

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 18, 2017

Minutes

- Members Present:** Clare Brick, Deb Canja, Barbara Corbin, Anne Dallaire, Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Kristina Donaldson, Judy Goth-Owens, Cheryl Granzo, Lauren Heilman, Chandra Jones, Laura McKechnie, Nolana Nobles Bandy, Prachi Shah, Nicole Sodergren
- Members Absent:** Sheri Falvay, Rachel Harmon, Tiffany Kostelec, Senator Phil Pavlov, Stephanie Peters, Rich Van Tol
- Alternates Present:** Kristen Carmany, Melissa Epstein, Tami Mannes
- Staff Present:** Laura Goldthwait, Kelly Hurshe, Cheryl Najm, Colleen O'Connor, Barb Schinderle, Vanessa Winborne
- Grantees Present:** *Early On* Training and Technical Assistance:
Christy Callahan, Allan Knapp, Victoria Meeder, and Nancy Surbrook
- Guests:** Rita Trinklein
- Call to Order:** Chairperson Nicole Sodergren called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
- Introductions:** Introductions were made and everyone was welcomed.
- Approval of Minutes:**
- A motion was made by Deb Canja and supported by Kristina Donaldson to approve the minutes.**
Motion carried.
- Approval of Agenda:**
- A motion was made by Reneé DeMars-Johnson and supported by Clare Brick to approve the agenda.**
Motion carried.
- Public Comment:** Nicole Sodergren was recognized for recently graduating, receiving her degree, and working as an early childhood teacher.

“Worth Mentioning:”

The MICC starts each meeting with an activity that keeps children and families at the heart of what we do, helps 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. Clare Brick and Deb Canja shared why the work they do in early intervention is a passion of theirs, and how it relates to the MICC.

Clare has four children and her youngest child was in *Early On*. Her family’s experience with *Early On* was positive, but the transition was stressful so she sought out support. She began working for the Michigan Alliance for Families eight years ago and found it to be a strong source of support and a way for her to give back to the system. She is currently a member of the Wayne County Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) and credits much of her learning to her friend, Celena Barnes, who was very involved with advocacy work in Wayne County. Clare loves being the ‘go to’ person at Michigan Alliance for Families and helping other parents navigate the system and receive the supports needed for their children.

Deb became involved when her own son was diagnosed with lead poisoning at four years of age. She shared her son’s journey through the school system, the struggles he faced, and the lack of support her family received. Deb was a strong advocate for her children and supported both her sons to graduate from high school early and attend college. She worked for Citizen’s Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE), helping parents to navigate the special education system, then began Bridges4Kids, a nonprofit company still up and running today. Deb is also a lawyer, worked in commercial real estate, and is currently Deputy General Counsel for the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services. She will be retiring at the end of May and plans to take a more active role with Bridges4kids; as well as supporting her mother, who is publishing a book.

Updates:

MICC Member News

- Tami Mannes, Director of Early Childhood Services from Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (ISD) will serve as Cheryl Granzo’s alternate to the MICC to represent service providers.
- Pam Kies-Lowe, State Coordinator for Homeless Education, is the official Homeless Education representative, replacing Fred Williams.
- Deb Canja is retiring and the Director Designee from Michigan Department of Insurance & Financial Services will be Sarah Wohlford.

Annual Performance Report (APR)

After APRs are submitted to OSEP, federal program officers briefly review them and give states a two-week grace period to respond to issues OSEP has questions about. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) was asked to provide details about the types of technical assistance (TA) received throughout the past year and what actions were taken as a result of the TA. MDE’s response to OSEP was shared with the MICC.

Flint Update

MDE received a finding from the Office of the Auditor General regarding the special appropriation for the Flint water crises. It was recommended that MDE should provide more oversight and guidance regarding the Flint emergency expenditures. As a result of the finding, MDE staff has arranged for monthly meetings and developed guidance documents to better support Genesee ISD.

Celena L. Barnes Family Leadership Inspiration Award

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Celena L. Barnes Family Leadership Inspiration Award. Nominations are due to Barb Schinderle by May 24, 2017. The parent selected will be revealed at this year's *Early On* Conference in Kalamazoo. MICC members are encouraged to help spread the word about the award!

