

**First Steps South East  
LPCC Quarterly Meeting  
Cluster J  
February 16, 2024**

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions and Inspirational Story

Brief introductions were made.

Anne Dolan welcomed guest speaker Rebecca Scholl, PT, is representing GoBabyGo of South Central Indiana today. Anne was inspired by Rebecca's efforts to bring GoBabyGo to the Columbus area in 2023.

Rebecca Scholl shared a slide presentation about GoBabyGo of South Central Indiana. Through a partnership between several organizations, young children with mobility and developmental challenges are given customized self-propelled ride-on vehicles. The program will be taking applications from interested families of young children. Five vehicles will be given in Fall 2024. Rebecca gave a description of an ideal candidate. Children can be residents of Bartholomew, Brown, Jackson, Jennings, or Johnson counties to qualify. More information can be found at <https://www.assistedindependence.care/>. Children in other counties may be served by another GoBabyGo partnerships in other cities. Rebecca is aware of GoBabyGo programs offered in Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Louisville. A flyer about the local program was included with today's meeting materials.

III. Consent Agenda Items

Consent agenda items reviewed. Sara Cummins motioned to accept the consent agenda including the minutes. Ella Boyd moved to second. Approved by consensus.

IV. Financial Report

SPOE Financial report handout reviewed by Becky Haymond. The report shows the annual budget and current expenses for the first half (July – December). The expenses are on target as almost 50% has been spent. The biggest expenditure is personnel. In the materials and supplies category, we typically wait until the end of the grant year at the end of June to upgrade technology.

V. Other Business

- Cluster Oversight and System Updates
  - First Steps State Office –
    - Connie Young, First Steps Director of Training and Outreach, reported updates on several items that the state staff have been working on:
      - The Indiana Early Intervention Conference is coming up on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>- Conference attendees can earn hours of professional development. Some of the sessions will be specifically tailored to First Steps Service Coordinators. There is an option to attend virtually or in-person. Event organizers are looking for additional sponsors. Becky stated that the SPOE is supporting the conference registration fees for SPOE staff and the Assessment Team contractors. More information about the conference can be found at: <https://earlyintervention.iu.edu/index.html>
      - 2024 is the year of First Steps' Federal Audit which starts in March - State staff are working hard to ensure that all necessary information is readily available for federal review. Federal reviewers will be visiting Indiana in-person in August.
      - Provider recruitment - Additional promotional materials have been developed for recruiting providers in response to recognition that there is a need to

increase the pool of available providers. Connie recently spoke with multiple groups in Bloomington to promote early intervention system professional opportunities with IU Bloomington Lilly Scholars, IU Bloomington Hospital, IU Social Work class, and IU Speech and Hearing Clinic.

- Provider Networks –
  - Kim Amberger-Fledderman of Developmental Services (DSI) reports that DSI is always needing more providers.
  - Missy Myers of Collaborating of Kids (CFK) reports that CFK has added 2 more providers in Cluster J in the last quarter.
  - Michelle Dills of Family First (FF) reports that FF currently has a team that serves Hancock County of 2 Speech Therapists, 3 Developmental Therapists (2 of whom have specialty Communication credentials), 1 Physical Therapist, and 3 Occupational Therapists. FF is open to sharing therapists between agencies and is looking to increase number of providers. Becky added some context that FF is building up to serve families in both Hancock and Shelby counties, but since FF is newer to the role of a provider agency the state is allowing them to serve only Hancock County during a growing period.
- Training Opportunities –
  - The 2024 Indiana Early Intervention Conference will be held in Bloomington June 13-14- (See information covered earlier in today's meeting with link: <https://earlyintervention.iu.edu/index.html> )
- Statistics –
  - Referrals, Evaluations, and Initial IFSP counts for 2023 were reviewed.
    - Referrals - The referrals comparison chart provides information from 2019 to present with monthly counts. On the same page are the 2023 numbers each month by county.
    - Evaluations – The 2023 evaluation chart total includes all initial and annual evaluations. The average number of total evaluations each month is 171. Evaluations are typically completed virtually via Zoom, though in-person evaluations can be arranged if family has a need. Five evaluations can be completed in one day if the evaluations are virtual, and virtual evaluations can be scheduled faster.
    - Initial IFSPs - New (Initial) IFSPs averaged 109 per month in 2023.
- Staffing Update – Several Service Coordinators and staff are on leave in Cluster J and Cluster H. Three are on maternity leave, 2 are on family leave, and 1 is on medical leave. This adds extra workload, however, Whitney and Becky are going to make it.
- EI Hub – The SPOE and Provider Agencies are providing feedback to the State Staff and PCG to improve EI Hub platform functionality. There have been some improvements in speed for users of the platform. The SPOE is coordinating with Marie from the state First Steps staff who is developing a data dashboard. We are hoping for more in-depth reports. Kim Fledderman is hoping for progress report features. Missy Myers is hoping for improvements to general report features.
- Old Business
  - LPCC Meeting Dates 2024 – Meeting dates for 2024 were set at the November meeting. Anne Dolan sent out the dates in a document via e-mail in December and can re-send to anyone who missed them.
- New Business
  - Transition MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) Process 2024 – The SPOE contract includes a requirement for maintaining MOUs with all regional LEAs (Local Education Agencies) and Head Start programs. The two year MOU with these partners is up for renewal by June 30, 2024. The SPOE will be redistributing the MOU to LEAs and Head Starts for renewal with no changes to the document anticipated. A collaborative group meeting for all LEA and Head Start partners in the Cluster will be offered in the spring to review the document. Individual meetings will also be

