

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
Early On Michigan
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Thursday, March 5, 2026
9:30 – 12:00
Lake Michigan Room
Michigan Library and Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

Minutes

Members Present: Nerita Adams-Spillers, Monica Lewis Gaines, Lindsay Galicki, Nicole Hamp, Stephanie Hirschert-Walton, Beth Jenkins, Jen Jovanis, Irma Lopez-Barajas, Salina Mann, Tami Mannes, Tori McIntosh, Amy Miilu, Gillian Ogilvie, Lisa Perugi, Amanda Rinna, LaShorage Shaffer, Cara Sutcliffe

Members Absent: LaSean Bailey, Nancy Green, Sophia Lafayette-Lause, Vicki Thomas

Alternates Present: Jihan Young

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

Grantees Present: Clinton County RESA, Office of Innovative Projects:
Christy Callahan, Jenny Koenigsnecht
Michigan Alliance for Families:
Kelsey Biswanger, Victoria Martinez
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Charo Hulleza, Muhammad Moiz, Luna Xuan

Guests: Beth Kennedy, Charron Williams

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 Tami Mannes to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Beth Jenkins and supported by LaShorage Shaffer to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

Worth Mentioning:

A recommendation came from the Parent Involvement Committee 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.

Amanda Rinna represents tribal government and works for the [Inter-Tribal Council \(ITC\) of Michigan](#), which represents 12 federally recognized tribes in Michigan.

ITC supports Michigan's Native American tribes by serving as a forum for collaboration, advocating for programs and policies that improve economic, educational, and overall quality of life, and providing technical assistance for tribal health and human service regulations. It has about 160 employees, with 35 based at the central office in Sault Ste. Marie and others working at tribal sites. The agency operates through several divisions, including Head Start, Maternal Infant and Child Health, Environmental Services, Behavioral Health, Health Services, Disease Prevention, and Administration.

ITC served 367 children and families in Head Start during the 2024-25 school year and 150 children in Early Head Start in eight different communities.

Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Services provide home visiting support through a network of ten tribal communities and one Urban Indian Center using the Family Spirit model, a curriculum created by and for Native Americans. The program supports families from pregnancy through early childhood. Services include child development screenings, parent-child interaction assessments, and screenings for intimate partner violence (IPV), substance use, depression, and stress, along with strong referral support.

Additional projects include Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), Families First Prevention Services Act, and Infant Safe Sleep.

Updates:

MICC Membership:

The Governor made the following reappointments and appointments in February 2026.

Jennifer Jovanis, of Oakland County, succeeding Andrea LaFramboise, appointed as a parent of infants or toddlers with disabilities or children with disabilities less than 13 years old at the time of appointment with knowledge of, or experience with, programs for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities for a term commencing January 28, 2026, and expiring October 31, 2026.

Jennifer Jovanis, of Oakland County, will be reappointed as a parent of a child with disabilities less than 13 years old at the time of appointment with knowledge of, or experience with, programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities for a term commencing November 1, 2026, and expiring October 31, 2030.

Salina Mann, of Wayne County, will be reappointed as a parent of a child with disabilities less than seven years old at the time of appointment with knowledge of,

or experience with, programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities for a term commencing November 1, 2026, and expiring October 31, 2030.

Cara Sutcliffe, of Kent County, will be reappointed as a parent of a child with disabilities less than 13 years old at the time of appointment with knowledge of, or experience with, programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities for a term commencing November 1, 2026, and expiring October 31, 2030.

Charron Williams, of Wayne County, will succeed Stephanie Hirschert-Walton, whose term will expire and will be appointed as an individual representing public or private providers of early intervention services for a term commencing November 1, 2026, and expiring October 31, 2030.

New Dates and Locations for MICC Meetings:

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Stabenow Building, Atrium Level Con-Con Room
525 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan
Parking is available just east of the building.

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Stabenow Building, Atrium Level Hutchinson Room
525 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan
Parking is available just east of the building.

Thursday, December 3, 2026

Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lake Michigan Room
702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, Michigan
Parking is available in the Michigan Library lot just south of the building.

May MICC Planning Meeting:

A survey will be sent to MICC members to gather input on how they'd like to use the additional meeting time to plan for the year ahead. The May meeting will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Please take a few moments to complete the [May MICC Planning Meeting survey](#) so the Executive Committee can create an agenda that truly reflects members' interests and priorities.

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP):

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) submitted the SPP/APR by February 1, 2026, to OSEP. There is a two-week clarification period, if needed; and feedback on the report is expected in June 2026.

Governor Whitmer's Executive Budget and Associated Documents:

Governor Whitmer's Executive Budget with links to associated documents is provided to help members stay up to date on fiscal issues.

