

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
Early On[®] Michigan
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Michigan Department of Education
608 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48909
State Board of Education Room, 4th Floor

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Synthia Britton, Kae Dubay, Cheryl Granzo,
Stephanie Hirschert-Walton, Beth Jenkins,
Andrea LaFramboise, Salina Mann, Tori McIntosh,
Amy Miilu, Lisa Perugi, Cara Sutliff, Jonnie Taton,
Michelle Williams

Members attending virtually: Nerita Adams-Spillers, Susan Morningstar,
Prachi Shah

Members Absent: Joe Clark, Monica Gaines, Judy Goth-Owens,
Tami Mannes, Vicki Thomas

Alternates Present: LaSean Thompson, Jihan Ain Young

Staff Present: Laura Goldthwait, Kelly Hurshe, Tina Jones, Cheryl Najm,
Barb Schinderle

Grantees Present: Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects:
Christy Callahan, Jen Champagne, Kari Holmberg,
Allan Knapp, Jenny Koenigsknecht
Michigan Alliance for Families:
Victoria Martinez
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Luna Xuan

Guests: Beth Kennedy, Meghan Shephard

Call to Order: Chairperson Lisa Perugi called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Introductions: Introductions were made and everyone was welcomed.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Amy Miilu and supported by Kae Dubay to approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Cheryl Granzo and supported by Synthia Britton to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

“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.

Rather than only the parents sharing their story at the beginning of each Council meeting, this would allow everyone in the room a chance to share so that it isn't always the parents being the only ones who share and make themselves vulnerable.

At each MICC meeting, two people will share why the work they do in early intervention is a passion of theirs. They may also include something they've done recently that they are proud of, why they like being part of the MICC, and what brings them to the table.

Jonnie Taton is the director of the Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Jonnie shared a slide featuring members from her family of origin which represents four nations and languages. She was raised in a blended family and draws upon the strengths of her family, keeping culture at the center of her work with colleagues, children, and families.

LaSean Thompson is from California yet moved to Lansing, Michigan with her mother and two sisters. She had many health issues and a learning disability. Her mother didn't receive much support and encouragement as she needed but did the best she could raising LaSean and her sisters. When LaSean's second child was born with disabilities and delays, she felt tired and defeated, like she had no voice. However, she felt if she didn't fight for her child, no one would. She looked to find every service possible for him. She found *Early On* and the encouragement was great. She is on The Davies Project board of directors, which is a project that provides families in need with rides to the hospital or doctor appointments. She attended local interagency coordinating council (LICC) meetings where she met Kae Dubai and other moms who encouraged her to use her voice to effectively advocate for the needs of her children. Later she was encouraged to apply for the MICC parent alternate position and joined the Parent Involvement Committee. LaSean continues to advocate for her children and loves the opportunities she has had to speak about her journey since most don't hear the voices of struggling parents. She's glad to be a part of the MICC.

Updates:

Social Emotional Learning and the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Cohort 2 has completed the 18-month commitment by implementing the SSIP activities with fidelity within their service areas. They will continue using the eDECA assessments and strategies with children, utilizing approaches learned from the Pyramid Model trainings and sharing the social emotional developmental wheels with families. They will continue with quarterly Community of Practice calls with the state team and will complete the fidelity checklist annually.

Cohort 3 is up and running smoothly. Service providers have received training on using the eDECA, DECA, and the five modules of the Pyramid Model training. Their cohort runs through May 2024, and they have monthly Community of Practice calls.

This fall, cohort 4 will be offered. The plan is to scale up the SSIP work statewide, adding new cohorts each fall until all service areas have participated.

Differentiated Monitoring System (DMS) 2.0

The *Early On* team submitted Michigan's plan for corrections and required actions as part of the monitoring process to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Early On System Updates

System update meetings for *Early On* coordinators will be offered in-person, in four different locations across the state. This is a time for *Early On* coordinators, MDE *Early On* consultants, and *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA) staff to come together, discuss current topics and share information and resources.

Dates include:

May 2, 2023 Genesee ISD
May 12, 2023 Clare Gladwin
May 18, 2023 Marquette
May 22, 2023 Kent

Michigan Alliance for Families

Parent Conference: Let's Talk Disability and Inclusion in Early Childhood and Beyond

Michigan Alliance for Families is offering a conference for parents of children enrolled in *Early On*. It will take place Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 9 am-4 pm in Livonia. Some of the parent members from the MICC will be hosting a panel discussion and the keynote speaker is Dr. Jodell Heroux who will speak about breaking down barrier to inclusion.

Office of Innovative Projects (OIP) Rebranding for *Early On* Public Awareness

OIP is working with GÜD Marketing to help facilitate a refresh to the *Early On* Michigan campaign. This will include replacing the purple silhouettes to appeal to a new generation of parents, families, and children. The campaign materials

will represent a diversity of families and children representative of Michigan demographics. G&M Marketing participated in OIP's recent B-5 child find meeting in April and conducted breakout sessions to receive feedback from the field. This included responses on the overall impression of the current logo to include brand colors and the tagline, "Don't worry. But don't wait." Facilitators also talked about the current reputation along with messaging and imagery to determine what people like, don't like, and what changes they'd like to see. Ongoing activities are underway with the public awareness staff at OIP along with MDE staff to obtain their input on this work as well.

Jihan Young suggested using photos of service providers who represent different ethnicities, in addition to the photos of children. Cheryl Granzo suggested a consistent message be developed for families whose infants are born drug exposed, in order to encourage participation in *Early On*. Christy Callahan thanked them for their advice.

