

State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Minutes
December 7, 2023 Meeting

Members in Attendance

Dr. Kate McKinnon	Higher Education
Dr. Sadia Batool	Parent
Dr. Lisa Parker	Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports
Dr. Kris Bowman	Provider / EIPA
Ms. Tia Thompson	Parent
Ms. Naomi Galman	Parent
Ms. Wenxi Schwab	Parent
Ms. Lea Sheffield	PA Developmental Disabilities Council
Mr. Jason McCrea	Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health
Ms. Tracy Duarte	Head Start
Dr. Michelle Reichard-Huff	Intermediate Unit Representative
Ms. Joan Bradbury	Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Dr. Sandhya Iyengar	American Academy of Pediatrics
Ms. Jamie Buchenauer	Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Dr. Michele Walsh	Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth, and Families
Ms. Ruby Martin	Bureau of Certification Services

Members Absent

Ms. Carmen Medina	Department of Education, Homelessness Initiative
Ms. Breanna Wilkerson	Department of Human Services, Office of Children's Health Insurance Program
Ms. Jameekia Barnett	Department of Human Services, Office of Policy

Guests

Deb Daulton	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Molly Martz	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Gina Federico	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Kim Koteles	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Mary Mikus	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Mary Anketell	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Sue Pasquariello	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Kelly Fisher	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Val Snyder	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Shelley Chapin	Early Intervention Technical Assistance/Parent to Parent of PA
Dr. Toni Miguel	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Deb Noel	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Caroline Bingaman	Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Janet Manolesdes	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Kevin Youngblood	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Jennifer Pusateri	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Christina Harris	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Wendy Tucker	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Mary Ann Pleva	Intermediate Unit 8
Susan Levi	The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers
Dr. Cathy Nelson	Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
Joyce Black	Cambria County
Kelsey Kinney	Behavior by Design
Marlene Jennings	Lancaster County
Tracy Bordelon	Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4
Dr. Emily Madigan	Pittsburgh Public Schools
Amy Reed	Cumberland Perry Counties
Roxann Emigh	Central Intermediate Unit 10
Nancy Stimson	The Arc Alliance
Jennifer Caylor	Early Intervention
Lynda Yordy	Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit 29
Mandy Kolb Lyons	Lancaster County
Jane Stadnik	PEAL Center
Riley Degelman	Pediatric Therapy Specialists
Jessica Nemeth	Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4
Jonathan Walter	Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
Jennifer Cecchetti	Forest/Warren Counties
Ashley Williams	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties
Linda Osorio	Berks County
Tara Korn	Allegheny County
Nichole Merz	Community Care Connections
Annie Smith	Strawberry Fields
Melissa Egan Kerr	Family Member
Traci Southern	Westmoreland Casemanagement and Supports
Lauren Stuparitz	Family Member
Crystal Horan	Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4
Stacey Trochek	The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers
Amy Markley	Huntingdon Mifflin and Juniata Counties
Barb Clark	Crawford County
Angela Somogyi	Community Services for Children
Jessica Confer	SAM Inc.
Jennifer Caylor	Clearfield Jefferson Counties
Jen Fischer	Philadelphia Interagency Coordinating Council
Tina Berthlotte	Fayette County
Tammy Delahunty	Allegheny County
Danielle Hagenbuch	Family Member
Sheila Stevenson	Centre County
Tammy Shoff	Dauphin County
Kellie Kline	Danville Child Development Center

Jill McDonald	Butler County
Rebecca Barker	Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4
Theresa Miller	HealthPro Pediatrics
Lisa Schneider	The Alliance
Bianca Enkulenko	Family Member
Ashlee Sydlik	Beaver County
Nichoal Hill	Tri-County Community Action Services

Welcome and Introductions – Gina Federico, Early Intervention Technical Assistance, introduced herself and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She asked everyone to put their name and agency in the chat box to be recorded for attendance.

Dr. Sadia Batool welcomed Ms. Wenxi Schwab, a newly appointed parent representative to the SICC. Ms. Schwab is from Indiana County and a mom of three children, one who has graduated from Early Intervention and one who is currently receiving Early Intervention services. Ms. Schwab is very happy to be here and looks forward to working with everyone.

Approval of the October Meeting Minutes – Dr. Kate McKinnon asked for any concerns or corrections for the October minutes to be placed in the chat box; none were expressed and the minutes were approved. The minutes for the October 5th meeting are posted on the SICC [padlet](#).

Family Story

Ms. Bianca Enkulenko, a parent from Lackawanna County, shared her family story. Ms. Enkulenko is a wife and the mother of two daughters, including a 3-year-old receiving Early Intervention services. Ms. Enkulenko's talked about her daughter's diagnose and services she received. Her daughter is now thriving in a local preschool program. One concern Ms. Enkulenko express about her Early Intervention services was the multiple providers, as her daughter had 3 in less than 3 years. Ms. Enkulenko indicated she was grateful for the parent leadership programs and having had the opportunity to present at the Great Start conference and also to attend the DEC Conference. She enjoys connecting with other families and sharing her experience and is proud to live in Pennsylvania because of how great her Early Intervention experience was.

