

**State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Minutes
October 6, 2022 Meeting**

Members in Attendance

Dr. Kate McKinnon	PA Higher Education
Dr. Sadia Batool	Parent
Ms. Lisa Parker	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Dr. Kris Bowman	Provider / EIPA
Ms. Aleasha Redden-Revell	Delaware County Infant Toddler Early Intervention program
Ms. Lea Sheffield	PA Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Nancy Hill	School District
Dr. Michelle Reichard-Huff	PAIU
Ms. Joan Bradbury	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Ms. Jameekia Barnett	Department of Human Services, Office of Policy
Dr. Sandhya Iyengar	American Academy of Pediatrics
Ms. Naomi Galman	Parent
Ms. Wendy King	Head Start
Mr. Jason McCrea	Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health

Members Absent

Ms. Breanna Wilkerson	Department of Human Services/Office of Children's Health Insurance Program
Ms. Maria Dispenziere	Department of Human Services, Office of Legislative Affairs
Ms. Carmen Medina	PA Department of Education, Homelessness Initiative

Guests

Deb Daulton	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Kim Koteles	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Gina Federico	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Molly Martz	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Andrea Algatt	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Barb Clark	Crawford County EI
Susan Levi	The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers
Marlene Jennings	Lancaster County EI
Joy Polignano	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Tammy Shoff	Dauphin County EI
Kelly Fisher	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Karen Krise	Central IU 10
Jeana Novak	Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech
Jen Fischer	Families First
Staci Kenney	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Shakedia Morris-Wilcox	The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

Jan Baily	Lancaster County EI
Jennifer Stiefel	Early Intervention Specialists
Tammy Loprieato	Allegheny County EI
Katie Yost	The Arc of PA
Brooke Baran	Early Intervention Specialists
Mary Anketell	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Nichole Merz	TELI
Sydney DaLonzo	Head Start
Mercedes Fleet	Bright Little Scholars
Tiffany Thorpe	First Up/Parent
Michelle Dea	Little People's Village
Lauren Chambers	Greene County
Danielle Hagenbuch	Parent
Amanda Neidig	UCP Central PA
Sue Ann Boyles	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Michele Hawk	Westmoreland County EI
Jennifer Lax	Elwyn
Missi Williams	Armstrong Indiana BDHP
Britany Allison	Community Guidance Center
Heidi Allen	Parent
Nancy Stimson	The Arc Alliance Children's Services
Brittany Ball	Parent
Amy Fisher	The Arc Lancaster Lebanon
Mandra Wilson	Clearfield Jefferson EI
Dr. Lori Murtha	Beaver Valley IU 27
Jennifer Furness	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Amy Jacob	IU 9

Welcome and Introductions - Dr. Kate McKinnon welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked everyone to put their name in the chat box to be recorded for attendance. Dr. McKinnon congratulated Mary Mikus, Early Intervention Technical Assistance Consultant, on receiving the Family Award from the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) at their most recent conference. Ms. Mikus was nominated by Dr. Sadia Batool, SICC co-chair, and others.

Approval of the August Meeting Minutes – Dr. Kate McKinnon asked for any concerns or corrections for the August minutes to be put in the chat box. Seeing no corrections or concerns, the minutes were approved.

Family Story

Ms. Tiffany Thorpe of Philadelphia County shared her family story. Her daughter, Kendra, began receiving speech services through Early Intervention when she was 2-years-old. Ms. Thorpe shared how, although she is an early learning specialist and has worked in the field for over 20 years, she did find it overwhelming when her own daughter began to receive EI services and saw that the system can be challenging to navigate. However, she has become a great advocate for

Early Intervention and has appreciated the cohesiveness and collaboration that her family has experienced. While transitions to the preschool program and then to kindergarten were stressful, she notes that her team was tremendous in communicating and ensuring that her daughter successfully meets all of her goals. Ms. Thorpe also has greatly appreciated being able to participate in Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking Early Intervention (C2P2 EI) and Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D). She believes that many families can benefit from the experience and that the programs will help them to grow as parents and advocates.

Greene County Local Interagency Coordinating Council Presentation

Ms. Lauren Chambers, the Early Intervention Supervisor for Greene County, presented on the Green County LICC. Ms. Chambers shared that Greene County is in the process of rebuilding their LICC engagement, after the challenges of the pandemic. For in person meetings, the LICC has explored many ways of encouraging families to attend, such as gas gift cards, food, activities for children, and more. When the LICC has tried to hold virtual meetings, attendance was a challenge because stable internet access is limited in their rural county. The LICC is currently working to put together events that therapists and families can attend together to try and encourage engagement from both therapists and families and will hopefully experience more success as they continue to rebuild.

