

Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Intervention & Special Education Services
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
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Brenda Hussey-Gardner, PhD, MPH, Chair
Kristen Paul, Vice-Chair

SICC/LICC Joint Meeting

June 6, 2024

10:00-2:00 pm

Minutes

LOCATION: Anne Arundel County Community College Main Campus (101 College Pkwy, Arnold, MD 21012) Health Science Building; Room 145 A

In attendance: Anna Alderete, Toni-Lyn Ambrose, Jennifer Ayers, Wendy Baber, Beth Boyle, Margo Candelaria, Molly Conner, Leah Douthard, Brian Feeny, Megan Fleury, Tody Hairston-Fuller, Mary Jo Harris, Marny Helfrich, Antoine Hickman, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Wendy Keen, Keight Kennedy, Lisa Kovacs, Cara Kurtz, Cecilia Leger, Jamie Lewis, Rachel London, Beverly Lyles, Sheila Maness, Katrina Mercer, Marcia Morris, Kristen Paul, Carole Parker, Jenn Riccardi, Melissa Rock, Lisa Shanty, Sarah Sherry, Denise Shields, Erin Simmons, Erica Solliday, FloJean Speck, Kate Sweeney, Denise Tillery, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Mindy Torres, Gloria Valentine, Teisha Williams, Anna Maria Wilms Floet

- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - Minutes from 03/04/24 accepted as presented
- III. Announcements & Public Comment
 - Nothing to report
- IV. SICC Report
 - A. SICC Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - Instead of having standing committees, having Task Forces based on interest. Open to non-SICC members as well; duration depends on nature of topic). Yields work product.
 - SICC feedback regarding the MD FFY 2024 State Application for IDEA Part C Federal funds. Six respondents.
 - Member: Did anyone open it, not understand questions/feel overwhelmed, not complete because of this?
 - Member: What about a 15-minute webinar on this when the next one comes out?
 - Executive Committee meetings typically first Thursday of the month on months we do not have a General Meeting. Must be a member of the SICC to join.
 - MH will take care of sending calendar invites for upcoming meetings.
 - B. Legislative Update: Eric Ebersole
 - HB336: Requires more information be given about ABLE program (529 account)
 - HB662: Reduces age to work at child care center from 19 to 18
 - HB1455: Requiring a county board of education that requests a certain waiver for publicly funded full-day prekindergarten to develop and submit a certain action plan to certain government entities; requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board, to establish certain assistance hubs throughout the State to support child care providers and coordinate partnerships within the State's mixed delivery system; establishing the Child Care Provider Hub Advisory Committee; etc.
 - HB86: Requires MSDE to develop guidance on identifying asthma, respiratory distress, anaphylaxis
 - HB1441: Multifaceted. Alters credentials – established career ladder, expands requirements

between LEAs and MSDE, allows leased spaced for PreK, original purpose to expand ECE and CC workforce and expand number of providers

- C. PIE Task Force Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - This year's low birthweight recommendation based on DEC recommendation in 2018
 - Member: Great relationship with MD Chapter of AAP but no link to family physicians
 - Member: family pediatricians have a statement NOT supporting developmental screening
 - Member: Issue with families not knowing medical/educational model – also not hearing it from medical providers and it causes issues
- D. Technology Task Force Update: FloJean Speck (10:55-11:00)
 - Currently 5 members – considering a recruitment statement
 - Meet on off-month from SICC on 1st Th of month at 1pm except July
- E. Nominations & Onboarding Task Force Update: Kristen Paul
 - Task Force: Objectives are to identify and nominate new members as vacancies occur, develop comprehensive onboarding experience, ensure flexibility for continuous enrollment, engage and inform non-members
 - Elements: Overview of SICC and Part C Early Intervention, Key Responsibilities and Expectations, Resources on Early Intervention, Operational Procedures, Engagement Opportunities, FAQs
 - To join task force, email Kristen Paul (kristen@ppmd.org)
 - Nomination: Marny Helfrich for vacant State Partner (MSDE, Early Intervention Services/Preschool Special Education, Birth Through 5) position
 - Unanimous vote to move forward
- F. SICC Member Spotlight: Keight Kennedy
 - Had wonderful experience when daughter in Montgomery County ITP, phenomenal preschool and K experiences

