

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
***Early On*® Michigan**
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Hybrid Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Minutes

Members Present: Nerita Adams-Spillers, Synthia Britton, Andrea Caron, Kae Dubay, Monica Gaines, Judy Goth-Owens, Cheryl Granzo, Beth Jenkins, Paula Johnson, Victoria Martinez, Amy Miilu, Susan Morningstar, Lisa Perugi, Prachi Shah, Jonnie Taton, Vicki Thomas, Michelle Williams

Members Absent: Joe Clark, Melissa Epstein, Tami Mannes

Alternates Present: Andrea LaFramboise, Tori McIntosh, Salina Mann, LaSean Thompson

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

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

Guests: Beth Kennedy, Meghan Shepard

Call to Order: Co-chairperson Victoria Martinez 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 Judy Goth-Owens and supported by Kae Dubay to approve the minutes.

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Synthia Britton and supported by Cheryl Granzo 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.

Vicki Thomas has worked in the early childhood field for 32 years. Her passion comes from her closest friend whose baby was in the neonatal intensive care unit for two weeks and later discovered her child had seizures and wasn't hitting her milestones. She was later diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. The special education program where she lived didn't support her child with services. Vicki's friend went to Canada for services and her daughter moved into a group home across the border. After seeing how difficult her friend's situation was and how appropriate services were not available back in the 90s, Vicki became a strong advocate for parents and continues to support families every day.

Updates:

Determinations Ad Hoc Committee

The Determinations Ad Hoc Committee met to make recommendations around factors and timelines for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to consider when making local determinations, beginning in 2023. The committee reviewed the presentation shared with the MICC at the May meeting and recommended including the reporting rate in the determination but not adding any other factors at this time, but to phase them in later if needed.

Next steps include:

Child Outcome Summary (COS) reporting rate data will be added to the *Early On* data profiles which can be found at www.earlyondata.com.

Wayne State University will create a service area simulation for Wayne, Ionia, and Ottawa looking at all their children's COS entry and exit scores who were in *Early On* longer than six months, as well as reporting rate data.

MDE and Public Sector Consultants (PSC) will take this information and think about different ways to include the reporting rate and come up with a few proposals for the ad hoc committee.

The next meeting is September 26, 2022, from 1-3 pm. The group will review the information provided by WSU and PSC and discuss what other factors could be considered for determinations at a future point in time.

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 trainings and sessions were offered both live and recorded.

On September 22, 2022, an informational webinar will be held to share information with *Early On* coordinators about participating in Cohort 3.

Early On Conference

The *Early On* Conference will be held November 15-17, 2022, at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Michigan.

Registration is now open. [CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects | CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects: Event](#)

Early On Family Survey Extended

The annual *Early On* Family Survey has been extended until September 23, 2022. Please share the word and encourage families to complete the survey.

Early On Cost Study

MDE is working with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to conduct a cost study of *Early On* Michigan. This study will review early intervention (EI) policies and practices in other key states, establish a definition of high-quality EI services, determine the costs associated with providing high-quality EI services, and examine how these costs vary across the state. The team will also provide technical assistance to EI professionals at MDE, ISDs, and other interested agencies regarding braiding and blending funds to help serve Michigan's children with high-quality EI services.

As part of this study, AIR will be seeking volunteers to serve on expert panels and provide input on high-quality EI and the resources needed to provide high-quality EI. MDE will send the volunteer application to MICC members and ISDs across the state in mid-September. The research team will join the November MICC meeting to help answer any questions regarding the study.

MICC Meeting Dates for 2023:

The following MICC meeting dates were suggested for 2023: February 9, May 11, September 14, November 9.

A motion was made by Amy Miilu and supported by Lisa Perugi to accept the meeting dates.

Motion passed.

Michigan Alliance for Families:

Stephanie Nichols and Kae Dubay shared information about training designed to support family engagement. In addition to the training, a universal template was

created to be used to help families understand the commitment, mission, logistics, history of the board, and other important factors to be considered before joining a board or committee.

One template will be used with parents, starting with MICC parents and alternates. [Exploring Interagency Opportunities: Form \(michiganallianceforfamilies.org\)](https://michiganallianceforfamilies.org).

A second template is being developed to be used by the committee, such as the MICC. Once completed, it looks like a one-pager overview to share with prospective members.

Questions/discussion:

Synthia Britton mentioned the need for a 'translator' that would help parents understand the language being used by professionals. It is important for parents to pause and ask questions during meetings so they understand the acronyms and topics being discussed.

Kae Dubay shared how a committee she is involved in uses a word wall for the various acronyms so parents feel more comfortable asking questions.

A training to support increasing family engagement and the use of the new templates will be held November 30, 2022, from 12-1:30. Registration is now open. [CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects | CCRESA Office of Innovative Projects: Event](#).

Michigan Alliance for Families will have a booth at the *Early On* conference for more information.

