

MICC Quick Notes February 27, 2025

Action Items:

The MICC voted to support the Executive Committee's action, on behalf of the MICC, in drafting a letter of support for the Michigan Alliance for Families' application for the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) grant.

Updates:

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Three workgroups are meeting to prioritize activities generated during the Root Cause Analysis.

- State Level Activities Workgroup: The focus is on supporting all local service areas to understand and use their child outcome and reporting rate data more efficiently.
- Workforce Workgroup: Strategizing to prioritize activities around professional development, in a non-judgmental way to increase competence and confidence in providers and increase connection and trust with families.
- Families Workgroup: Looking at how to improve education for parents around the importance of social emotional health as well as considering the mental health issues parents have that are not being addressed.

Pyramid Model trainings consist of five modules and will be offered twice in 2025:

Option 1: April 22, 29 and May 13, 19, 27 from 2:00-3:15 pm

Option 2: September 8, 15, 22, 29 and October 6 from 2:00-3:15 pm

Parent Child Interaction Observation trainings will be offered twice in 2025:

Option 1: (2 sessions) - March 4 & 6 from 10:00-11:15 am each session

Option 2: (1 longer session) - September 9 from 9:30-12:00 pm

MICC Membership

Nancy Green was appointed to represent the Michigan Legislature, replacing Joe Clark, for a four-year term, expiring October 31, 2028.

Early On Family Survey

Wayne State University (WSU) will be conducting the annual *Early On* family survey on behalf of the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) for all families participating in *Early On*. Last year, all targets were met and the response rate increased. The data represent the state Part C population well in terms of children's gender, eligibility, and geographic location. However, African American/Black children and Hispanic/Latino children were statistically significantly under-represented and White children were over-represented in the respondent group. In addition, children of 2 to 3 years of age were under-represented in the respondent group.

The timeline for the family survey is:

February: An email is sent to *Early On* coordinators with PowerPoint slides containing child and family outcome data. In addition, a letter is sent with the survey deployment timeline and a request for verifying contact information for families. MICC parents created a flyer to promote the family survey, which is distributed widely to listservs and websites.

March: Pamphlets are mailed to families notifying them the survey is coming and sharing last year's data.

April: Surveys are sent to families.

The survey collection remains open through August/September and WSU continues with outreach to families utilizing a variety of modalities (phone, email, and mail).

November/December: Survey results are analyzed and shared with MiLEAP.

Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Manual

In January of this year, MiLEAP's division of Early Learning and Family Supports, in collaboration with the Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (CCRESA) Office of Innovative Projects, released the revised Michigan Birth through Five Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Process Manual. It is a comprehensive reference for understanding both the purpose and process of child outcomes ratings. We are excited to have this new resource for improving early childhood outcomes.

The manual contains many updates and numerous tools to help families and practitioners arrive at accurate entry and exit outcome ratings for children participating in *Early On*. The manual both reinforces the importance of family partnership and the need to view each child's strengths and needs through the perspective of having and developing skills that are meaningful.

As part of federal reporting requirements Michigan annually reports its results on early childhood outcomes. The manual is designed to inform and refine this work as well as reinforce the work that the MICC is doing associated with the SSIP on social emotional wellbeing.

Presentations:

Early On and Medicaid School Services Program

During its monitoring of Michigan Part C, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) identified an area for improvement in optimizing the use of federal funds through Medicaid. In response, Colleen O'Connor and Janet Timbs have been conducting statewide training sessions for intermediate school districts (ISDs) on accessing Medicaid funding.

As part of this effort, Colleen provided detailed information on the reimbursement formula and allowable costs. There will be an opportunity to provide input around the ISD reimbursement rate which determines how Medicaid funds are allocated between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and ISDs. Under the current formula, 40 percent of Medicaid funds remain with MDHHS, while 60 percent is distributed to ISDs for reimbursement.

Another opportunity for input involves the potential addition of a new provider type, such as an Early Interventionist or Developmental Therapist. If this designation were included in the Medicaid State Plan, early childhood special education teachers could be classified as developmental therapists, making their services eligible for billing under Direct Services.

Colleen will provide an update at the May MICC meeting and inform members on how they can contribute their input on this matter.

Examination of the Early On System

The Council shared their thoughts on moving forward and supporting children and families in *Early On* by aligning with the federal indicators and IDEA. Since the completion of the *Early On* study, several ideas were generated to improve the system, such as training and technical assistance, practice-based coaching, helping ISDs look at their data, public service announcements to emphasize the importance of *Early On*, and technical assistance for service areas who are under-performing around child and family outcomes.

There may be additional funding through the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five grant and the Bold Challenges grant. A call to action to the MICC was to help identify non-federal funds to support the work moving forward and address the concerns raised by the *Early On* study.

Immigration and the effects on the *Early On* population:

Several members shared examples of families experiencing trauma due to the executive order around immigration. Truancy has risen and some families are not open to receiving *Early On* services for fear of deportation. Members were encouraged to be conscious of what's going on and what families are going through.

2025 MICC Meeting Dates:

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.