Following Ms. Enkulenko's family story, Ms. Tia Thompson asked questions regarding Ms. Enkulenko's daughter's teacher and Ms. Joan Bradbury commented on the importance of rural hospitals and the disparity in practitioners and services available in rural areas as compared to urban or suburban areas.

Local Interagency Coordinating Council Presentation

Ms. Joyce Black, Cambria County Early Intervention Infant/Toddler Director, and Ms. Mary Ann Pleva, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 Early Intervention Special Education Supervisor, presented on the Cambria County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC). Ms. Black and Ms. Pleva discussed the LICC meeting schedule and format, to the creation of a parent resource book And

their future goals to update the LICC website, and create a transition video to share with families.

Ms. Joan Bradbury commented on the importance of independent, rural hospitals and how they make referrals to Early Intervention. Dr. Kate McKinnon also commented on the importance of local connections in rural areas and taking advantage of those.

Senate Health and Human Services Committee Updates

Ms. Joan Bradbury provided updates on behalf of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. She indicated the state budget for this fiscal year is still ongoing. The Governor will present the 2024-2025 budget on February 6, 2024. As a reminder, [those enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP are now required to renew their coverage each year. Act 32 of 2023 Senate Bill 500](#) was recently enacted, which requires Medicaid to reimburse for donor milk. Finally, Ms. Bradbury shared that DHS is offering targeted supports and services to certain Pennsylvanians through [Bridges to Success: Keystones of Health for Pennsylvania](#). The Keystones of Health recognize that social determinants of health can be more influential on a person's health and quality of life than clinical care.

Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office (PA HSSCO) Update

Ms. Tracy Duarte, the Director of the PA HSSCO, provided updates on behalf of the office. Ms. Duarte clarified the role of HSSCO, which includes assisting in system-building effort, encouraging collaboration between Head Start and other programs and initiatives, and facilitating the involvement of Head Start in policy planning. Priorities for HSSCO include services to children experiencing homelessness, services to children with disabilities, health services, family engagement, and more. Currently HSSCO is partnering with the Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports to collaborate more thoroughly at the local level, including updating Memorandums of Understanding, holding webinars, and doing a deep dive into data. For more information on HSSCO, please review Ms. Duarte's presentation on the [SICC padlet](#).

Dr. Kris Bowman commented on the importance of ECMH/IMH (early childhood mental health/infant mental health) and the intersection with Early Intervention. Dr. Michelle Reichard-Huff commented that more consistency on the language used between ECMH/IMH, EI, and HS would be helpful for families accessing both systems.

Office of Child Development and Early Learning Update

Ms. Lisa Parker, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports (BEISFS) provided updates on behalf of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

Ms. Parker began her update by welcoming two new SICC members, Ms. Jamie Buchenauer from the Office of Medical Assistance Programs, and Dr. Michele Walsh from the Office of Children, Youth, and Families.

Key updates that Ms. Parker shared include that the new Child Care Works regulations go into effect on Saturday, December 16th. In addition to the Federal Office of Special Education monitoring taking place in 2025, federal monitoring is taking place for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs and from the Office of Child Care in March of 2024. Ms. Parker also mentioned that an updated federal policy statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs was released and encouraged everyone to review it.

Ms. Parker also shared that SICC co-chair Dr. Sadia Batool has joined the National State Advisory Panels (SAP) and SICC workgroup. Ms. Luz Hernandez from HUNE is also representing Pennsylvania in the workgroup.

The 2024 Early Intervention Family Survey kickoff webinar will take place on January 29th from 1-2 pm.

Ms. Parker shared that an Infant/Toddler Early Intervention rate study started in July of 2023.

Finally, Ms. Parker announced that nominations are now being accepted for the [2023 Ron Cowell Award Excellence in Service to Young Children with Disabilities and their Families](#). The award will be presented at the April 4th SICC meeting.

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) for 2024 Update

The SPP/APR update was postponed due to technical issues. Updates will be provided at the February 1st SICC meeting.

Update on Prevention of Seasonal Illnesses

Dr. Sandhya Iyengar provided updates on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding how to prevent and respond to seasonal illnesses. Dr. Iyengar shared a symptom checker from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia that explains when a doctor visit is required and what steps can be taken at home. Additionally, she encouraged families to get vaccinated, stock their medicine cabinet, and diligently wash hands.

Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Conference Update

Dr. Sadia Batool, Ms. Tia Thompson, and Ms. Melissa Egan Kerr provided updates on the recent DEC Conference that they attended. Ms. Thompson shared, what she appreciated most about the conference, and how family voices are very valued. She was proud to co-present with Dr. Toni Miguel from EITA and to share her perspective on suspensions and expulsions in early childhood settings. Both Ms. Thompson and Ms. Egan Kerr appreciated getting to connect with other families and learn more about broader structural challenges facing the early learning system as a whole. Ms. Egan Kerr returned home excited to implement strategies that she heard about in sessions, including starting a playgroup for AAC users in their community.

Open Forum

No updates were provided during the open forum portion of the agenda.

SICC Handouts: The materials from this meeting are available on the [padlet](#).

Next Meeting Date and Time: February 1, 2024, at 12:30 pm.

Meeting to adjourn: Mr. Jason McCrea motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Kate McKinnon provided the second.