**ICC Meeting Minutes**

**November 12, 2020.**

**9:15-11:15**

**Participants:**

Johan de Besche, Helena Liedtke, Michelle Grewal, Pam Wildnauer, Lori Book, Marilyn Favreau, Dina Tedeschi, Brenda Allair, Chris Pond, Mary Dennehy-Colorusso, Noah Feldman, Jessica Nuhibian Boisvert, Nicole Constantino, Roy Karp, Johanna Fulford, Liz Fancher, Nicole Colleen O’Brien, Colleen Wellman, Maura Murphy, Bob Gagnon, Robin Jones, Maura Buglione, Michael Hutton Woodland.

Johan and Helena welcomed ICC Members and Stakeholders to the meeting and reviewed the day’s agenda.

**Director’s Report:**

Noah Feldman, Acting Director of the Division of EI provided the Membership and attendees with updates:

* The Autism procurement process for autism providers process is still being reviewed. The announcement of the providers who are awarded contracts will be posted on Commbuys. EI programs will be notified by email of the providers who will be granted contracts and the contract start dates.
* Steve McCourt, our Fiscal manager of nearly 28 years will be retiring on December 1, 2020. We wish him all the best.
* Noah provided a presentation on the impact of COVID-19 to providers and DPH framework/activities to support the system:
  + Fiscal impact to EI programs (reduced amount of time of individual services, reduction in referrals, inability to provide face-to-face child/family group experiences
* Impact to EI staff – staff lay-off/furloughs, challenges to meet productivity (duration of telehealth visits is reduced), higher caseloads are required in order to meet productivity, staff are concerned for their own health and the health of their families or carrying the virus to others, screen-time fatigue
* Impact to families – challenged with competing priorities (other children attending school virtually, as first responders/essential workers, financial stability), adapting to telehealth (distractions, screen time, internet/device accessibility), opting to wait for in-person services, concerns for health of self/family when in-person services resume, racial and health disparities
  + DPH refers to the General Supervision Framework and Activities to address the challenges for all stakeholders during this time and in the future.
* The Co-Chairs opened-up a discussion to the ICC membership and participants about their experiences and challenges related to telehealth. Comments and discussion topics included:
  + Positive experiences with utilizing the PIWI philosophy with parents experiencing the challenges associated with mental health conditions
  + Dealing having to lay-off staff and concern that these staff may not come back to work in EI.
  + Reduction of workforce and units of service has resulted in increased caseloads for existing working staff.
  + Telehealth is exhausting for both staff and families.
  + Supporting and supervising staff during this time – continuing to have to move staff forward with implementing the PIWI and the need for supervision.
  + Impact to the social emotional health of staff, loss of contact with teammates and the support that from working as part of a team.
  + Impact to families: financial, competing priorities, concerns about their personal health, health of children and extended family members.
  + Members expressed interest in the information gathered from the family survey. Kris Martone-Levine, Director of the Parent Leadership Project briefly reported that the responses from families ran the gamut of high-to-low satisfaction. Staff would continue their review and analysis of the data to determine how to address the needs of families.
  + Telehealth has allowed EI staff to be able to participate on some visits with a child’s pediatrician and/or other medical staff.

Presentation by Meenakshi Verma-Agrawal, MPH to support the ICC priority area to reduce health disparities and ensure racial and health equity.