Wayne State University (WSU): State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Indicator 4:

Charo Hulleza, Jane Li, and Luna Xuan

MDE/*Early On* has contracted with WSU to conduct the family survey for over 20 years. WSU uses the Rasch analysis process for analyzing data around family outcomes. It is a very rigorous process that takes into account the questions in the family survey and how they cycle and build off each other. This process causes Michigan's data to be lower than other states who do not use the Rasch analysis. Michigan would like to provide and analyze data in a way that aligns with what other states are doing, so nationally Michigan's data are comparable to other states. MDE asked WSU to provide alternative options for SPP/APR Indicator 4 reporting. The MICC is being asked to share their recommendation for which questions from the survey to use to provide data to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

WSU will continue to provide the deeper Rasch analysis to be used for statewide data analysis so that Michigan will be able to compare trends in the data.

Charo Hulleza shared slides that contained three different scenarios for consideration by the MICC. The three scenarios suggested different ways to analyze data using either three, eight, or 15 threshold items from the NCSEAM survey. The pros and cons are listed below:

Alternatives: Pros and Cons

Alternative	Pros	Cons
I. Use Threshold Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple and straightforward. Introduced by NCSEAM as an alternative. Adopted by some states (i.e., Utah, West Virginia, New York, and Maryland). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single items do not fully capture the three C4 indicators and it fails to interpret what parents are saying via other survey items. NCSEAM also points out that the percent on indicator should not be based on parents' responses to a single item. Parents who do not answer the threshold item cannot be included when determining the score.
II. Use Items at and below the Threshold Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid shortcomings of using single item resulting in fewer missing values. Take more NCSEAM survey item into consideration and also account for item difficulties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only partially uses the NCSEAM survey items, 8 out of 22 items were included and items with calibrations over 556 are not included. Items for three indicators are largely overlap (accumulated).
III. Use Defined Group Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid the shortcomings of using single item resulting in fewer missing values. Take more NCSEAM survey item into consideration (15 out of 22 in total). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item grouping has no theoretical basis but based on item face validity and logical relatedness. Partially uses the NCSEAM survey items, 15 out of 22 items were included and items with highest calibrations (higher than 625) are not included.

The current data for each scenario are as follows:

FFY2020 Simulated Results

Using the *Early On* Family Survey response data from FFY2020, the percent of respondents who would meet a hypothetical standard of "agree" for the three approaches are:

	Rasch (FFY2020 reported results)	Approach 1 Use Threshold Items	Approach 2 Use Items at and below Threshold Items	Approach 3 Use Defined Group Items	FFY2019 National Average Results*
Indicator A	69.37%	92.21%	90.33%	85.17%	89%
Indicator B	62.92%	91.93%	88.24%	87.85%	90%
Indicator C	83.02%	92.95%	92.56%	86.77%	91%

*Most recent published national average results.

Discussion/questions:

How do other states collect data? States can use various OSEP approved surveys. Michigan uses a more rigorous process, some state use sampling. The following link provides information from a national technical assistance center around family outcome data. [IDEA Part C Early Intervention Family Survey Data FFY2020 \(ectacenter.org\)](https://ectacenter.org)

Currently, 2,300 families have responded to this year's family survey. Michigan has had one of the highest response rates in the country.

The targets will be adjusted for Indicator 4 once the final decision is made as to which scenario will be used.

MDE and WSU will create a document for the public that explains why the data will be reported differently so that everyone understands the rationale. With the change, Michigan's family outcome data will be measured and reported the same way as most other states. Currently, Michigan uses a higher standard that is more rigorous; however, if OSEP uses family outcomes in its determinations, Michigan would lose points for this indicator.

A recommendation was made to MDE by Judy Goth-Owens and supported by Lisa Perugi to use Approach 1 with three threshold items for reporting data to OSEP for SPP/APR Indicator 4 beginning in 2023. Motion passed.

Representativeness of Response Group for Family Survey:

OSEP is asking states to collect and report additional demographic data for SPP/APR Indicator 4. These will be reported in the SPP/APR due February 1, 2024. The purpose is to increase response representativeness. In addition to collecting data around race/ethnicity, MDE must include at least one of the following demographics:

- Socioeconomic status
- Parents or guardians whose primary language is other than English
- Maternal education
- Geographic location
- And/or another demographic category approved through the stakeholder input process

Members discussed the importance of geographic location so that it could be used to help with increased responses from different service areas across the state.

A recommendation motion was made by Cheryl Granzo and supported by Judy Goth-Owens to select the category of geographic location to report to OSEP with the SPP/APR in 2024. Motion carried.

Outgoing members appreciation:

Five members were recognized and thanked for their years of service on the MICC. Melody Arabo, Andrea Caron, Melissa Epstein, and Victoria Martinez are parent representatives and Paula Johnson represents service providers. They have big shoes to fill. Members were asked to help spread the word to additional parents and service providers about the vacancies. The link to apply for an appointment is: [Appointments \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/appointments).

Public Comment:

Ms. Jonnie Taton joined MDE, P-20 Division in the Office of Great Start as the new director of the Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education.

Jane Li shared a resource related to the conversation around family outcome data. [ECTA Center: Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#)

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Perugi.
Motion carried.