

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
***Early On*[®] Michigan**
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48909
State Board of Education Room, 4th Floor
Thursday, May 2, 2019

Minutes

Members Present: Barbara Corbin, Reneé DeMars-Johnson,
Kristina Donaldson, Melissa Epstein, Jen Forsthoff,
Judy Goth-Owens, Cheryl Granzo, Rachel Harmon,
Paula Johnson, Tiffany Kostelec, Amy Miilu, Karin Nanos,
Nolana Nobles Bandy, Stephanie Peters

Members Absent: Ann Blankenhorn, Andrea Caron, Laura McKechnie,
Prachi Shah

Alternates Present: Amy Brauer, Esther Combs, Kae Dubay

Staff Present: Synthia Britton, Laura Goldthwait, Cheryl Najm,
Colleen O'Connor, Barb Schinderle, Meghan Schmelzer,
Carrie Tarry

Grantees Present: *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance:
Christy Callahan, Allan Knapp, and
Nancy Surbrook Goins
Michigan Alliance for Families
Clare Brick

Guests: Haley Buckmaster, Beth Kennedy, Amanda Schneider,
Meghan Shepard, Karen Wisinski

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Barbara Corbin called the meeting to order at
9:30 a.m.

Introductions: Introductions were made, and everyone was welcomed.

Approval of Minutes:

**A motion was made by Judy Goth-Owens and supported by Tiffany Kostelec
to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.**

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Stephanie Peters and supported by Paula Johnson to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

"Worth Mentioning:"

A recommendation came from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) to start each MICC meeting with an activity that keeps children and families at the heart of what we do, helps the MICC members, alternates, grantees, and staff get to know each other better, and allows others to understand the different perspectives that make up the MICC.

Jen Forsthoff is from Fenton, Michigan in Genesee County. She works part time at Cornerstone Church where her husband is the pastor and they have three children; Charlotte, Owen, and Norah. Jen also taught school in elementary education. Jen shared the book she wrote after her daughter, Charlotte, was born with Down syndrome called, "Chosen for Charlie." She shared how she believes she was gifted with being Charlie's mom and that grief was replaced with hope and determination. She does a lot of volunteer work and feels that one of her callings is to bring hope to other parents.

Paula Johnson is an Occupational Therapist at Ingham Intermediate School District (ISD). She has been in the field for 34 years and has three grown children. She enjoyed the journey with her own children as well as those she's worked with over the years. She realizes how important the family piece is. Paula saw a need for a more natural approach and began learning about naturopathy. She wrote a book called "Nature's Child" which is her passion. Paula owns a naturopathic business where she provides consults for children and families. She also consults with her team about naturopathy and speaks in the community around this topic.

Updates:

Celena Barnes Family Inspiration Leadership Award

The PIC is seeking nominations for an outstanding parent to receive the Celena Barnes Family Inspiration Leadership Award. Nomination packets are due to Barb Schinderle by May 24, 2019. The recipient will receive the award at the *Early On* Conference, November 13-14, 2019. MICC members are asked to nominate an amazing parent leader.

LICC Family Engagement Webinars

The LICC Family Engagement Initiative was created to increase communication between state and local parent leaders involved in *Early On* so that information, resources, and leadership opportunities can be shared. This fiscal year, the PIC hosted three webinars and topics included:

- The LICC Handbook and Resources
- Skills for Effective Advocacy

- Steward Leadership

The fourth webinar is May 9 and participants will learn how to develop a personal mission statement.

Preschool Development Grant (PDG) B-5

The Office of Great Start (OGS) is working on building the PDG B-5 administrative team. Requests for Proposals (RFP) were posted for contractors to perform the Needs Assessment of the early childhood mixed delivery system, Strategic Plan, and Evaluation of the PDG B-5 activities. The Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan RFPs closed on April 15 and proposals are being scored by reviewers. There were four bids for the Needs Assessment and nine for the Strategic Plan. The Evaluation RFP bid period closed on April 19.

OGS is collecting existing Needs Assessments that inform parts of the mixed delivery early childhood system—we would like to supply the contractor with existing needs assessments on which they can build so they can “hit the ground running” as well as any data sets that can be shared.

These activities will require broad stakeholder engagement at the local/community and regional level (likely via group convenings, focus groups, surveys, etc.) and also for us to collaborate across the early childhood system to gather stakeholder feedback to better inform the work and improve systems and services for children and their families.

Activities 3 & 4 focus on family engagement, communications with families, early literacy, transitions between services and programs, and enhancing connections between state systems, regions, and local communities.

The first two RFPs are ready to be posted for Activity 3. These consist of communications work to (1) implement a new initiative (called Steps) created with Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) funds and assist the state systems teams with creating a long-term communications strategy to help benefit children and families, and (2) create a prioritized inventory of local, regional, or state-level communications about the early childhood mixed delivery system and the unmet linguistic and cultural needs for those communications and begin the process of addressing those needs. This work will need to be collaboratively done and, in some ways, led by the local and regional entities and will include additional stakeholder engagement.