Recognition of Deputy Secretary Tracey Campanini

Dr. Kate McKinnon recognized Office of Child Development and Early Learning Deputy Secretary Tracey Campanini, who is retiring in October after over 30 years in public service. Deputy Secretary Campanini began her career working in Head Start in Center County and worked closely with Central Intermediate Unit's Early Intervention program. Deputy Secretary Campanini expressed her gratitude to all the Early Intervention leaders, professionals, and providers for their tireless efforts in serving children and families and wanted to ensure that their efforts do not go unnoticed. She noted these efforts have had a tremendous impact across the Commonwealth. Additionally, Deputy Secretary Campanini recognized the SICC's efforts, especially in lifting up family stories at each meeting. Finally, Ms. Lisa Parker thanked Tracey for her efforts and support over her many years with OCDEL, as well as in her years prior to joining OCDEL's executive leadership.

National Autism Conference Updates

Ms. Cherie Neely, Co-Director for the National Autism Conference Children's Institute, presented on the history of the Children's Institute, as well as successes from the past year. The National Autism Conference is presented by PaTTAN, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, in partnership with Penn State Outreach and the Penn State College of Education. The mission of the conference is to provide comprehensive, evidence-based information to assist educators, professionals, and families in supporting children with autism spectrum disorders. The Children's Institute offers an onsite, structured, fun environment for children and youth (six months through age 21) with autism and their siblings.

The Children's Institute has taken place since 2005 and grown over the years. Highlights of the Children's Institute include sensory activities, yoga, outside time, and a musical production created by the teenage attendees. Registration includes information on special dietary preferences, sensory needs, triggers, and calming strategies so that successful participation of all children can be ensured. It is a highlight of the Conference!

At this year's Conference, an Early Intervention Family Luncheon was also held. Children and families had the opportunity to create sensory toolkits, and professionals created toolkits to take home to families who were not in attendance. Families most enjoyed resources and connecting with other families at the luncheon. The planning team hopes to connect and engage with new P3D families at the next Conference.

Family Engagement Initiative Updates

Ms. Sarah Holland provided updates regarding Pennsylvania's family engagement initiatives. Prior to Ms. Holland's presentation, Dr. Sadia Batool recognized Fiona Patrick, the longtime Director of Parent to Parent, and congratulated her on her recent retirement. Ms. Holland has recently become the Director of Parent to Parent and Pennsylvania Family Engagement Initiatives. Ms. Holland shared that a small workgroup has formed to move forward recommendations that had been proposed following the LICC Parent Policy Forum that took place this summer. Ms. Holland shared that, in addition to Parent to Parent, C2P2 EI is now under the umbrella of OCDEL's family engagement initiatives, to integrate some of the family engagement efforts. C2P2 EI will begin in October in Gettysburg. The vision is to work together to support even more families in having access to the family engagement initiatives.

Departments of Human Services and Education, Office of Child Development and Early Learning Updates

Ms. Lisa Parker, Bureau Director, provided updates for the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Ms. Parker shared that the Infant Toddler Service Delivery Policy Forum was held last week at the Penn Stater and that it was incredibly successful in helping Infant Toddler EI leaders, families, and providers to come together and discuss how family-guided routines based interventions will look different from family to family, but will help to ensure all families have equitable access to high-quality experiences across the state.

Additionally, Ms. Parker shared that Pennsylvania was awarded a federal State Professional Development grant, Success for Pennsylvania Early Learners, by the Office of Special Education Programs, which will be aimed at supporting the most vulnerable young children with disabilities and will support the service delivery initiatives.

Committee for Stakeholder Engagement Update

Ms. Sue Zeiders had been on the agenda to provide an update but did not do so due to limited time. Ms. Zeiders provided the following update in writing. The first cohort of the preschool rollout of Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings is midway through the exploration phase and looking forward to beginning installation. Two key tasks of installation are

planning for collecting, managing, and using data, and creating and using an effective communication plan. The Committee for Stakeholder Engagement met today to provide suggested strategies for data management and for communication at the local and statewide levels. The experiences of infant toddler programs that are further in the process, combined with preschool programs' knowledge of their daily processes and various Early Childhood partners provided useful guidance about when and how to provide support and a few places where programs already have processes that will serve them well without additional support.

Senate Health and Human Services Committee Update

Ms. Joan Bradbury provided updates on behalf of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. There are a few bills that are in the Senate Aging and Youth Committee currently, but as we approach the end of a legislative session, they may need to be put forth again. Ms. Bradbury also reminded attendees that half of the Senate and the entire House of Representatives are up for reelection, as well as the Governor, so change is on the horizon. Ms. Bradbury's goal for the upcoming session is to think creatively about how some of the money that has come in from the opioid settlement could be used to support the youngest children who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic. Additionally, she hopes to engage family leaders in speaking with the Committee in the future.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Update

Dr. Sandhya lyengar provided updates on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She reminded everyone of the importance of regular well-child visits and keeping up with vaccinations, developmental screenings, fluoride varnish, and laboratory testing. Additionally, Dr. lyengar shared that, as adults are feeling high levels of stress and anxiety, that children will indirectly experience these emotions, too, so look for increases in moodiness, difficulty sleeping, and more and encourage sensory play, yoga, music, and offering kids choices whenever possible.

SICC- Hand-outs: <https://www.eita-pa.org/state-interagency-coordinating-council/>

Next Meeting Date and Time: December 1, 2022 at 12:30 pm

Meeting to adjourn – Dr. Kris Bowman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wendy King provided the second.