

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)

Quick Notes

May 6, 2021

Action Items:

- ▶ The MICC approved a letter of support for Dr. Prachi Shah for a grant called, "Thrive Before Five: Promoting Behavioral Health for Young Children in Michigan."
- ▶ The updated Established Conditions list for *Early On* eligibility was approved by the MICC.

Information:

▶ MDE will be forming a Medicaid committee to address consistent Medicaid billing statewide, increasing equity and access to all service areas. The expected time commitment is minimally 1-2 hours per month and will get started in the next few months. Dr. Kelty invited MICC members who have experience with Medicaid billing to volunteer to be on the committee. She will also reach out to staff at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Office of Special Education at MDE as well as other partners in the system to help with this work. The previous work from the Fiscal Ad Hoc Committee will be utilized as MDE leads this effort.

▶ Charo Hulleza from Wayne State University presented child and family outcome data which were submitted as part of the Annual Performance Report to OSEP on February 1, 2021. The slides called attention to some statistically significant findings around racial disparities within the family outcomes as well as child outcomes. Within the presentation, maps were included that showed the percent of African American, Hispanic, and White children in the Part C population across the state. The data were reviewed alongside the service areas so participants could see which service areas met their targets for family and child outcomes.

Updates:

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Service providers in the SSIP Implementation Cohort have been trained by Mary Mackrain and have completed all five modules of the Pyramid Model trainings. All materials and recordings have been uploaded to the shared drive, which is available for all members in the cohort.

The second quarter of fidelity checklists for the eDECA have been completed. The eDECA is being implemented throughout the cohort and 92 percent of service providers have been trained, an increase from 50 percent in December. The number of children entered into the eDECA system increased from 116 to 223. Preliminary data show positive trends for children who have had two eDECA assessments completed, meaning their scores around protective factors have increased in the areas of initiative, self-control, and attachment.

The SSIP leads continue to meet monthly during the community of practice calls with Mary Mackrain, Kelly Hurshe, and Barb Schinderle to talk about bright spots and pain points. They also participate in live demonstrations related to the eDECA and are learning how to run reports to examine their data. In addition, office hours are being offered twice a month for deeper questions and technical assistance.

Preschool Development Grant, Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Grant

Michigan was awarded federal funding through the PDG B-5 in 2019. The grant was designed to:

- Conduct a needs assessment to understand what's working, what's not working as well as it should, and new opportunities for the early childhood system; and
- Develop an updated strategic plan to address unmet needs and guide future actions to advance equitable outcomes for all young children and families in the state.

The efforts part of PDG B-5 has served as an important step in achieving the state's vision to strengthen programs to support children's healthy growth and learning. As a result of

these activities, the state has developed *Michigan's Birth Through 5 Strategic Plan*. The state's aspirations for this plan rest on the belief that strengthening the system and connecting young children and families to the programs and services they need, when they need them, will lead to more equitable outcomes, stronger communities, and a more prosperous state.

As Michigan finalizes its *Birth Through 5 Strategic Plan*, public comment is sought to gather additional input from families, early childhood providers, and other community leaders. Feedback is critical to helping realize the vision of ensuring all children and families can choose and receive the services and programs they need. Please take a few moments to share your feedback on the needs assessment findings and strategic plan by reviewing the overview document linked and completing the reflection questions in this survey ([Spanish](#) version/[English](#) version). Feedback will be accepted through 5:00 pm, Friday, April 30, 2021.

If you have any questions about the needs assessment, please contact Dr. Ann-Marie Faria at afaria@air.org. If you have any questions about the strategic plan, please contact Leila Sammänder at sammänder@schoolreadinessconsulting.com.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Staff Updates

The MDE, Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education welcomed two staff members since the last MICC meeting.

Kelly Hurshe was an *Early On* consultant with MDE from 2012 until her medical leave in August 2019. Ms. Hurshe is regaining good health and has been hired to continue her duties at MDE supporting *Early On*. Ms. Hurshe comes with a breadth of experience within early intervention, preschool special education, and early childhood programs and services. Ms. Hurshe has been a teacher, program coordinator, and consultant. Ms. Hurshe has a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education. Her passion and knowledge make her a valuable asset to the *Early On* work.

Janet Timbs was hired as the Birth to Five Early Childhood Special Education Manager. Previously, Ms. Timbs worked as an educational consultant in the MDE Office of Special Education in the Performance Reporting Unit and served as the lead for Secondary Transition. She was appointed to three governor's councils including the Developmental Disabilities Council. Ms. Timbs also served as a liaison to the Michigan Transition Services Association Board. Ms. Timbs has over 30 years of experience in serving special education programs and services. Before joining MDE she held various positions with the Saginaw Intermediate School District including director of special education, planner/monitor, principal of the center programs, and teacher of students with cognitive and multiple disabilities. She attended Saginaw Valley State University where she earned her Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership and her Master's in Reading. She is experienced in developing innovative programs and leading change through collaboration, partnerships, and stakeholder input.

2021 MICC Meeting Dates:

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Quick Notes are submitted by Barb Schinderle, MICC Staff Liaison for the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. For more information regarding any of the meeting items, please contact Barb at schinderleb@michigan.gov.