offered and arranged if desired. Once signed, the agreements will be posted on our local First Steps website in a similar way as the existing agreements.

- State Quality Review of Records – The state completed a quality review of the Early Intervention records maintained by the SPOE. A chart of the results of the review of each standard was shared on today's meeting screen. In the review of Cluster J records, there were some performance measures out of compliance, but in follow-up review of the areas out of compliance, the concerns were resolved with the exception of the 30 day start of service standard. There is a struggle with a lack of providers, which leads to a delay in getting services started promptly. The issue of lack of providers is not isolated to Cluster J – it is also a problem for early intervention across the state and country. Efforts to minimize service delays include offering a one-time consultation to help families get started. An area that our Cluster performed very well compared to other Clusters is in the 45 day referral to IFSP standard. The capacity for virtual evaluations helps families establish eligibility for early intervention promptly.

#### VI. Announcements and Updates

- Sara Cummings from FUSE has two items to share. First, the FUSE Inspiring Abilities Expo, March 9, 2024. From 9-10am, there will be presenters including Karly Sciortino-Poulter from the Arc of Indiana regarding about waivers and a presentation on Transition to Adulthood. From 10-1 the exhibit hall will be open featuring many booths of resources, providers, and products focused on the disability community. The event is held at a school in Greenfield, but welcomes attendance people from all counties. [www.fuseinc.org](http://www.fuseinc.org). Second, FUSE has moved it's office to the Circle of Care which is a non-profit shared space. Other non-profits in the same building are Firefly and Women's Resource Center. Shared parts of the building include event space and conference rooms. The shared location also allows easier access to services for families. There will be a FUSE open house at the new location on 2/28/24 from 2-5pm.
- Missy Myers from Collaborating for Kids is looking for community partners that can provide alternative locations for therapy to take place since some families don't want sessions in their home. Missy is looking for ideas. Sara Cummins suggests that hotels and car lots might be willing to provide spaces where therapy could take place. Sara remembers her own child loved cars. Kim Fledderman agrees that this is a great point and confirms it's a need. Ella Boyd offers to get therapy providers connected to various local Arc chapters to seek space if needed.
- The next regularly scheduled LPCC Meeting for Cluster J is Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### VII. Adjournment

Missy Myers motions to adjourn meeting; Molly Cleek seconds. Meeting adjourned. Thank you to everyone for attending.

Attendees:

Anne Dolan	First Steps South East, LPCC Coordinator
Amy Marine	CASY Child Care Resource and Referral
Audery Burgess	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Becky Haymond	First Steps South East, Program Director
Connie Young	First Steps Director of Training and Outreach, FSSA
Deb Miller	Accord Therapy
Elaine Studdard	Pediplay
Ella Boyd	Arc of Indiana
Jessica Wagers	A Step Ahead Pediatric Therapy
Jill Turner	Kings Daughters Hospital
Kim Amberger-Fledderman	Developmental Services, Inc.
Lorien Konetzka	Outward Bound
Maggie Matthews	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Michelle Dills	Family First
Missy Myers	Collaborating For Kids
Molly Cleek	Kids Only, Inc.
Rebecca Scholl	GoBabyGo of South Central Indiana
Sara Cummins	FUSE, Inc.
Sarah Bishop	First Steps South East, Office Manager
Whitney Austin	First Steps South East, SPOE Supervisor