- V. Division of Early Childhood Update: Donald Corbin
 - Targeted groups for pre-k slots include children w/disabilities (more slots, more money per slot)
 - MH will provide letter re: CCRP sunseting

- V. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood Updates: Marny Helfrich & Molly Conner
 - Change to very low birthweight recommendation will require change to COMAR, which would take awhile
 - Dr. Wright to State Board, then legislature, then public comment, then COMAR
 - Part C indicators – local results from 24 jurisdictions
 - Serving 0-1: 12 programs
 - Narrowed the gap, exited functioning age-appropriately
 - All compliance indicators are set at 100%
 - MC: Trying to recruit early childhood performance specialist w/extensive Part C knowledge w/MD lens

- VI. Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) & Cultural Responsivity
 - A. Framing the Importance of Meeting the Needs of All Families in the Work We Do: Antoine Hickman, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services
 - Experiences in early childhood were foundation for everything (learning to read, public speaking)
 - FFY 2023 22,250 served by Maryland ITP
 - 1,100 under age of 1 year
 - 4,300 between ages of 3 and 5 on extended IFSP
 - OSEP Data: Nearly all children receiving EI services show progress, almost 2/3 of them exit w/gap closed between them and same-aged peers
 - Although MSDE is the lead agency, this is a collaborative effort to get things done
 - We must treat the work we are doing with urgency
 - Mental health and other concerns need to be urgently addressed because things are not getting

better

- Transition is more than just Part C to Part B – we need to be toward high school, college/career readiness
- Asked those in room to think about what they would do if a boss, money, power, etc. wasn't an issue
 - AH would address disproportionate representation of black and brown boys in special education, exclusionary discipline, etc.

B. EBP Overview (12:30-12:45)

1. Routines Based Interview and Reflective Coaching: Beverly Lyles

- When talking about EBP – DEC Recommended Practices (basis of our EI practices)
- Children learn best in their natural environments
- High quality authentic assessments, accurate and high-quality summary across outcomes, functional/meaningful, and attainable outcomes for children and families; address family priorities through reflective coaching and teaming.
- EBP: Decision-making process that integrates the best available research, evidence with families, and professional wisdom and value
- RBI – Robin McWilliams (Gold Standard authentic assessment)
- Reflective Coaching and Teaming
- Framework of Caregiver Coaching Sessions:
 - Observation: How the family and child are interacting
 - Action/Practice: Scheduling while child is eating to be able to observe, offer support, demonstrate for the family (one example)
- “Primary provider” – team approach but with a main leader
- The work happens when the practitioner is not there – the consistent adults in a child's life have the greatest influence in the child's learning and development
- Systems change for the paradigm shift – it's not business as usual
- Need to meet families where they are

2. Pyramid Model: Kate Sweeney/Margo Candelaria

- Implementing Pyramid Model Practices w/in Part C EI Teams
- PIEC (Parent, Infant, and Early Childhood) Team
- Maryland has been invested in Pyramid Model since 2006

C. EBPs & the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

- Persistent gap in K readiness (disabled/not) – decision-point for focusing SSIP
- Cohort 1 begin in 2017 (Howard, Montgomery, Frederick, Cecil)

1. Initial SSIP Cohort—Lessons Learned, Achievements & Moving Forward: Marny Helfrich, Jen Ayres, Jen Riccardi, Wendy Baber, Beverly Lyles, Kate Sweeney, Cecilia Leger

- JR: Fully implemented RBI coaching and Pyramid Model (still working on ongoing fidelity issues – human capacity); Adapted EI Pyramid Practices Fidelity Instrument (theory of family coaching, authentic assessment) – how to support family understanding w/age-anchoring tools by involving families in COS decision-making (families have the information they need from the very beginning to be an active part of those conversations and decisions)
- WB: Started work in 2016. Already had two people who got trained on their own (280 providers) - 5 sites, each w/about 65 providers – state trained 4 providers to be trainers for the other providers (triads: trainer w/2 staff) – spent whole first year training 20 more trainers (so they could train more people at once) – 201 trained to fidelity (currently) – full systems change in how they were doing evaluations and assessments (now have dedicated evaluation teams who simply determine eligibility THEN another person comes in and does the RBI THEN the IFSP is developed) – challenges of reflective coaching... implementing 3 things at once that are new (RBI, RC, PM) – had to be intentional in planning how to train to fidelity
- JA: County has 15 early interventionists – focus on data outcomes – saw significant increase in COS scores and outcomes for children, which was very motivational – strategic

planning around the BOQs (PM) – what are you trying to impact and how are you going to measure and use that impact – need to make space for things to happen (evaluation, RBI, review IFSP document w/family and start service provision) – regional sites meet weekly

