

**Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)**  
**Early On<sup>®</sup> Michigan**  
**(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**Thursday, May 12, 2022**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Nerita Adams-Spillers, Melody Arabo, Synthia Britton, Andrea Caron, Joe Clark, Kae Dubay, Melissa Epstein, Monica Gaines, Cheryl Granzo, Beth Jenkins, Noel Kelty, Victoria Martinez, Amy Miilu, Lisa Perugi, Prachi Shah, Vicki Thomas, Michelle Williams

**Members Absent:** Judy Goth-Owens, Paula Johnson, Tami Mannes

**Alternates Present:** Jennifer Forsthoff

**Staff Present:** Laura Goldthwait, Kelly Hurshe, Tina Jones, Sheryl Kennedy, Scott Koenigsknecht, Cheryl Najm, Colleen O'Connor, Barb Schinderle, Janet Timbs

**Grantees Present:** Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects:  
Christy Callahan, Jen Champagne,  
Jenny Koenigsknecht  
Michigan Alliance for Families  
Victoria Martinez  
Inter-Tribal Council  
Susan Morningstar  
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):  
Jane Li and Luna Xuan

**Guests:** Beth Kennedy, Tori McIntosh, Nikki Hamp, Meghan Shepard

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Melissa Epstein 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 Noel Kelty and supported by Victoria Martinez to approve the minutes.**

**Motion carried.**

**Approval of Agenda: The agenda item, How local determinations are made, was made an action item rather than an informational item. Janet Timbs will be asking for an ad hoc committee to be formed.**

**A motion was made, to support the amended agenda, by Andrea Caron and supported by Noel Kelty 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.

Melissa Epstein is the MICC chairperson. Melissa shared a video of her daughter, Charlotte, who was born in 2012 and has Down Syndrome. Charlotte was born a year after Melissa graduated from law school. Melissa and her husband moved to Ann Arbor after Charlotte was born to be closer to family.

Through the Parent Leadership in State Government initiative, Melissa participated in the Parents Partnering for Change (PPC) leadership program. It was the best two day training she could have taken, and it helped her learn how to navigate some of the challenges with raising Charlotte. After completing PPC, Melissa got involved in her local interagency coordinating council in Washtenaw County and was appointed to the MICC as a parent representative.

Melissa shared many beautiful pictures of her family, including her son, Sam, who will be starting kindergarten this fall. Charlotte and Sam are best friends. Charlotte is fully included in her school and has many friends, and participates in lots of activities, including Girls on the Run.

Melissa loves her community, learning new things, and coming together with people who are open to different perspectives. She has learned a lot from the MICC about serving children and families and values this partnership and community so much.

Barb Schinderle has been contracting with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for 20½ years as the MICC staff liaison. All her former jobs involved working in the education field in some capacity. Prior to this opportunity, she taught adult education in Holt, first grade in Whiting, Indiana, and was a YWCA camp counselor during summers in college.

She and her husband, Jack, met at Purdue and they will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. They have three children: Jack III, Megan, and Lexie. They’re all grown adults and are her greatest joys and most trusted advisors.

Before Megan was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, Barb envisioned herself teaching elementary school forever. However, life doesn't always turn out according to our plans. She knew she needed to be home with her children as much as possible because Megan's health concerns were too complex to leave to someone else. Part time work was a better fit.

Barb feels so fortunate to work part time for MDE in a job that is fun and rewarding. In addition, the relationships developed over the years with such respectful coworkers has made the job especially meaningful. Working part time gives her time to pursue other passions. She loves being outside in her garden, reading, taking walks with friends, and about ten years ago she branched out to teaching fitness and obtained her personal training certification. Currently, she teaches four classes a week in the evenings and teaches Goat Yoga on the weekends at Hilltop Views Farm in Williamston.

### **Updates:**

#### **State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR)**

The SPP/APR was submitted to the Office of Special Education (OSEP) and was accepted without additional information needed during the clarification period. The targets through 2025 were approved and the SPP/APR is posted on the website: [www.michigan.gov/earlyon](http://www.michigan.gov/earlyon).

