infant toddler system
- One Hundred and Forty Nine (149) were from the preschool system
- Thirteen (13) were parents of school age children,
- Twenty Five (25) were professionals
- Twenty Seven (27) were community members

- Ninety Two (92) children attended sessions with their families.

- To date, Infant Toddler attendance has exceeded total Infant-Toddler attendance in fiscal year 2013.

- To date, survey return rate increased by 29.5% over Fiscal Year 2012 and 6.5 % over fiscal year 2013.

Family Fun Day

- **Goal/Outcome:** Provide and support multiple opportunities for families to have connections with each other to promote empowerment and self-advocacy

This year the Family Fun Day Committee worked to add a new activity which allowed children to play together, (box activity – building blocks), we also had several opportunities for parents and children to interact through the Bake Walks, Outside play activities, and speaking to Resources. One provider also had a table with a bubble machine and many children played there as well.

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- 33 Families preregistered – 12 by phone, 16 by texting, 5 by email.
From the 33 pre-registered families – 9 attended.
We had 24 Families walk in.
27% of the preregistered families attended.

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33 total families attended – 113 people
We had 30 Volunteers
We had 9 student volunteers.
We had 15 Resources attend (33 people)

Total people attended: 185

- **ANY DECISIONS MADE:** For the 2014-15 year, we will add another activity, we will have more snacks for families , we will find a way to bring back water ice , add more activities for a longer time period for the families. We will develop a letter for donations before the Fall. The Committee is in need of new members.
- **NEXT STEPS:** Choose date for next year and start soliciting for donations
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- **NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION/TIME:** July 2014
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Inclusion Committee

- **GOALS/OUTCOMES:** Work in active, consistent collaboration with partners (identify them), to more efficiently deliver supports to families (we will work actively to identify specific partners for the 2013-14 year)
- Strengthen awareness and supports available across multiple systems through education and training (and the education and training opportunities) that are available to support children and families in Early Intervention
- **ANY DECISIONS MADE:**
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- At initial meeting in fall, group decided to follow up on decision to 1) draft outreach letter to childcare providers who had participated in PICC inclusion group trainings offered in prior years 2) create and include a survey to determine if the trainings had resulted in greater staff proficiency/ease in a) talking with families about developmental concerns and EI as a resource b) recognizing earlier signs of developmental delay
- Mailing list was created and surveys were mailed to 92 centers and childcare providers. Only 5 surveys were returned. All indicated very positive impressions of learning and skill that had occurred for those on staff who are been trained. Several were interested in follow-up contact but indicated things were going more smoothly at their centers.
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ANY RESOURCES NEEDED:

- A compilation of materials that are available at multiple websites, and that are frequently used by early intervention therapists was created as a resource for support visits. Flashdrives with links to all the support materials, websites, and internet sites were created as a resource for follow-up visits or trainings.
- Introductory trainings were provided to daycares requesting more information on topics including early signs of developmental delay, impact of intervention on early brain development and inter- related developmental progress. Most of the sites had some early intervention contacts for children in their care, but all wanted to expand their ability to recognize signs and develop staff capacity in talking with families about developmental concerns.

NEXT STEPS:

- A different approach to childcare provider sites might yield requests for more in-depth and focused trainings, perhaps by linking training inquiries to suggestions from EI therapists at sites throughout the city, where they are noting a need for staff development based on their interactions and presence in classrooms and family homes.

Transition @ 3

- **GOALS/OUTCOMES CHOSEN:**
- Work in active, consistent collaboration with partners (identify them), to more efficiently deliver supports to families (we will work actively to identify specific partners for the 2013-14 year)
- This year the Transition at Three Committee worked with Elwyn and collaborated with various other community partners toward better supporting families in the birth-three transition process. Family sessions were held where families had the opportunity to gain information/resources and learn about the similarities/differences between the Infant Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention systems. The committee collaborated with the various community partners, Elwyn's Parent Partners, Healthcare United, Early Head Start (West Phila.) the Free Library and Parent to Parent.
- During the year the committee reviewed and monitored the transition procedures regarding transition meetings held via "phone conference". The committee determined that this procedure is working well for families, the birth-3 system and Elwyn. The committee reviewed/updated transition procedures for families entering the birth-three system between 2.6 and older. An Infant Toddler Service Coordinator has been designated to conduct transition meetings for all late referrals for eligible children at the initial MDE. The committee determined that this procedure has been working well.

- **Committee meetings dates:**
- August 19, 2013 committee meeting
- November 6, 2013 family session, South Phila. Free Library
- January 29, 2014 committee meeting
- March 5, 2014 family session, Lucien Blackwell Free Library
- April 23, 2014 committee meeting
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- **ANY DECISIONS MADE:** For the 2014-2015 year, the committee decided to try a different approach for holding family meetings. The committee decided on the “Parent Café’ style of meeting. It was determined that this meeting style may encourage informal information sharing and parent to parent support and therefore more families may attend sessions and possibly become involved in committee meetings. The committee decided on a new goal which will be “to strengthen awareness and supports available across multiple systems through education and training (and the education and training opportunities) that are available to support children and families in Early Intervention”.
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- **NEXT STEPS:** Organize and Plan for the Parent Cafés.
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- **NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION/TIME:** Wednesday, September 17, 1-3pm.

Transition @ 5

- Goal: Work in active, consistent collaboration with partners to more efficiently deliver supports to families (we will work actively to identify specific partners for the 2013-14 year):
 - Partners identified:
 - The School District of Philadelphia
 - Provider agencies
 - The University of Pennsylvania
 - Families with transition age children
- Outcome
- Implemented a new database and electronic delivery method for tracking child-specific and aggregate transition data. This new database is providing baseline data to enable comparisons with the 2014-2015 year – information that was not previously available and which will enable analysis in order to improve the system, resulting in smoother and timely transition process for families.
- Developed and implemented a new “Family Survey” to assess the effectiveness of the face-to-face meetings and to collect family input on how to improve the process.
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* How outcome was achieved

This was achieved through regular and consistent collaboration with School District staff, the University of Pennsylvania, families and provider agencies.

- Recommendations for 2014-15 year outcomes.

Develop and implement improved transition activities for children attending Charter Schools.