

**Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
Quick Notes
September 26, 2024**

Action Items:

- ▶ The MICC meeting dates for 2025 were approved and are: February 27, May 22, September 11, and December 4.
- ▶ MICC members charged the Mission/Vision and Bylaw Reviews Ad Hoc Committee with updating the *Early On* and MICC mission and vision statements to include a piece around equity. The ad hoc committee will also update the MICC bylaws, which were last revised in 2021.

Updates:

Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP)

As of July 1, the *Early On* grant is fully at MiLEAP. The infrastructure is still being built; however, new leadership is in place at MiLEAP.

Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea is the director of MiLEAP. She previously served as the president of Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, where she was the first female and first African American president in the college's history. She is a national leader in education policy and will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to MiLEAP.

Dr. Sophia Lafayette-Lause is the director of Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), Early Childhood Special Education, and Family Services. She previously served as the executive director of early childhood at Wayne RESA.

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 offered in the spring and fall of 2025.
- Three workgroups (Workforce, Families, and State Level Activities) were 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 cohorts and technical assistance is provided as needed.

MICC Membership

New appointments and reappointments have been made for three-year terms expiring in October 2027.

- Lisa Perugi, Wayne County, reappointed as chairperson and to represent public or private providers of early intervention services
- Tori McIntosh, Oakland County, reappointed to represent parents of infants or toddlers with disabilities
- LaShorage Shaffer, Oakland County, appointed to represent individuals involved in personnel preparation
- Nicole Hamp, Washtenaw County, appointed to represent other individuals selected by the governor

On November 1, 2024, the MICC will have two additional openings for:

- One individual representing public or private providers of early intervention services
- One legislative representative

Early On Conference

The *Early On* conference, Ripples to Waves: The Power of Early Intervention will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. The preconference date is November 12, 2024, and the conference is November 13-14, 2024. Registration is now closed with 850 people registered for the conference and 500 registered for the pre-day conference. There is a waiting list.

Preconference: <https://eotta.ccrea.org/Event.php?id=4810>

Register for the conference: <https://eotta.ccrea.org/Event.php?id=4811>

Michigan State Plan

The Michigan State Plan is being updated and restructured so that all the policies can be pulled out separately. The reasoning for this is so when one policy needs updating, the whole State Plan doesn't have to be rewritten. Janet would like input from the Council prior to it going out for public comment.

Presentations:

At the May MICC meeting, members learned about the Examination of the Michigan Part C System Through the Lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) which was conducted by Wayne State University, in partnership with Clinton County RESA (CCRESA), 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 service areas to close the gaps in DEI.

Existing data were analyzed and a focus group and survey were completed to learn from families who chose not to participate or left *Early On* after six months or less of service.

Gaps and barriers were discovered around race/ethnicity, income level, and geographic regions of the state for the following areas:

- initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings
- frequency of services
- length of services
- perceived helpfulness of service provider
- family outcomes
- child outcomes

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 May meeting, the state has been working to close the gaps and the following activities have taken place.

- ❖ Roll out plan- statewide webinar
- ❖ Pre-day session at the *Early On* conference and possibly a poster session
- ❖ 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 at the *Early On* conference.
- ❖ The DEI data dashboard- the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) has all the data needed and is working to have the dashboard completed in the next two weeks.
- ❖ The EOT&TA team has started examining the Diversity Informed Tenets of Infant Mental Health and how the tenets relate 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.

2024 MICC Meeting Dates:

December 5

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.