Appreciation for Jean Wassenaar

With appreciation for her excellent contributions, we share that Jean Wassenaar, IMH-E[®] Infant Family Associate, will be retiring from her position at Clinton County RESA OIP as a statewide training and technical assistance specialist on June 17, 2023. Jean began working for CCRESA in 2002 when EOT&TA was first funded and the OIP was created. Her career with *Early On* began when Michigan was first determining how to implement the laws that preceded Part C of IDEA, which were Public Law 99-457 and Part H of the Education of the Handicapped Act. In 1991 Jean began this work when Sr. Barbara Cline and MDE recruited her to be a Part H *Early On* parent consultant. From there she provided training and technical assistance (TA) for MDE through The Arc Michigan, then was an *Early On* training coach for Michigan Public Health Institute and worked for Kent ISD on a variety of special projects including Project Find.

With her strong command of state policy and federal regulations related to *Early On* Michigan and Part C of IDEA, Jean has shared her expertise through meaningful relationship-based TA with countless *Early On* coordinators and special education administrators over the years, documenting nearly 2,500 TA logs and 235 TA events with EOT&TA. Additionally, Jean has supported service providers throughout Michigan with professional learning on numerous topics, including Procedural Safeguards, the Infant-Toddler Developmental Assessment, Birth to Five Child Outcomes, Writing Functional Outcomes, and more. Jean has been the ultimate co-coordinator of the *Early On* Conference, ensuring high quality, appropriate content, excellence in project management and event planning, while negotiating fabulous rates on behalf of our system. For the recent federal OSEP monitoring visit to MDE, Jean represented EOT&TA and Michigan's system for technical assistance in support of compliance brilliantly. She's been a trusted colleague and advisor for so many in *Early On*. With gratitude, we wish Jean a wonderful and fulfilling retirement!

Parent Honorarium Request:

Lisa Perugi shared information about the history of parent reimbursements and asked the Council to consider increasing the honorarium rate by \$2 per hour.

Review and Request of Parent Reimbursement Rates:

- Have records showing we began supporting parents in 1999.
- Financial Support Document was created in 2001, the rate was \$12.50 per hour, \$50 child care.
- In 2008- rate increased to \$15/hr., child care remained the same.
- In 2010- rate increased to \$15.37/hr., child care remained the same.
- In 2014- rate increased to \$16/hr., child care remained the same.
- In 2020- rate increased to \$18/hr., child care up to \$60 per day.
- 2023- proposed rate increase to \$20/hr., child care to remain the same.

This request is based on a review of Great Start Collaboratives and LICC reimbursement rates, and the general increases in wages across the country since the last request for a reimbursement rate increase in 2020. Synthia Britton shared that the rates set for the MICC parents are adopted by home visiting and Parent Leadership in State Government.

A motion was made by Stephanie Hirschert-Walton and supported by Cheryl Granzo to support the increase for parent reimbursements. Motion passed.

Discussion:

The new rate is effective immediately and will be shared with other parent initiatives and partner agencies.

Michigan Home Visiting Collective:

Kate Rood shared information about the home visiting initiative in Michigan. Home visiting is free and voluntary and for pregnant people and families with children ages 0-5. It connects families with caring professionals who can also refer to services. Visits can take place in the home or virtually. Home visiting is a prevention program with the following objectives:

- Reduced child injuries, abuse, and neglect;
- Improved maternal and newborn health;
- Child development, school readiness, and achievement;
- Reduced crime and family violence;
- Increased positive parenting practices;
- Improved family economic self-sufficiency; and
- Improved coordination and referrals for community resources.

Families can be enrolled in home visiting and *Early On* simultaneously. Kate showed various home visiting models and explained the services provided and features of each one.

Families and providers can find and access local home visiting programs through the [Program Finder](#).

MICC 101/Refresher Presentation:

Barb Schinderle shared information about the MICC which included the federal requirement for the Council, along with the executive order and bylaws. The MICC is an advisory body to MDE, made up of 21 governor appointees from the following perspectives:

- parents of infants or toddlers with disabilities,
- individuals representing public or private providers of early intervention services,
- an individual representing the Michigan legislature,
- a Head Start program representative,
- a personnel preparation representative,
- state agency administrators, and
- two 'other' representatives which include a tribal representative and a developmental pediatrician.

The MICC considers families essential allies and partners in planning, implementation, evaluation, and training related to *Early On*, and therefore financially supports parent members so that they have a greater likelihood of participating and sharing their expertise. Non-state employees are compensated for expenses if requested.

A typical meeting may consist of:

- Presentations from activities projects
- Reviewing and discussing data for the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report
- Information from partner agencies around pertinent topics
- Getting to know each other through the worth mentioning activity
- Setting future MICC meeting dates, annually
- Creating ad hoc committees when an issue arises
- Minutes and quick notes are shared after the meeting

Michigan Alliance for Families:

Victoria Martinez shared updates about trainings and learning opportunities being offered by the Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF), who provides information, support, and education for families who have children and young adults (birth to 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services.

MAF will be hosting a conference for parents of children in *Early On*, on June 3, 2023, in Livonia from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. After the conference, MAF is planning a Building Parent Leadership Series for conference attendees, to keep the learning and skill building moving forward.

They have a partnership with Disability Network of Southwest Michigan and are offering upcoming webinars through a series called, Paving the Way Through Self-Determination:

May 11 Problem Solving and Decision Making

May 16 Understanding Neurodiversity

May 18 Ableism and Implicit Bias
May 22 Building Resilience

To register for the webinars visit: [Virtual Learning Opportunities – Disability Network Southwest Michigan \(dnswm.org\)](https://www.dnswm.org).

Leaders in Policy Advocacy is another project underway at MAF that trains participants to be advocates. There are six weekend training dates listed on their website: [Home - Michigan Alliance for Families](https://www.mafmichigan.org).

Victoria also shared information about various summer learning opportunities available now through the end of August.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Andrea LaFramboise and the meeting was adjourned.