

Part C Review Report

Presented to FCFC Deputies

July 8, 2010

Issues to Address

- Statewideness
- Access to all services the children need
- Under serving children in Children's Protective Services
- Lack of early childhood mental health
- Services not provided in natural environments
- Clinical vs family focus
- Deficit based

Stakeholders

Group of stakeholders met for 7 monthly meetings and several conference calls

State Agencies (ODH, DoDD, ODMH, ODADAS, FCFC, Early Childhood Cabinet, ODJFS, ODDC)

Local FCFC

Local County Boards

HMG Project Directors

HMG Advisory Council

University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Structure of Part C Review Report

- Provides introduction of Federal Law
- Why Early Intervention Matters
- The Charge & Call to Action

- Recommendations
 - Measures of success/benchmarks
 - Needed Resources
 - Next Steps

Recommendations

- A. All Part C/EI Services will be strength- and relationship-based: Providers of services will listen to families and plan interventions based on conversations about what is already being done, what is working and family priorities; a range of levels of support based on individual need will be available to families.
- B. The Part C lead agency will assure that every family and their child who is eligible for Part C/EI services shall have access to federally mandated, evidence-based EI services through a core team of professionals.
- C. Maximize existing federal, state and local funding, and leverage additional funding to assure access to federally-mandated early intervention services and implement these recommendations.
- D. The Ohio Part C lead agency will create a comprehensive, ongoing workforce development strategy for Part C/EI in partnership with other early childhood efforts in the state.

Recommendations

- E. Given the importance of supporting families in raising their children with disabilities, Ohio's Part C/EI system must assure family support services and the availability of family-to-family support statewide through the Family Information Network (FIN) of Ohio.
- F. Provide consistent materials and messages statewide (child development, making referrals, enhancing social-emotional development, etc.).
- G. Ohio will create a state-level, centralized, dynamic resource (CDR) of early childhood services and supports that are available to families of young children as well as to EI service providers via live staff and the internet.
- H. The Ohio Part C program will develop a statewide system to ensure family accessibility to core team services, regardless of the political subdivision where families reside.

Interagency Workgroup of State Staff

- Recently met with an interagency group
- Included representatives from:
 - ODH
 - DoDD
 - FCFC
 - ODMH
 - Medicaid
 - ODE
 - Early Childhood Cabinet
- Consensus of that group was to accept the recommendations of the Part C Review workgroup
- Interagency Workgroup recommends looking at the recommendations from the perspective of what can begin now and what would be the focus of work in future years

New Model of Service Delivery in Ohio

- Core Team
 - Service coordinator
 - Family support
 - Early Intervention Specialist (Special Instruction)
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Physical Therapist
 - Speech/Language Pathologist
- Strength-based
- Relationship-focused
- Natural environments

Steps for SFY11

Service Delivery

- Transdisciplinary Team Training
 - Developmental Disabilities Council-several counties
 - ODH ARRA funds to DoDD
- Assess the capacity of counties to create transdisciplinary teams (e.g., how many OTs, PTs, etc. currently exist and where)

Steps for SFY11

Service Delivery

- Provide TA on Family Assessment
- Assign HMG Advisory Committees to work on developing Rules and TA Guidance Documents that specify the required components of an EI service system
- Develop and deliver training and TA on evidence-based EI practices for all HMG staff and EI providers

Steps for SFY11

Financing

- Convene a group of stakeholders to work on financing
- Examine other states' models & processes of maximizing all available funding sources
- Explore feasibility of Medicaid financing for early intervention services

Steps for SFY11

Family Support

- Survey to obtain current information on the Family Support Specialist Role in each county

Steps for SFY11

Public Awareness

- Mobilize the HMG Advisory Council's Public Awareness Committee
 - Keep the Help Me Grow name & identify uses in public awareness & encouraging referrals
 - Involve county staff in identifying key communication messages and communications

Steps for SFY11

Other

- Mobilize the HMG Advisory Council's Evaluation Committee to refine the measures of success

Steps for the Future

- Work with universities to attempt to develop & enhance coursework in all areas of early intervention practice
- Redesign EIS certification
- Consider creation of EI providers certificate
- Expand role of Family Support Specialist
- After review of 1-800- Helpline, possibly create a state level centralized dynamic resource for early childhood services
- Issues associated with family payment & reimbursement