#### **Federal Monitoring of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in Michigan: Differentiated Monitoring System**

*Early On* Michigan is currently being monitored by OSEP for implementation of Part C services under IDEA. The monitoring process being utilized by OSEP is referred to as Differentiated Monitoring System (DMS) 2.0. Under DMS 2.0, OSEP made a shift from monitoring based solely on compliance of IDEA requirements to monitoring focused on both compliance and improving results for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities. Michigan is one of three states to begin the monitoring cycle under this revised system.

OSEP's monitoring of states is being conducted in three phases:

- Phase 1: Document requests and interviews (December 2021-April 2022)
- Phase 2: On-site or virtual visit and monitoring report (May 9-11, 2022)
- Phase 3: Close-out, issuance of findings and corrective actions, and any necessary follow-up (September 2022-up to a year)

Content of monitoring:

States are being monitored on their general supervision systems which includes the state's responsibility to ensure that intermediate school districts and all sub-grantees meet the requirements of IDEA. There are five different protocols OSEP will use for monitoring. These are:

- Fiscal management
- Integrated monitoring
- Sustaining compliance and improvement
- Dispute resolution
- Data systems

Professional development is embedded into all the above components.

Michigan has already met with OSEP virtually and discussed the above protocols. OSEP is planning to come to Michigan from May 9-11, 2022. The MICC will participate in a focus group with OSEP on May 16, 2022, from 1-2 pm. Information will be emailed directly to MICC members from Ronda Sortino, OSEP contact for Michigan. OSEP will conduct additional stakeholder meetings virtually through the month of May.

### **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

Currently two cohorts, including 19 service areas and approximately 210 providers, have been trained to implement the eDECA with children and families. Those same providers have received foundational knowledge of social emotional development through the Pyramid Model trainings. Mary Mackrain, MDHHS, completed all the trainings and sessions were offered both live and recorded.

Mary Mackrain, Kelly Hurshe, and Barb Schinderle continue to meet monthly with both cohorts during Community of Practice calls and office hours to offer support, connection, and technical assistance.

### **Early On Conference**

The *Early On* Conference will be held November 15-17, 2022, at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Michigan. Pre-conference speakers on November 15<sup>th</sup> include:

- Cari Ebert, The ABCs of Early Intervention
- Paul Elam, Advancing Decisions for Equitable Outcomes
- Kristin Tenny-Blackwell, The Pyramid Model for Birth to Three
- Alissa Hofstee, Using Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Families
- Nancy Surbrook-Goins, Mindfulness
- Jim Henry, Understanding Compassion Fatigue and Secondary Trauma in Early Intervention

When registration is available, an email message will be sent to MICC members.

### **Established Conditions List:**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has updated its definition of an elevated blood lead level for children from 5 micrograms per deciliter  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  to 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updating their blood lead reference value (BLRV). When the Established Conditions List was updated and approved, the decision was made to use the venous blood lead level at or above reference value recommended by the CDC. The update was made to the Established Conditions List to read:

#### **8.2. Postnatal**

- Lead – venous blood lead level at or above reference value recommended by the CDC (currently 3.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ )

### **Support Letter for Dr. Shah:**

Dr. Prachi Shah requested a letter of support for a grant she applied for titled: Thriving O.N.E.S: **O**ptimizing outcomes of **N**eonates **E**xposed to **S**ubstances. A letter was written on behalf of the MICC, signed by Melissa Epstein, and included in the email packet. The Executive Committee acted on behalf of the MICC to support the letter for Dr. Shah since the due date for the application was before a scheduled MICC meeting.

### **A motion was made by Kae Dubay and supported by Lisa Perugi to approve the actions of the Executive Committee on behalf of the MICC. Motion passed.**

### **How Local Determinations Are Made:**

Colleen O'Connor shared information about how MDE makes determinations for each of the 56 local service areas. Local determinations are required through federal regulations. It's a parallel process to what OSEP does with each state, using the same categories, which are:

- Meets Requirements
- Needs Assistance
- Needs Intervention
- Needs Substantial Intervention

OSEP uses the following factors when making state determinations:

Child Outcomes Data

- Data Completeness – Reporting Rate
- Data Anomalies
- Data Comparison to Other States
- Performance Change – Year-to-Year Comparison

Compliance Indicator Data

- Compliance Level
- Correction of Non-compliance from previous year

Timely and Accurate State-Reported Data

Timely Due Process Hearing Decisions

Longstanding Noncompliance

OSEP does not have a specific timeline for states to give local determinations but recommends as soon as possible after APR data are submitted.

