

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
***Early On*[®] Michigan**
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2020

Minutes

Members Present: Melody Arabo, Anne Blankenhorn, Andrea Caron, Kristina Donaldson, Melissa Epstein, Judy Goth-Owens, Cheryl Granzo, Rachel Harmon, Paula Johnson, Stuart Jones, Noel Kelty, Tiffany Kostelec, Victoria Martinez, Amy Miilu, Karin Nanos, Nancy Peeler, Stephanie Peters, Deana Strudwick, Michelle Williams

Members Absent: Laura McKechnie, Prachi Shah

Alternates Present: Amy Brauer, Kae Dubay, Tami Mannes

Staff Present: Laura Goldthwait, Scott Koenigsknecht, Cheryl Najm, Colleen O'Connor, Barb Schinderle, Meghan Schmelzer, Lisa Wasacz

Grantees Present: *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance:
Allan Knapp, Nancy Surbrook-Goins
Michigan Alliance for Families
Clare Brick
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Charo Hulleza, Allison Lowrey

Guests: Emily Henderson, Beth Kennedy, Meghan Shephard, Karen Wisinski

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 Victoria Martinez and supported by Stephanie Peters to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:
A motion was made by Amy Brauer and supported by Judy Goth-Owens to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

“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.

Laura Goldthwait shared that she is passionate about early intervention for many reasons. Three relationships that had major influences on Laura were those with her mother, grandmother, and son. Her mother worked hard to overcome obstacles, including depression, and received her master’s degree from Michigan State University. Her grandmother raised eight children, one with special needs. Laura’s grandmother was a strong advocate for her children and ensured her son with a disability was educated right along with his peers; a champion for inclusion in the 1960s. Liam, Laura and Bill’s son, taught his parents a lot about how the world can look very difficult. He has superpowers that can be hard to understand and for him to deal with in this busy world. They worked together and with professionals to find the best way to support him. Liam graduated from high school this year and is off to further his education in Ohio. Laura channels the spirit of these three family members as she works to support children and families across the state.

In Nancy Surbrook Goins’ current role as training and technical assistance manager for the Office of Innovative Projects at Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency (CCRESA), she provides support to the MICC, answers questions about professional development, and works with the early intervention field. Nancy learned about the current position through a colleague at Sanilac Intermediate School District (ISD). The position came at a time in Nancy’s life when she was struggling with turmoil, but she applied and was very excited about the work. Nancy has worked in the early childhood field her whole life including teaching at a Montessori school, working for Head Start, and working for Sanilac ISD. She is passionate about her work and loves to problem solve. Nancy also practices yoga and incorporates wellness and balance into all aspects of her life.

MICC Updates:

Data Ad Hoc Committee

The Data Ad Hoc Committee has met three times and is continuing to work on the recommendation of targets for the Annual Performance Report (APR) Results Indicators for the next six years. Due to the uncertainty related to COVID-19, the committee is planning to revisit the targets regularly to ensure they are attainable and rigorous. Recommended targets completed to date are Indicators 5 and 6 (child find) and 2 (natural environments).

Established Conditions Ad Hoc Committee

The first meeting of this committee is September 10, 2020. More updates will be shared at the next MICC meeting.

MICC Member's Terms expiring October 31, 2020

- Anne Blankenhorn, representing Michigan Legislature
- Cheryl Granzo, public or private provider of early intervention services representative
- Stephanie Peters, representing other individuals
- Deana Strudwick, public or private provider of early intervention services representative

New appointments and/or reappointments are underway with the governor's office. Stephanie Peters and Anne Blankenhorn will not reapply, and the council thanked them for their time and wished them well.

Section 54e - The Play Project

In December 2019, a supplemental budget bill (Public Act 162, Section 54e) was approved and signed for a 2019-2020 allocation to fund the creation of a pilot program to train *Early On* providers in the components of evidence-based parent-implemented models of intervention for the treatment of autism. Specifically, statute requires the following be completed:

- Train at least 60 *Early On* providers in the components of evidence-based parent-implemented models of intervention for the treatment of autism; and
- Promote a "parent-implemented model of intervention" meaning a model in which parents directly utilize individually developmentally appropriate intervention practices with their children to increase the social abilities of children with autism.

