Local Early Intervention System (LEIS) Meeting

Location(s): Spartanburg
Date: November 2024
Agenda:
Welcome and Introductions
Members Present:

SC Department of Public Health	Easterseals	Play Works
Prisma Health	Better Beginnings	Ahead Start
SCIMHA	Tiny Feet EI	I Shine LLC
About Play	South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind	Family Connections
Bright Start	Student Solutions	

Agenda Items:

Presentations

- Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Presentation; Tara Carroll, Program Manager of the First sound Program. Presentation about the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) process and opportunities to collaborate to improve the number of babies identified, who also receives Early Intervention services. Brochures about the program and process, were provided along with Tara's contact information (carroltp@dph.sc.gov).
- SC Infant Mental Health Association (SCIMHA) Presentation Katrin Wood: Endorsement & Training Manager. Presentation about SCIHMA memberships and endorsement benefits. Information was provided about trainings such as Facilitative Attuned Interactions (FAN) and Reflective Supervision. BabyNet providers can register for a cohort that launches January 16, 2025, for the opportunity to obtain their Infant Mental Health endorsement.

Demographic Updates

- If service coordinators receive a referral from BabyNet eligibility and the County is listed incorrectly, please be sure to send the correct information to babynet@scdhhs.gov.
- Service coordinators can update *Current LEA* on section 10 of the demographics screen on their own.

Record Closures

- **Foster Care** – If service coordinators are providing services for children in foster care and a child has received a different placement, you should not close the case. Please contact the child's caseworker to determine where the child is located. Once you are able to determine the placement, please contact the family and proceed with services. If the placement is outside of your service area, please proceed with transferring the record. If you are not able to get in contact with the caseworker, please reach out to "Trey" Koon, with DSS Lonnie.koon@dss.sc.gov.
- **Therapy Services & No FT** - If a family no longer wants to receive Family Training/Special Instruction but they still want to continue receiving therapy services, the record should not be closed. Instead, service coordinators should provide service coordination only, while therapy services continue.

Medicaid & BabyNet Issues

- Children who have Medicaid coverage can also receive BabyNet services. If you are serving a family who was told their child no longer has Medicaid because of BabyNet services, that is false information. Once you are notified about this issue, please escalate it to your regional coordinator and include the following information:
  - Child's BRIDGES ID
  - Parent's Name
  - What the family was told about their child's Medicaid coverage
- The issue will be escalated to Medicaid management, so they can investigate the issue. Once the regional coordinator receives an update, we will provide the service coordinator with that information. The service coordinator will proceed with following up with the family about their child's coverage.

Finalizing IFSP's-Dec 1 Count

- BabyNet State Office will be submitting Federal reporting for the December 1 count for 2024. The December 1 count will reflect the number of children who are currently receiving BabyNet services with active IFSP's.
- If service coordinators have children on their caseload who are 3 years old, or have records that should be closed, please be sure you have finalized the IFSP's, completed the exit COS, and closed the case. BabyNet State Office will begin reaching out to agencies regarding record closures for over 3 and active children.
    - Exit COS – if a child has received 6 months of services, you MUST enter an EXIT COS before you will be able to close the record.
        - If a family becomes unable to contact, and has received 6 months of services, this is when EXIT COS planning should begin. Be sure to send a PWN to let the family know the case will close if no response is received within 7 days. If the family does not reach out, service coordinators must work with therapy providers and utilize the most recent CBA to determine the child's EXIT COS.

Service Coordinators & Service Provider Updates

- **Service Log Entry**
    - Service coordinators and service providers must enter service logs within 7 days of providing a service. Service log entries are important for record reviews, data clean-ups, parent complaints, problem-solving billing errors and federal reporting.
    - If a child is enrolled in an MCO, service providers will still have to enter service logs in BRIDGES and proceed with billing directly to the MCO.
- **Hospice**
    - Therapy services for children who are receiving Hospice Care, should be listed in the Other Services section of the IFSP, not on planned services. Therapy providers will also contact the hospice coordinator for Medicaid hospice billing procedures.
- **Natural Environment-Service Fund Authorizations**
    - BabyNet services should be provided in the natural environment (home, daycare, etc.). If there are no natural environment service providers in the area and the service coordinator has exhausted all of their options, in clinic services will be temporarily granted. Service coordinators must continue to search for natural environment providers at least once a month and document.
    - A few providers will require service fund authorizations. Please reach out to your regional coordinator if you need a copy of the Service Fund Authorization. In addition, please ensure that services listed that are listed on the authorization, are BabyNet covered services.
    - Once the service fund authorization has been completed, please send it to babynet@scdhhs.gov and send a copy to the provider.
- **End of Year Submission-Billing**
    - Service Providers – Please be sure to submit and approve any pending claims by the end of December. Pending claims are located at the top portion of the accounts payable screen in BRIDGES.
    - If any claims are pending, due to a payor source error that needs to be corrected, please reach out to the service coordinator so that corrections can be made. Once corrections are made, service logs can be deleted and re-entered.