OGS looks forward to awarding all of these contracts and beginning to strengthen collaboration between all areas of the early childhood mixed delivery system.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Part C Monitoring

Program Monitoring-Pursuant to the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) §§ 303.700 and 303.120(a), as part of State monitoring and enforcement, the OGS/Early Childhood Development and Family Education (OGS/ECD&FE) must ensure that the requirements of the IDEA are carried out and that each early intervention provider for children with disabilities meets the State’s early

intervention standards. It must review policies, procedures, and practices related to the provision of early intervention services for children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). *Early On* will be conducting General Supervision Monitoring visits May-June 2019 of five ISDs. ISDs will be notified by their MDE consultant and through the May 15 Catamaran Release.

Annual Performance Report (APR), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Clarification Week

OSEP gives states two weeks to provide clarification related to APR Indicators 1-10. OSEP reviewed Michigan's Part C APR and found very minor clarification was needed. The State Systemic Improvement Plan Indicator 11 feedback will be shared in the summer.

Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI) Planning Grant

PCI announced the winners of Planning Grants under its Prenatal-to-Age-Three (PN-3) State Grant Competition, a significant and critical part of PCI's strategy aimed at expanding high-quality services nationally to at least one million more low-income families with infants and toddlers by 2023.

PCI developed this grant competition to identify and empower states with a strategic, actionable vision for supporting healthy child development of infants and toddlers. The states chosen to receive the grant presented bold and innovative ideas to put this country's youngest children on a path for future success in school and life. States awarded grants are Arkansas, District of Columbia, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Recipients of the grants have each been awarded \$100,000 to establish a coalition of state- and community-level partners inside and outside government to develop an ambitious prenatal-to-three policy agenda and action plan, focused on expanding access to high-quality programs designed to support children's healthy development and build a strong foundation for future learning. These Planning Grant recipients will also be eligible for Implementation Grants based on the quality of the plan they develop over the next six to nine months.

Michigan will participate in upcoming grant webinars that will include presentations by the Harvard Center on the Developing Child as to key approaches we should consider in our policy agenda development to assure that we develop a PN-3 system that will achieve the child outcomes we want.

ECIC is serving as the facilitator for this planning initiative and Holly Wingard will serve as ECIC's main point of contact for coalition members.

Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF):

Clare Brick is a parent mentor for MAF in Wayne County. She is also the *Early On* liaison to MAF and has been focusing on supporting families in *Early On*. Clare shared that all staff at MAF are parents of children with special needs. Clare's son with Down syndrome was in *Early On* and is now 13 years old. Clare feels like she

knows more about *Early On* now than when her family was in *Early On* and enjoys sharing her knowledge and support with other families.

Clare walked the Council through the MAF website, <https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org> and passed out a brochure. There are numerous topics in which they provide face-to-face trainings as well as recorded webinars. The webinars are shorter than an hour and are free.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP):

The SSIP report was submitted to OSEP April 1, 2019, and feedback will be shared with the *Early On* team this summer. This is the last year of the SSIP under the current reporting template. The pilot sites are continuing to implement and evaluate activities, which include:

- CSEFEL training series
- eDECA-I/T ongoing training and implementation
- Phase III SSIP Survey
- Key Informant Interviews conducted by the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)
- Integrating the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) into the *Early On* process
- Infrastructure changes involving committee restructuring
- Data improvements, including Chase reports
- Social Media Platform
- Social Emotional Wheels
- Family Survey with additional social emotional questions

The State Coordination and Evaluation Committee is working with the pilot Coordinators to map the activities and determine which activities were most successful and will be scaled up.

Barb Schinderle and Nancy Surbrook Goins will attend the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) State Leads meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, May 29-30. This is the final meeting with NCSI, and they'll be giving a state presentation around Michigan's SSIP successes and lessons learned as well as bringing back information to share.

Fiscal Ad Hoc Update:

Reneé DeMars-Johnson shared that MDE received the "Equity and Access for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families" report approved by the MICC in February. MDE is reviewing the content and preparing a response around the fiscal implications in the report. The response will be shared with MDE's leadership in June.

Hearing and Vision Training Update:

Hearing and vision equipment was purchased for local service areas using Race to the Top funds. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will provide in-person training on how to use the hearing and vision screeners. Synthia Britton is taking the lead and inquiring with the service areas to determine the number of staff in need of training. The trainings will be provided regionally and possibly at the

Early On conference in November. The hearing equipment has been distributed, but the vision equipment has not.

Jane Scandary Award Recipient:

The Jane Scandary Award for Excellence in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education is an annual award honoring an outstanding Michigan professional for contributions to the field of Early Intervention or Early Childhood Special Education or an individual who has made major and significant contributions to young children with special needs and their families in the State of Michigan. At the Michigan Division for Early Childhood conference in April, Cheryl Granzo received this prestigious award.

The MICC congratulated her and thanked her for her work in *Early On* with children and families.

Public Comment:

Kristina Donaldson reminded the Council to nominate a parent for the Celena Barnes Family Inspiration Leadership Award.

Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion carried.