The lead agency for Michigan's Parent-Implemented Model of Intervention for the Treatment of Autism award is MDE, Office of Great Start (OGS)/Early Childhood Development and Family Education. The MDE procurement office partnered with OGS and a panel of content experts to complete an evaluation of the responses to the request for proposals and through this process recommended an award to Richard Solomon MD, PLC in the amount of \$315,000.

In July and August, marketing materials were developed and 31 intermediate school districts (ISDs) were selected for recruitment based on social emotional child outcomes and family outcomes. The marketing materials and the link to the application were sent to the selected ISDs to explain both the PLAY Project and the certification process. The deadline for submitting applications for certification is September 10, 2020. After the deadline, 60 providers will be selected for certification and the training will be provided in three cohorts starting in September. For more information please contact Laura Goldthwait at goldthwaitl@michigan.gov.

Part C Determinations from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

Michigan Part C has received the 2020 Determination from OSEP which is Needs Assistance. The following data points were used in the calculation of the determination:

- Compliance indicator performance data
- Timely correction of identified noncompliance
- Timely and accurate state-reported data
- Publicly available information, such as Special Conditions on the State's grant award under Part C
- Any other issues related to State compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Data Completeness (the percentage of exiting children with child outcome entry and exit data reported)
- Data Anomalies (statistically significant anomalies in child outcome data)
- Comparison of Michigan's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018 child outcome data to FFY 2018 child outcome data of other states
- Comparison of Michigan's FFY 2018 child outcome data to Michigan's FFY 2017 child outcome data

The determination of Needs Assistance comes with available national technical assistance. It also helps us focus efforts and resources on some areas for improvement.

Due to Michigan Part C receiving the determination of Needs Assistance for two consecutive years, OSEP has advised us of available sources of technical assistance that may help to address the areas in which we need assistance. In the FFY 2019 SPP/APR, to be submitted February 1, 2021, we must report on the technical assistance sources from which we have received assistance and the actions taken as a result of that technical assistance. The actions we take will involve work with local service areas on improvement activities.

For more information about Michigan's Determination, see the memo from Noel Kelty, director of OGS/Early Childhood Development and Family Education, included in the MICC packet.

Office of Great Start Update

Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht shared that the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five work, being led by Joy Milano, is moving along nicely. A focus at MDE, called [Path Forward](#), is aimed at improving outcomes for children with disabilities.

MICC Meeting Dates for 2021:

Since the MICC meetings are currently virtual, they will continue to be shorter in length. Once face to face meetings resume, the meetings will return to a longer time block.

A motion was made by Michelle Williams and supported by Noel Kelty to approve the MICC meeting dates for 2021.

The dates are:

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Thursday, May 6, 2021

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Motion passed.

Determinations for Part C:

Noel Kelty spoke in greater detail about *Early On* Michigan's Determination rating, Needs Assistance, from OSEP. Part C's overall score was 78 percent, an improvement of 2.5 percentage points since 2018-19. A score of 80 percent would receive a Meets Requirements rating. Part C lost points based on a noncompliance issue with one ISD that has now been corrected. Points were also lost around child outcomes. Data anomalies have not been identified as a problem. MDE will work closely with OSEP, national TA providers, and local service areas to work towards improvement.

Discussion:

Section 54d funding has had a positive impact at the ISD level. Anne Blankenhorn will continue to push funding for this even after her term on the MICC is over.

Tami Mannes asked if MDE has been thinking of ways to bolster child outcomes. Noel shared that MDE has been thinking along these lines and will be addressing this. Child outcomes need to be more than just checking a box but incorporated into the child's IFSP with meaningful family input. The Data Ad Hoc committee will start to have this conversation and bring others in.

