

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
Quick Notes
November 4, 2021

Action Items:

- ▶The MICC elected two new members to the Executive Committee. Andrea Caron is the secretary and Prachi Shah is a member at large.
- ▶The MICC voted to accept data for the Annual Performance Report (APR) to be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), February 1, 2022.
- ▶The MICC approved the recommended APR targets from the Data Ad Hoc Committee through Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025.

Presentations:

▶Staff from the Office of Innovative Projects (OIP) at Clinton County RESA gave a presentation about the work they are doing to support the *Early On* field. Their three projects include:

- *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA)
- *Early On* Public Awareness
- *Early On* Center for Higher Education

They spoke about each project and where they are headed for 2022. OIP provided many supports to the field during the pandemic, including:

- Providing communication through guidance, memos, and the latest information regarding COVID on their website,
- Hosting weekly TeleTuesday webinars for service providers which are now *Early On* and Preschool Special Education combined webinars,
- Shared professional development related to tele-intervention,
- Brought in experts to host learning series through Zoom,
- Focused on completing evaluations and assessments remotely,
- Continued providing and updating online modules related to training and learning; and
- Updated software to send and receive referrals without the need to print.

November 10-12, 2021, is the Virtual *Early On* Conference: Strong Foundations for Early Intervention, and 952 people have registered.

A [promotional video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLqn2sotvgM) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLqn2sotvgM>) emphasizing that *Early On* is still open was developed and shared.

A Caregiver Coaching Cohort is coming soon and funded by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five. Through this partnership 30 master mentor coaches will be developed to support child care providers in caring for and including children with IFSPs and IEPs.

Updates:

Established Conditions List

Section 8 of the Established Conditions list has been updated, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), to reflect a change in the venous blood lead level from 5 µg/dL to 3.5 µg/dL. The updated Established Conditions list will be shared with the MICC.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Within the SSIP Implementation Cohort, the 12 service areas are expanding the number of service providers implementing the e-DECA and using the social emotional developmental wheels with children and families. The fourth quarter of e-DECA fidelity checklists are being completed at this time and data will be reviewed to ensure progress is being made.

The SSIP leads continue to meet monthly during the Community of Practice calls with Mary Mackrain, Kelly Hurshe, and Barb Schinderle to talk about bright spots and pain

points. In addition, office hours are being offered monthly for deeper questions and technical assistance.

Six service areas were selected to be part of the SSIP Implementation Cohort 2. The welcome call will take place in November, and they will begin with Pyramid Model trainings, e-DECA trainings, and be introduced to the social emotional wheels.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant

In August of 2021, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services was awarded an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant from the federal Health Resource Services Administration. The purpose of this five-year project (2021-2026) is to foster the development and integration of maternal and early childhood systems of care that are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive of the health system.

Starting in January 2022, this grant will begin hosting an Advisory Council, which will invite five family leaders who have experience navigating health and education services prenatally through the first 18 months of their child’s life. They will also be seeking a family co-chair to lead this advisory. There will be an application process released soon that can be shared with families. If you know of someone who might be interested, please feel free to share broadly. Each family member will be asked to serve for a two-year term. Additional details will be available with the application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Synthia Britton at brittons@michigan.gov.

Early On Referral Data

During the pandemic in 2020, the number of *Early On* referrals declined. The following chart shows an uptick in referrals through October 8, 2021.

Early On Public Awareness referrals

	2019	2020	2021
March	1,678	987	1,728
April	1,563	505	1,679
May	1,631	805	1,493
Jun	1,332	1,190	1,596
Jul	1,460	1,266	1,661
August	1,551	1,293	1,632
September	1,633	1,403	1,700
October	1,725	1,490	642 as of Oct. 8, 21
TOTALS	12,573	8,939	12,313

Preschool Inclusion

The Statewide Preschool Inclusion Work Group under the co-sponsorship of Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht. and Preschool Special Education Coordinator, Lisa Wasacz, commenced its first meeting March 3, 2021. The Inclusion Work Group consists of members of the Core Planning Team, members from the Preschool State Leadership Team, and various other local education agency and intermediate school district personnel representing both special and general education perspectives, for a total of 55 different voices present in this work. This work embarked on conversation and thinking outside of the box when it comes to inclusive opportunities for children across the state.

This is process driven work that first focuses on a vision of preschool inclusion which then moves into discussion around barriers and concludes with action steps. This is an ongoing process, and the State Inclusion Workgroup met via online a few times a month while completing asynchronous activities outside of the meetings.

The work of this group resulted in a draft version of the Preschool Inclusion Collaborative Action Plan. This draft was sent to seven external reviewers for their insight into the work.

The comments and recommendations from the external reviewers resulted in updates to the original version.

The plan reflects the contributions and wisdom of many stakeholders representing a variety of perspectives from across the state. It was co-constructed utilizing a rigorous, democratic process in which every voice was equal.

Nine ideal features of a high-quality, comprehensive, and equitable preschool system for all children, with emphasis on full inclusion of children with disabilities, were identified through a robust, collaborative process:

*INCLUSIVE MINDSETS AND SHARED VALUES

*FREE, UNIVERSAL, AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE, HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SETTINGS

*COLLABORATIVE TEAMS

*SUPPORTIVE POLICIES

*AUTHENTIC FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

*COHESIVE CONTINUUM OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT

*VALUED WORKFORCE

*ALIGNED, EQUITABLE, FULLY FUNDED, AND RESOURCED SYSTEM

*COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

As this work continues and finalizes, additional updates will be provided to the MICC.

2022 MICC Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Quick Notes are submitted by Barb Schinderle, MICC Staff Liaison for MDE/Office of Great Start. For more information regarding any of the meeting items, please contact Barb at schinderleb@michigan.gov.