

From: Bolick, Leigh <Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov>
To: Baker, JoshJoshBaker@gov.sc.gov
Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov
Date: 3/21/2014 5:16:29 PM
Subject: Fwd: SC Interagency Coordinating Council
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.pdf
ATT00001.htm

FYI. These folks are from USC. We contract with them to help us serve special needs kids. I found out during a conversation with one of them that they wanted to write formal letters to the Governor, etc. They agreed to put this in an email to me instead so we could deal with this issue more quietly. They believe the Feds are due in SC soon to do a review and are worried about the future status of the program.

Please let me know if I can help keep this from boiling over. If you need to reach me call my cell at 803-608-1007.

Have a great weekend. L

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "KNOPF, HERMAN" <KNOPFH@mailbox.sc.edu>
Date: March 21, 2014 at 4:06:53 PM EDT
To: Leigh Bolick <Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov>
Cc: "GOOGE, HEATHER" <GOOGE@mailbox.sc.edu>
Subject: Fwd: SC Interagency Coordinating Council

Leigh,

I received the e-mail below from Heather regarding concerns that she has about the current state of the ICC. I am forwarding this along to you in the hope that you might be able to provide guidance regarding what we might do to improve the current state of affairs. The effective functioning of the ICC is imperative for children and families in South Carolina.

Herman T. Knopf, PhD
Interim Research Director
Yvonne & Schuyler Moore Child Development Research Center
University of South Carolina, Columbia
hknopf@sc.edu
803.777.2470
803.318.9566

Begin forwarded message:

From: "GOOGE, HEATHER" <GOOGE@mailbox.sc.edu>
Subject: SC Interagency Coordinating Council
Date: March 21, 2014 at 4:00:48 PM EDT
To: "KNOPF, HERMAN" <KNOPFH@mailbox.sc.edu>

Good Afternoon,

As the Program Director of the South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative, it is my role to collaborate with other agencies and organizations providing services to children with disabilities and their families. One entity that is specifically listed in our contract is BabyNet. I attended the most recent SC Interagency Coordinating Council meeting held on 3/14/14. While I am not an appointed member of the SCICC, I think it is important to remain informed about BabyNet policy and to identify areas in which the Inclusion Collaborative might collaborate with BabyNet to support young children with disabilities and their families. During the meeting held via webinar on 3/14/14, I became concerned about the health of the SCICC and its ability to function to "advise and assist" the lead agency in developing policies and coordinate services with appropriate public agencies to support a statewide system. Specifically, my concerns include: a) insufficient notice for a public meeting (one day); b) the chair of the Council did not seem to be present on the webinar; c) inability of participants to have open conversation about issues due to the format of the meeting (all participants were muted during the call); and d) Federal legislation requires that State ICC meetings are held quarterly yet, according to the SC First Steps website (<http://www.scfirststeps.org/ICC.html>) it appears that no meetings were held in 2012 and only one meeting was held in 2011 and while meeting dates are listed for 2013 no minutes are available.

I am sharing my concerns about the functioning of the SCICC with you because the dysfunction of this body could impede my ability to collaborate with BabyNet on behalf of the Inclusion Collaborative. More importantly, lack of a functional ICC negatively impacts our ability to ensure that the system of supports for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in South Carolina are coordinated. It is also my understanding that not all agencies required to have representation on the SCICC have current representative appointments approved by the Governor and that the current chair is no longer eligible to serve in that capacity due to his status as a State Board of Education member. This situation could be a significant source of the problem, it is therefore my recommendation that someone who might have influence communicate these issues through the appropriate channels to result in an ICC that has representation from all required partnering agencies.

A functioning SC ICC is critical to provide the leadership necessary to coordinate a comprehensive system of supports for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Googe

Heather Smith Googe, PhD

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