Michigan Alliance for Families:

Clare Brick gave a virtual tour of the Michigan Alliance for Families website: <https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/>. She highlighted that it is a statewide program with parent mentors covering every county. The 800 number on their website geo-routes calls to the local parent mentor. The Babies and Toddlers web page is specific to *Early On*.

As everyone is affected by the pandemic, Michigan Alliance for Families discontinued in-person trainings and moved to virtual. Those trainings can be found on the website. A page has been dedicated to COVID-19 resources and includes all executive orders from the governor and MDE memos.

Some of the webinar topics include return to school conversations, distance learning, and participating in meetings.

Sandee Koski created a four-week IEP course. It is like an online class, families use their child's IEP, and have homework. It received an overwhelmingly positive response and the class is full. It will be offered again in the future.

Michigan Alliance for Families is continuing the Family Engagement Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) webinar series, started by the Parent Involvement Committee a few years ago. The purpose is to connect LICC parents with MICC parents, share two-way information, and help families take leadership to the next level and grow. Clare is leading this effort and was instrumental in the initial webinars when she was an MICC parent.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP):

Early On staff received positive feedback from OSEP on the recent SSIP report. Some highlights include the agreement between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and work with Mary Mackrain, the electronic Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (eDECA) state license and the increased number of infants and toddlers with an eDECA and providers trained in using it, and stakeholder engagement. Currently, universal supports are being offered to the field around social emotional outcomes. Those supports include:

- *Early On* Child Outcomes Data Manual and webinar to be used to improve the quantity of data
- Birth to Five Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Process Manual and webinar to support the integration of child outcomes into the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) process
- Child Outcomes training will be provided to those service areas who have not had the revised training, with a roll out plan to ensure all service areas are trained within five years
- Pyramid Model and DECA trainings
- Social emotional informational campaign via social media platforms
- Social emotional developmental wheels (Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health Baby Stages) and the companion guide (provider and coordinator guide)
- Social emotional tool kit for coordinators
- Improving COS data completeness (matched entry and exit COS)
- Reflective leadership series offered by Mary Mackrain

Next steps include finalizing the eDECA fidelity checklist and beginning to put it into use with service areas interested in being part of the next cohort.

Interagency Sharing and COVID-19 Updates:

Noel Kelty Updated guidance to the *Early On* field went out a few weeks ago. *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA), *Early On*, and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) staff are hosting regular webinars with the field to keep them updated. MDE's website has a COVID-19 Education Information and Resources page (https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_53456---,00.html) with social emotional supports and is updated often.

Karen Wisinski – Michigan Hands and Voices has pivoted to providing services virtually. The Guide by Your Side program used to serve 90 families a year. However, since it's virtual, they were able to double up support so each family has two parent guides. The online visits are going well, and people feel comfortable sharing within their small group. Scholarships are available and more information can be found on their website: <https://www.mihandsandvoices.org/>.

MDHHS - Meghan Schmelzer is a social and emotional consultant and works closely with Mary Mackrain. Meghan shared information about a tool kit and infographic to support providers, which are also helpful for families. Both are available on the Early Childhood Investment Corporation website: <https://www.ecic4kids.org/>.

Stuart Jones represents Head Start and Early Head Start programs and shared that there is a huge demand for both programs, they will remain open, and they are working closely with federal officials.

Nancy Peeler - MDHHS is involved with the state response, contact tracing, and supporting local health departments. The COVID-19 website (<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>) contains a wealth of information and has an email box for questions. Vaccination rates and well child visits have dropped off significantly and more information about vaccinations can be found on this website: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_4914-530653--,00.html.

Beth Kennedy shared that DeafBlind Central has expanded their website (www.dbcentral.org) and now has a literacy tab to help increase vocabulary.

Kristina Donaldson started her own coaching and consulting business to work with parents to help them be more competent, confident, and equipped to be their child's best advocate. The web site is: <https://kristinadonaldson.com/>. Kristina is also heading up a project in Michigan through her work with Early Childhood Personnel Center to develop a parent portal so there is a directory of trained parents.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Kristina Donaldson.

Motion carried.