

**Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
Quick Notes
December 5, 2024**

Action Items:

The MICC voted to accept the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) prepared by MiLEAP with the data as the MICC required annual report to the Governor and the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Updates:

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Over the next several months, the work of the SSIP is going to change direction. Rather than starting a fifth cohort of new service areas this fall, the team decided to:

- Offer Pyramid Model training and Parent Child Interaction Observation (PCIO) training to the 25 service areas who have not yet participated in an SSIP cohort. These trainings will be conducted by Mary Mackrain and will be offered in the spring and fall of 2025.
- Three workgroups (Workforce, Families, and State Level Activities) formed as a result of the Root Cause Analysis. The workgroups will meet over the next several months and provide recommendations around new activities to implement with the next cohort, with the purpose of improving social emotional outcomes.
- Continue supporting the 31 service areas who have participated in the SSIP cohorts. This will include monthly Community of Practice (CoP) calls with cohort 4 leads, and CoPs three times a year with cohorts 1, 2, and 3. Office hours are provided monthly for all, and technical assistance is provided as needed to all.

MICC Membership

An appointment and reappointments have been made to the MICC for four-year terms expiring on October 31, 2028.

- Monica Gaines, Wayne County, reappointed to represent other individuals selected by the Governor
- Tami Mannes, Ottawa County, reappointed to represent public or private providers of early intervention services
- Lindsay Galicki, Jackson County, appointed to represent public or private providers of early intervention services

Recap of the *Early On* Conference

The statewide *Early On* Conference, held November 12-14 in Traverse City, set a record with over 850 conference participants, 470 pre-conference attendees, nine pre-conference sessions, 39 conference sessions, two keynotes, two award presentations, 20+ vendors, posters, and a record-breaking silent auction. The theme, "Ripples to Waves," featured topics on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Coaching, Preschool Inclusion, and more. Colleagues from far and near presented informative and inspiring sessions to support Michigan early intervention professionals who work with babies and their families. The next conference is planned for November 2026.

Mission Vision and Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee

The first meeting of the Mission, Vision and Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee will take place Tuesday, January 7, 2025 from 10:30-12:00.

Members include Jen Champagne, Nikki Hamp, Kelly Hurshe, Jenny Koenigsnecht, Irma Lopez-Barajas, Salina Mann, Victoria Martinez, Barb Schinderle, Cara Sutcliffe, LaSean Thompson, Janet Timbs, and Charron Williams.

General Supervision Monitoring for *Early On*

When the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) monitored Michigan's early intervention program, they issued a finding for not monitoring Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) for the implementation of Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Specifically, we are required to monitor whether ISDs are implementing IFSPs as written relative to the frequency, intensity, length, method, and duration of services. The *Early On* office monitored four ISDs in the fall of 2023 and six ISDs in the fall of 2024. Another six ISDs will be monitored in winter/spring of 2025. We must monitor all 56 ISDs over a six-year period which means we need to monitor 10-12 ISDs each year for the next five years.

We are seeing trends with how IFSPs are developed specifically for children who are eligible for special education in addition to early intervention services. Some vendors of electronic IFSP systems have created a process which displays duplicative services for special education and early intervention services. This can be misleading for families. The *Early On* office is meeting with vendors to try and mitigate the issue. We are also seeing confusion with how play groups are utilized for providing services. As a result, *Early On* will be developing guidance for the use of play groups as a location for providing services. Lastly, we are seeing a few instances where the frequency or length of services are provided at a rate less than or over what was written in the IFSPs. If the frequency or length of services provided is less than what was written in the IFSP, the district is issued a finding with compensatory services. If it is over, the district is issued a finding, and they must review/revise procedures to ensure providers are delivering services as written or they are holding periodic reviews to adjust services as appropriate for the child and family.

Presentations:

SPP/APR

The MiLEAP *Early On* State Team shared data for Indicators 1-11 from FFY 2023-24.

1. Timely Provision of Service – Compliance
2. Services in Natural Environments – Result
3. Early Child Outcomes – Result
4. Family Involvement – Result
5. Child Find, Birth to 1 – Result
6. Child Find, Birth to 3 – Result
7. 45-Day Timeline – Compliance
8. Early Childhood Transition – Compliance
9. Resolution Sessions – Result
10. Mediation – Result
11. State Systemic Improvement Plan – Result
12. General Supervision (NEW) - Compliance

Equity Work in *Early On*

At the May and September MICC meetings, members learned about the Examination of the Michigan Part C System Through the Lens of DEI which was conducted by Wayne State University in partnership with Clinton County RESA, Office of Innovative Projects. The purpose of the study was to examine gaps, strengths, and barriers to DEI in the *Early On* system in order to develop action plans and implement strategies to assist local areas to close the gaps in DEI.

The theme that emerged was that African American/Black children and families did not benefit from *Early On* at as high of a rate as White families. Some of the areas include:

- The *Early On* system completed statistically significantly fewer initial IFSP meetings with families who are African American/Black when compared to other groups.
- African American children received fewer *Early On* services, both in terms of frequency and length of services, when compared to White or Asian children.

- African American families perceived significantly lower levels of service provider’s helpfulness compared to White families.
- African American families report experiencing lower levels of positive family impact as a result of their participation in *Early On*, when compared to White families.
- Positive child outcomes for African American children are consistently lower, compared to White families.

Since the September meeting, the state has been working to close the gaps and the following activities have taken place:

- ❖ Roll Out Plan- statewide webinar held October 31, 2024.
- ❖ Equity in *Early On* conversations November 21 & 25, 2024.
- ❖ Paul Elam and Barb Schinderle held a Pre-Day session at the *Early On* Conference. During this session, participants shared ideas for closing the gaps and these suggestions will be reviewed by the state team. Jen Champagne and Barb Schinderle will meet December 16, 2024 to plan for a larger meeting with the team.
- ❖ LaSean Thompson and Barb Schinderle hosted a Poster Session at the *Early On* Conference around the DEI data findings.
- ❖ The Essentials of *Early On*, sixth module on culturally responsive practices in *Early On*, including but not limited to, the topic of implicit bias will be launched in January.
- ❖ The DEI Data Dashboard- CEPI hosted a demo and is making a few slight edits.
- ❖ The EOT&TA team has started examining the Diversity Informed Tenets of Infant Mental Health and how the tenets related to training, technical assistance, self-awareness, and interactions with others.
- ❖ There is a strong commitment for advancing equity embedded within the Public Awareness work.

The group engaged in a discussion around other potential causes for the gaps and actions they could take.

2025 MICC Meeting Dates:

February 27, 2025

May 22, 2025

September 11, 2025

December 4, 2025

Quick Notes are submitted by Barb Schinderle, MICC staff liaison. For more information regarding any of the meeting items, please contact Barb at schinderleb@michigan.gov.