

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
Early On Michigan
Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
Thursday, February 27, 2025
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Lake Michigan Room
Michigan Library and Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

Minutes

Members Present: Nerita Adams-Spillers, Kae Dubay, Monica Gaines, Lindsay Galicki, Nancy Green, Nicole Hamp, Stephanie Hirschert-Walton, Sophia Lafayette-Lause, Irma Lopez-Barajas, Salina Mann, Tami Mannes, Tori McIntosh, Amy Miilu, Susan Morningstar, Lisa Perugi, LaShorage Shaffer, Cara Sutcliffe

Members Absent: Beth Jenkins, Andrea LaFramboise, Vicki Thomas

Alternates Present: LaSean Thompson, Jihan Young

Staff Present: Gina Birnbaum, Jessica Brady, Laura Goldthwait, Kelly Hurshe, Mark Kuipers, Cheryl Najm, Colleen O'Connor, Gillian Ogilvie, Barb Schinderle, Janet Timbs

Grantees Present: Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects:
Christy Callahan, Jenny Koenigsnecht
Inter-tribal Council of Michigan:
Amanda Rinna
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Muhammad Moiz, Luna Xuan

Guests: Meghan Shepard

Call to Order: Chairperson Lisa Perugi 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 Jihan Young and supported by Irma Lopez-Barajas to approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Jihan Young and supported by LaShorage Shaffer to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

"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.

Lindsay Galicki lives in Jackson and works as a speech-language pathologist at Jackson County Intermediate School District (ISD)/*Early On* program. She began by working with children under age six and transitioned to the *Early On* program 12 years ago. She loves her work, connecting with people from all backgrounds and finds it deeply meaningful.

Lindsay has completed the Hanen 'More Than Words' training, which she uses to enhance social interaction during home visits—a method parents appreciate. She also works with Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, which has enriched her skills as a speech pathologist. She is a Voices of Early Intervention presenter, organized by the Center for Higher Education, and is currently enrolled in courses at Grand Valley State University pursuing a certificate in school administration. Lindsay is married, has two children, and has a variety of rescue animals.

LaShorage Shaffer, originally from Chicago, has a background in special education, having taught in local schools and mentored many student teachers and nursing students. LaShorage is an associate professor at the University of Michigan in Dearborn, where she loves preparing the next generation of providers. She is also a Pyramid Model trainer and the current president of the Division of Early Childhood (DEC). She advocates for early intervention and early childhood special education, including more substantial funding, and ensures voices from families, professionals, pre-service students, and researchers are heard. LaShorage is dedicated to supporting students and her community.

She is married and has two adult children; her daughter recently got engaged over the winter break.

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 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.

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 trainings for ISDs on accessing Medicaid funding.

As part of this effort, Colleen provided detailed information on the reimbursement formula and allowable costs. Allowable costs are determined based on staff pool lists, which include personnel who may provide Medicaid-billable services. While there are different types of staff pool lists, individuals can only be included on one. The Direct Service category offers the highest reimbursement rates and includes professionals such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, physicians, and social workers. However, teachers are not eligible for this category, as Medicaid funding is restricted to medical services, and teachers do not qualify as Medicaid provider types.

The overarching goal is to maximize Medicaid funding to enhance services and resources for eligible individuals.

Personnel funded through federal dollars cannot be included on the staff pool list, as Medicaid is also a federal funding source, and this would constitute double-dipping. However, personnel funded through the State School Aid Act Section 54d funds are eligible for inclusion on the staff pool list. Additionally, if a position is funded through a blended model, partial reimbursement may be allowable.

For staff who do not qualify under the Direct Services category, the next highest reimbursable category is Targeted Case Management. Many early childhood special education (ECSE) teachers fall into this category due to their role in providing service coordination.

The Administrative Outreach category applies to *Early On* coordinators and *Early On* childhood administrators. However, reimbursement rates for this category are lower than those for Direct Services or Targeted Case Management.

Several key factors are considered when determining the reimbursement formula, including:

- **Random Moment Time Study (RMTS):** This study randomly surveys providers at a specific moment in time, asking them to report their activity at

that instant. The results are used to calculate the proportion of time spent on Medicaid-eligible activities.

- **Eligibility Rates:** Each ISD's eligibility rate is calculated based on the percentage of children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) or Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who are Medicaid-eligible. To qualify for billing, the child must meet both medical and Medicaid eligibility criteria.
- **Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP):** This rate is assigned by the federal government and Michigan's FMAP is currently 64.9 percent, with a multiplier of 1.85.
- **ISD Reimbursement Rate:** This 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 intermediate school districts for reimbursement.

There will be an opportunity to provide input on the 40/60 funding split. Given the program's growth, the 40 percent retained by MDHHS now represents a substantial amount that is not directly tied to Medicaid-related services. MDHHS acknowledges the need to reassess this allocation, and the MICC will have the opportunity to offer recommendations on what the percentage should be.

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, ECSE 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.

Letter of Support for MAF- Parent Training and Information Center (PTI):

The Executive Committee acted on behalf of the MICC to submit a letter of support for Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF), who applied for the PTI grant, which is awarded once every five years. MAF has held the PTI grant for 15 years. The letter was submitted by the February 14, 2025 deadline, and the Executive Committee is now asking the MICC to support their actions.

A motion was made by Nerita Adams-Spillers 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 PTI grant.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

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.

One training being looked at is the Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) training. Jen Champagne is currently taking this training to determine if it would be the right fit. Gillian Ogilvie took the training and thought it was beneficial.

A concern was raised around the trainings and whether they would include an element that helped providers look at their own biases. The FAN model can be a tool to address this. It was also noted that one training is not enough to change practice. In Wayne County, Lisa Perugi brought LaShorage Shaffer in for nine trainings to work with her staff.

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.

Sharing Information from the Field:

- Kalamazoo RX is the nation's first citywide parent and infant cash prescription program. RX aims to provide all pregnant people with cash during pregnancy and through the first year of life with the goal of helping the economic vitality of the family.
- Portage Public Schools is offering [free preschool](#) in fall of 2025.

Public Comment:

Clinton County RESA's Office of Innovative Projects is in the process of revising the *Early On* Family Guidebook. The MICC was invited to complete a survey providing their input around updates to the guidebook. The survey is open until March 7, 2025 and can be accessed using this link: <https://forms.gle/AGWCwpNb5bjqZ7oF6>

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Salina Mann.

Motion carried.

Individuals with disabilities may contact the MiLEAP ADA Coordinator to request an alternative format to these materials. Please visit www.Michigan.gov/ADA for a list of state ADA coordinators.