Early On Conference

The 2017 *Early On* Conference will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, November 15–16, 2017, at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC):

MICC parents shared a presentation about the LICC Family Engagement Initiative. The PIC developed an LICC handbook for parents, approved by the MICC in September 2015. Since the handbook, the PIC has talked about other ways to connect with local parents on the LICC. They brought an idea to MDE for input, which consisted of connecting with a local lead parent from the LICC through quarterly webinars and conference calls with the purpose being:

- to support parent leadership at the local level;
- to learn about initiatives at the state level;
- to build capacity for future state involvement; and
- to develop a statewide network for parents.

The presentation highlighted benefits to the system, which may ultimately include increased family outcomes.

Approximately 16 service areas identified lead parents, and the PIC is in the process of developing webinars and working out the details of how best to support and connect with the local parents. The first webinar will occur in September and Michigan Alliance for Families will help with webinar support.

Discussion:

A suggestion was made to consider ways to help *Early On* Coordinators recruit parents for their LICCs.

Fiscal Initiative Ad Hoc:

Christy Callahan, Deb Canja, Cheryl Granzo, and Colleen O'Connor shared an update from the Fiscal Initiative Ad Hoc Committee.

The MICC accepted the recommendations from the Fiscal Initiative Ad Hoc Committee in November 2016. The recommendations were:

1. In collaboration with the Office of Special Education (OSE) and stakeholders, establish a workgroup to determine appropriate steps and criteria for the creation of a single unified system that serves a single cohort of infants and toddlers eligible for both *Early On* early intervention services and Michigan Mandatory Special Education.
2. As Michigan continues to face financial challenges, the State must maximize its ability to utilize federal resources to support families with young children, specifically through Medicaid.
 - a. Support a study, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, to identify mechanisms that will allow Michigan to maximize federal Medicaid reimbursement to support *Early On*.
 - b. Work with stakeholders including the Michigan Medicaid agency, to develop a proposal to add early intervention services provided by early interventionists to the covered services in the Michigan Medicaid SBS program.
3. In partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, identify if and how Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) resources can be utilized for *Early On*, specifically to support referrals made through the Child Protective Services as part of the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act mandate.
4. Request an opinion of the Department of Insurance and Financial Services about whether *Early On* has the authority to bill private insurance for the cost of publicly provided early intervention services.
5. Work with Superintendent Whiston, the Legislature, and Governor to request a budget line item/State allocation for *Early On*. Renew the MICC request to the Governor to provide State funding for *Early On*.

The ad hoc committee sought input, via survey, from February through March related to the recommendations. One hundred eighty-seven responses were collected through the survey. The highest interest was around the single tier recommendation, the least amount of interest was around billing private insurance companies.

Themes that emerged from the survey include:

- Eligibility Recommendation (31)
- Funding/Resources (28)
- Key Principles of Early Intervention (25)
- Solving Inequities (19)
- Attention to Details (17)
- Qualified Personnel (13)
- System Implications (10)
- Delivery Model (9)
- Inaccurate Information (5)
- Broad Stakeholder Input (4)
- Differentiated by Need (3)
- Transparency (1)

Workgroups will be formed according to each recommendation, beginning with Single Tier Eligibility, which is the first of five recommendations to be addressed.

The Single Tier Workgroup will be composed of both MICC and Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) members. Individuals who expressed interest, via the survey, will also be invited to join the workgroup, which will include parents. The workgroup will work closely with OSE. Results of the survey will be communicated to the field as the work moves forward.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP):

The [SSIP report for Phase III, year 1](#) was submitted. Activities are continuing in the pilot sites related to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP), Messaging, and Data. The EBP work consists of the Social Emotional Trainings and the electronic Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (eDECA) webinars, and follow up related to those activities.

The Messaging workgroup purchased and distributed social emotional developmental wheels to the pilot sites, and is in the process of collecting data on the effectiveness of the wheels.

The Data workgroup is continuing to develop Chase Reports by working with the local Student Information Systems at pilot sites. Chase Reports will help ensure completeness and accuracy in Child Outcome Summary (COS) data.

Laura Goldthwait and Nancy Surbrook attended the Cross-State Collaborative meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah with the other states working on social emotional outcomes.

Adjourn: The Council motioned to adjourn.