Mission, Vision, and Bylaws Ad Hoc:

The Mission, Vision, and Bylaws Ad Hoc committee was charged with recommending:

- *Early On* Vision and Mission statements
- MICC Vision and Mission statements
- Updating the existing Bylaws

Nikki Hamp walked the MICC through the recommended updates to the Bylaws.

A new [Executive Order 2025-9](#) was issued on December 18, 2025, reorganizing the MICC with the goal of improving government services. The Executive Order:

- Transferred the MICC responsibilities to MiLEAP from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
- Created a seat for the Director of MiLEAP or designee
- Created a seat for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) responsible for foster care
- Created a seat for MDHHS responsible for children's mental health

In addition to adopting the language in the Executive Order, the ad hoc committee recommended a few other changes which include:

- Adding a sentence in the opening paragraph explaining the Executive Order which reorganized the MICC. Both current Executive Orders are linked to the Bylaws.
- The vice-chairperson and secretary will serve a term of two years, with the option of continuing for a second two-year term.

Additional non-voting partners, not appointed by the Governor, with the purpose of supporting greater collaboration.

- One member from the State Education Agency (SEA) responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities who has sufficient authority to engage in policy planning and implementation on behalf of the SEA. (This is in the Part C Regulations)
- The Director of the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) or designee. (This came as a request from the Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF), other states include their PTI in the ICC.)
- The State Part C Coordinator or designee responsible for implementing the Individuals of Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). (Ad hoc recommendation)
- The Director of the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) or designee. (Ad hoc recommendation)

A motion was made by Nerita Adams-Spillers and supported by Stephanie Hirschert-Walton to accept the recommended MICC Bylaws.

Discussion: none

Motion passed.

Tori thanked the members of the ad hoc committee for completing their charge, and for their commitment to attending the meetings and providing valuable feedback.

Early On Data:

Colleen O'Connor, Part C data manager, provided a virtual tour of the [Early On data](http://www.earlyondata.com) website (www.earlyondata.com). She demonstrated how to find local and state data by looking at profiles, rankings, trend data, and how to print a report. Short video tutorials can be found at [CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects | Early On Data: Resources](#).

CCRESA also looks closely at the data to determine which ISDs could benefit from technical assistance and training.

Colleen created an overview document, distributed after the meeting, explaining how to navigate the website.

Early On Child Outcomes:

Kelly Hurshe, *Early On* consultant for MiLEAP is the lead for *Early On* child outcomes and shared a presentation with the Council. The presentation focused on what are the *Early On* child outcomes, why and how they are measured, and current and past data trends.

MiLEAP supports the service areas around child outcomes in several ways. Wayne State University develops reporting rate flow charts and child and family outcomes PowerPoint presentations showing local and state data for every ISD. Clinton County RESA, Office of Innovative Projects, provides Birth-5 Child Outcomes trainings virtually and in person throughout the state. The [Birth through Five Child Outcomes Summary Process Manual](#) was created to assist service providers when doing child outcome ratings. There is also a video that explains the progress categories for determining a child's rating.

Kelly went through the child outcomes PowerPoint presentations and the reporting rate flow chart. Lisa Perugi shared that they are very helpful and she uses them in Wayne County to examine the data and make improvements, both in child outcomes and the matched entry and exit reporting rates.

MICC Secretary:

The Executive Committee invited nominations for the role of MICC secretary. This is a great opportunity to get involved, collaborate with leadership, and help shape the direction of MICC. Involvement includes:

- Serving on the Executive Committee
The Executive Committee meets three weeks prior to the MICC meeting and plans the MICC agenda. The time commitment is approximately four hours per year.
- Sending thank you notes to presenters
After MICC meetings, the secretary will send thank you messages to the presenters.

Lindsay Galicki expressed interest in becoming the MICC secretary.

A motion was made by Beth Jenkins and supported by Stephanie Hirschert-Walton to accept Lindsay Galicki as the new secretary.

Discussion: none

Motion passed.

Sharing Information from the Field:

Lisa Perugi shared that one of Wayne County's high school robotics teams created switch-adapted toys for children using assistive technology. The students partnered with Wayne RESA on the project. Parents selected a toy for their child, and the robotics team modified it to work with a switch. The toys were delivered just before the holidays. It was a great example of collaboration.

Gillian Ogilvie shared that the Infant Mental Health Consultation program received funding to expand its virtual pilot, extending access to additional counties. The grant was recently awarded, and the program is now live. Child care providers can submit referrals online. For more information view the [Michigan Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation](#) website.

Janet Timbs reminded folks that March is reading month. She encouraged everyone to get involved and help promote literacy.

Nikki Hamp shared that while there are historic investments being made in literacy in Michigan, early childhood is not a major focus of those investments. *Early On* funding was only increased slightly. She noted that this is an opportune time for the MICC to highlight the important role early childhood plays in promoting literacy across the lifespan.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn:

**A motion to adjourn was made by Tami Mannes.
Motion carried.**

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