

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
***Early On*[®] Michigan**
(Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2021

Minutes

- Members Present:** Melody Arabo, Synthia Britton, Andrea Caron, Joe Clark, Melissa Epstein, Monica Gaines, Judy Goth-Owens, Cheryl Granzo, Bethany Jenkins, Paula Johnson, Noel Kelty, Victoria Martinez, Amy Miilu, Karin Nanos, Lisa Perugi, Michelle Williams
- Members Absent:** Stuart Jones, Kristina Donaldson, Tami Mannes, Laura McKechnie, Prachi Shah
- Alternates Present:** Kae Dubay, Jennifer Forsthoff
- Staff Present:** Laura Goldthwait, Kelly Hurshe, Tina Jones, Scott Koenigsknecht, Mary Ludtke, Cheryl Najm, Barb Schinderle, Janet Timbs, Lisa Wasacz, Jan Weckstein
- Grantees Present:** Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects:
Christy Callahan, Allan Knapp,
Jenny Koenigsknecht, and Nancy Surbrook-Goins
Michigan Alliance for Families
Clare Brick
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Jane Li
- 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 Noel Kelty and supported by Cheryl Granzo to approve the minutes.**
Motion carried.
- Approval of Agenda:**
- A motion was made by Synthia Britton and supported by Andrea Caron 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.

Joe Clark represents the Michigan Legislature and began serving on the MICC last fall. Joe has two sons who are nine and 12 years old. His youngest son was recently diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Joe is interested in the work the Council is doing both personally and professionally. He’s honored to be here to learn more and help children across the state get services they need to be successful.

Kelly Hurshe is an education consultant in the Office of Great Start. Kelly began working for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in 2012 and took a break in August 2019 through February 2021 due to a cancer diagnosis. She is now cancer free and resumed her position at MDE. Kelly loves working with *Early On* and is passionate about serving children and families throughout the state. She lives near Novi and has two sophomores; her son is a sophomore in high school and her daughter is a sophomore at Central Michigan University.

Updates:

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

Michigan Part C has received the 2021 determination from OSEP which is “Meets Requirements.”

Michigan received a score of 81.25 percent for its 2021 federal determination performance rating on meeting the requirements and outcomes of IDEA, Part C for the 2019-2020 program year. This score represents a 3.55 percentage point increase from a score of 77. 7 percent for the previous program year. The threshold for a determination of “Meets Requirements” is 80 percent.

For more information about Michigan’s determination, see the memo from Dr. Noel Kelty, director of Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education, included in the MICC packet.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Service providers in the SSIP Implementation Cohort continue to implement the e-DECA and use the social emotional developmental wheels with children and families.

The third quarter of fidelity checklists for the e-DECA have been completed and the number of children entered into the e-DECA system continues to increase. Preliminary data show positive trends for children who have had two e-DECA

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 e-DECA 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.

The next step is to invite new service areas to be part of Cohort 2 and begin working with them in November to implement the Pyramid Model training, e-DECA training, and introduce the social emotional wheels. Additionally, within the current cohort, we plan to expand to additional service providers, children, and families to increase social emotional outcomes within the current cohort.

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

Transitions project: The contractor for this work is the Yaffe Group, with ECIC. Yaffe has been reaching out to gather information about transitions. They are learning what is important, what do families need to know, how can we help children and families, and do people within the early childhood system to understand transitions.

MI-AIMH Endorsement: PDG B-5 is supporting 200 early childhood professionals to receive the MI-AIMH Infant Family Associate Endorsement free of charge. This includes no charge for the certification process, coaching support from MI-AIMH with navigating that process, free live online courses that will provide the competencies needed to complete the endorsement, and two years of membership to MI-AIMH. As of July 26, there were 230 people who had expressed interest and/or started the endorsement process.

Membership Update

The following MICC member's terms are expiring October 31, 2021, and today is their last meeting:

- Kristina Donaldson, parent representative;
- Stuart Jones, Head Start representative;
- Laura McKechnie, representative for Tribal Government; and
- Karin Nanos, service provider.

The MICC is appreciative of their service and time spent on the Council. The governor's office is in the process of appointing new members to fill the vacancies.

Beginning to Understand the Complexities of Homelessness:

Michelle Williams shared a brief overview of homelessness in Michigan and some data. Homelessness is a trauma producing event, especially for young children. There are many causes of homelessness, including loss of employment, lack of affordable housing, addiction, mental health issues, foreclosure on a home, poverty, abuse/neglect, fire or disaster, and domestic violence.