Michigan considered the following factors when making local determinations, which will be available to ISDs in the May Catamaran release:

- Compliance indicator data
- Correction of non-compliance/uncorrected non-compliance
- Multiple years at less than Meets Requirements

Across the state, no ISD fell into the Needs Substantial Intervention category. Most service areas were in the Meets Requirements category which included the following factors:

- Indicators 1, 7, and 8 data at 90 percent or greater

- No Corrective Action Plan (CAP) in Uncorrected Noncompliance (UNC) status (beyond one year from issuance)

The Needs Assistance category is based on the following factors:

- Any of Indicators 1, 7, and 8 data below 90 percent
- Any indicator with no data reported
- Any CAP in second year - first year UNC

The Needs Intervention category is based on the following factors:

- Any CAP beyond two years from issuance - second year UNC or longer
- Determination level of Needs Assistance for fourth year

General Supervision Monitoring (GSM) did not occur during this past year due to COVID. When GSM has taken place, ISDs monitored also have the number of findings and degree of noncompliance factored into their determination.

Before COVID, MDE noticed that OSEP started looking at Results indicators. Beginning May 2023, MDE will include child outcomes reporting rates in local determinations, following OSEP's lead on this. This is an area Michigan has lost points on their state determination, so the goal is to work on improving child outcome reporting rates throughout the state.

MDE would like input from the MICC in terms of which factors could be considered for future local determinations. Janet Timbs invited MICC members to be part of this work through an ad hoc committee.

**A motion was made by Joe Clark and supported by Lisa Perugi to form an ad hoc committee with the purpose of helping MDE design a matrix to determine which factors would be considered.**

**Motion carried.**

**Discussion:**

Barb Schinderle will reach out after the meeting to invite MICC members to form a Determinations Ad Hoc Committee.

**Parent Involvement Committee:**

Kae Dubay shared an update on some exciting things happening within the Parent Involvement Committee, including:

- Currently seeking two parent alternates to support the five governor-appointed parents. [MICC Parent Recruitment Flyer](#) and [Parent Alternate Information and Application](#).
- In October, there will be 2-3 parent openings on the MICC. MICC support is needed to help fill these slots. <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/appointments>
- The Celena Barnes Family Leadership Award will be given to a parent at the *Early On* Conference in Traverse City, November 15-17. MICC members are asked to help publicize this award and nominate a deserving parent. [Celena Barnes Family Leadership Award Nomination Packet 2022](#)

**COVID 19 Update:**

Janet Timbs shared that MDE has moved to the next phase of returning to work, being in the office two days per week.

Lisa Perugi shared that in Wayne County, they are hurting. Many staff are out of the office with COVID, and the pandemic is still affecting everything, including staff shortages, staff burnout, timelines, and services to children. Synthia Britton has been hearing similar stories across maternal child health programs.

Melissa Epstein shared that in Washtenaw County her children's local school has been trying to get lunch time volunteers but due to child care worker shortages, it has been difficult to find volunteers.

**Public Comment:** Tori McIntosh from Michigan Hands and Voices shared that she is the parent of a deaf child which is why she's involved with Michigan Hands and Voices. Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) has a goal to get all children who are deaf or hard of hearing enrolled in early intervention services to set them on a path for success. Tori shared that there aren't as many children under six months of age enrolled in EHDI as they'd like. Janet Timbs shared that last year MDE created a data sharing agreement with EHDI which may help increase the number of infants served by EHDI.

Link to the EHDI Program at MDHHS: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/ehdi/early-hearing-detection-and-intervention-ehdi-program>

Link to Michigan Hands and Voices: <https://www.mihandsandvoices.org/>

Noel Kelty shared she will be leaving her position at MDE and her last day is July 29, 2022. She accepted a job at Saginaw Valley State University. Noel shared that *Early On* is special to her and this isn't goodbye because she will still work with *Early On*, just in a different capacity. The MICC wished Noel well and thanked her for her constant support and hard work.

Jen Forsthoff has served as an MICC parent and alternate from Fenton. Jen will be stepping down from her role but shared that it's been an honor to serve and thanked the MICC for the opportunity. Jen is continuing in this role until she and the Parent Involvement Committee select two new parent alternates.

**Adjourn:**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Noel Kelty supported by Kae Dubay.**

**Motion carried.**