General Supervision

- **Findings Overview** – 10% sample of data for Indicators 1, 7 and 8C are submitted on September 1, 2024 , for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Service Coordinators were given one month to determine if the data was accurate, or if corrections needed to be made. Possible corrections: missing data, typos, errors, incorrect delay reasons, and missing service logs.
- **Indicator 1 – Timely Services** – Services will begin within 30 days of the identification of services listed on the IFSP. Total timeliness should be100%.
    - Examples of the services for Indicator 1 are Family Training, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, etc.
    - All seven districts received findings for Indicator 1.
        - **Anderson – 2**

        - Charleston – 12
        - Colleton – 2
        - Horry – 7
        - Richland – 6
        - **Spartanburg – 2**
        - York – 7
        - Previous Non-Compliance – all previous non-compliance was cleared prior to September 1, 2024, so no Corrective Action Plans (CAP) are required for Indicator 1.
- **Indicator 7 – Initial IFSP will be completed within 45 days of referral to BabyNet**.
    - 45-day timeline requirements are divided amongst BabyNet Eligibility & Ongoing Service Coordinators (SCDDSN & SCSDB). Total timeliness should be 100%.
    - Intake Coordinator has 25 days to process the referral, determine eligibility, and transfer the record to the SC.
    - Ongoing Service Coordinator has 20 days to complete the child and family assessments and conduct the initial IFSP meeting.
    - Findings can be attributed to BN Eligibility, ongoing SC's or the State (staffing shortages).
    - All 7 districts received findings for Indicator 7.
        - Anderson – 8
        - Charleston – 40
        - Colleton – 6
        - Horry – 24
        - Richland – 29
        - Spartanburg – 23
        - York – 8
    - The State (Intake Coordinators) experienced staffing shortages throughout FFY 2023, but implemented several strategies to improve the intake and eligibility timelines.
    - Due to the improvements, Indicator 7 compliance improved from 58.55% to 82.45%
    - All districts except Horry had previously cleared their findings. Horry is the only district with a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for longstanding non-compliance.
- **Indicator 8C –** Timely Transition Conferences
    - Timely transition conferences must occur when the child is between 2 years 3 months (27 months old) and 2 years 9 months (33 months old). Total Timeliness should be 100%
    - Two of the 7 districts received findings for Indicator 8C.
        - Charleston – 1
        - Richland – 2
        - **No Findings in Anderson or Spartanburg**
    - Previous Non-Compliance
        - All previous non-compliance was cleared prior to September 1, 2023 for Charleston, but Richland will be required to complete a CAP.
- **Verification of Correction Through Subsequent Data**
    - In January 2025, subsequent data reports will be run for Indicators 1, 7, 8C. We will analyze services, initial IFSP's and transition conferences due in November 2024.
    - If correction of the findings is found, the findings will be cleared.
    - All findings will be reported in the APR.
    - Correction is a 2-prong approach:
        - Prong 1 – although there was a finding, did the event eventually occur?
        - Prong 2 – Were there any additional findings? Need 100% to clear the finding.

Community Partner Updates

- **Transition Updates/LEA-Greenville County School District** has a New Child Find Specialist, Megan Lauritzen. Her email is mhlauritzen@greenville.k12.sc.us and phone number is 864-452-0121.
- Lisa Soenen-Prisma Health Developmental Pediatrics team provides evaluations, diagnosis and treatment for children with developmental, academic or behavioral difficulties. The behavioral health experts will be

implementing a pilot that will require more documentation to be submitted when sending a referral. Documentation such as the most recent IFSP, MCHAT, therapist recommendations, etc. The new criteria will serve as additional supportive documentation when understanding why a referral is being made.

Next LEIS Meeting: February 2025