Facts:

- A person making minimum wage would have to work 72 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom rental home. It would take someone earning \$21 per hour to work 40 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom rental home.
- Families comprise half the homeless population in Michigan.
- There are approximately 15,000 homeless children in Michigan and the average age is seven years old.
- Michigan is short roughly 200,000 affordable housing units.
- Due to the moratorium on evictions in 2021, the number of homeless individuals is down 18 percent, but it is expected to go up now that the moratorium is no longer in effect.

It is a dire situation for children experiencing homelessness and they are negatively affected in many ways, such as lower scores on statewide assessments, chronic absenteeism, higher suspension and expulsion rates, and lower graduation rates. Approximately 2,274 children age birth to five are homeless.

The McKinney-Vento Act provides assistance to people experiencing homelessness. Over 90 percent of Michigan school districts participate with the McKinney-Vento Grant Consortia. To find out more or to contact your local liaison visit www.michigan.gov/homeless. The website also contains information about the Early Childhood Homeless Task force at MDE.

Michelle shared the video *The Littlest Nomad: What does homelessness mean for our youngest children?*

<https://youtu.be/W5q5shsoUdM?list=PLcyzxfZMQBZIGYxDLzYJmQDy9Vf0uRzWk>
Produced by national experts Sarah Benjamin and Diane Nilan. Found on the "My Own Four Walls" DVD distributed by HEAR US Inc. www.hearus.us

Approve meeting dates for 2022:

Thursday, February 10, 2022	9:30 am -12 pm
Thursday, May 12, 2022	9:30 am -12 pm
Thursday, September 8, 2022	9:30 am -12 pm
Thursday, November 3, 2022	9:30 am -12 pm

A motion was made by Andrea Caron and supported by Joe Clark to approve the MICC meeting dates for 2022.

Motion passed.

Michigan Student Data System Presentation:

Allan Knapp, Michigan Part C data manager, shared information about *Early On* data, impacts of COVID on data, and available resources. Allan began by sharing key acronyms used in the system and showed the *Early On* Data Field Flow chart. Data are collected three times per year and can be found at www.earlyondata.com. This website provides data profiles for each collection, service area rankings by Annual Performance Report (APR) Indicators, federal 618 reports, and other public reports.

Early On data were impacted by COVID in many areas, including:

- Number of children with an IFSP;
- Number of children exiting;
- Timely start of services;
- Timely initial IFSP; and
- Timely transitions.

The 2020-21 data will be available in a few weeks and the numbers are expected to improve slightly from 2019-20.

Resources:

- The IDEA Data Center has a wealth of information about national data and resources (www.ideadata.org)
- *Early On* data for local service areas and state level data (www.earlyondata.com)
- MI School Data Portal for all school districts across the state (www.mischooldata.org)

To keep up to date about all things data, contact Allan Knapp at allangknapp@gmail.com to join the *Early On* data group listserv.

COVID 19 Updates:

Lisa Perugi from Wayne County shared that her staff are excited to be back in person but due to the COVID Delta variant they are being extra cautious and following all mitigations. Many parents still want remote services since their children cannot be vaccinated.

Cheryl Granzo from Ionia County shared her experience is similar. Although they are providing in-home services during the warmer months, services are provided outdoors. Cheryl and her staff are also using the mitigation strategies, even though there is no health mandate in Ionia County.

Jen Forsthoff is a parent alternate from Fenton and inquired about how a family of a one-year-old who previously had services, but discontinued services when they were virtual, could start up again. Advice was given to have the family reach out to the intermediate school district (ISD), complete a referral, and be re-evaluated. Additionally, a communication could go out from MDE/*Early On* Training and Technical Assistance (EOT&TA) to encourage service providers to reconnect with families who discontinued services during the pandemic. Lisa and Cheryl said their staff are reaching out to families who discontinued services during the pandemic to see if they are interested in resuming services.

The Michigan Alliance for Families has completed their four-part parent leadership series and 22 parents participated.

Public Comment: Synthia Britton shared that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was awarded the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant. The purpose is to build integrated maternal and early childhood

systems of care that are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive of the health system, and that promote early developmental health and family well-being and increase family-centered access to care and engagement of the prenatal to three population.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Synthia.

Motion carried.