- CL: IFSP development as a result of conversations between teams, MSDE, CTE, etc. (importance of having that time to gather to discuss) – able to take what’s worked and replicate it in non-SSIP jurisdictions

2. Introduction to SSIP Cohort #2: Marny Helfrich, Erin Simmons, Wendy Keen

- 4 additional jurisdictions: Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Kent
- Kent: smallest district – only 40 children in EI program – only 1 provider – wanted to join because they are so small that they are often left out of conversations – also joined because they are already doing RBI, PM – MAJOR staffing change (all left, got all new)
- Anne Arundel: 1500 in EI – excited about opportunity to implement the practices (no RBI implementation to date, some reflective coaching, no PM practices)

C. EBP/DEI Breakout Groups

1. EBP Group Work: Attendees broke out into groups by the EBP of their choice. An EBP expert led the group in a discussion of (1) potential strengths and hurdles to EBP implementation in a manner that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and (2) recommendations for the DEI/SES to consider as it supports local program efforts to implement the EBP in a culturally responsive manner.
2. EBP Group Report Out: Recorder/reporter for each group provided a 2-3-minute synopsis of strengths, hurdles, and recommendations for their EBP.
 - Pyramid Model
 - Strengths: no right/wrong way to implement (will vary by jurisdiction)
 - Hurdles: building capacity (BOQ – more of a fidelity measure), empathy and capacity to facilitate the conversations, how are we doing evaluation of our families in social emotional wellness
 - Recommendations: what happens when a child exits IFSP but still has social emotional needs (warm hand-off with community partners – school, private setting, Judy Centers/pre-k teachers trained in reflective coaching), teaming around case conferences and looking at recruitment practices (diversity of our counties and we are not culturally meeting their needs – recruitment of people into the workforce who reflect those in our communities)
 - RBI
 - Strengths: clear training path/tool (easy to train and meet criteria), gives you a lot of authentic information to tailor the outcomes
 - Hurdles: fiscal (not enough staff for 2hr blocks when large number of children in the jurisdiction, time), large number of staffs in large jurisdictions (moving everyone in same direction), family participation (willingness to share that much information)
 - Recommendations: looking at when to complete RBI (after eligibility?), automatic eligibility (how do you do this procedurally), cultural responsiveness (potential examples that align to the ecomap that would be culturally relevant/responsive)
 - Reflective Coaching
 - Strengths: builds parent capacity and competence, reflective of family culture, collaborative, sows seed for later advocacy, embedded into what family is already doing, focus on family as expert and respectful of unique needs of each family
 - Hurdles: supporting skills of staff (what does family want versus “I am the expert”), paradigm shift needs to be clear amongst program and community
 - Recommendations: review the current structure to see what needs to shift, 12mo staff/work hours, helping staff start empowering parents versus enabling them, lots more money (lead to more staff to be able to support), consistent training from MSDE to counties (training directly from for more consistencies between jurisdictions)

VII. Adjournment

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

*All Executive and General meetings are virtual. The Joint SICC/LICC meeting is in person with the location TBD. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Brenda Hussey-Gardner (bhussey@som.umaryland.edu) at least two weeks before the meeting of interest to allow us to provide seamless access.

July 11, 2024: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

September 12, 2024: General meeting, 1-3:30pm

October 3, 2024: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

November 7, 2024: General meeting, 1-3:30pm

December 5, 2024: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

January 9, 2025: General meeting (APP/APR presentation), 1-3:30pm

February 6, 2025: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

March 3, 2025 (Monday to accommodate legislative session): General meeting, 1-3:30pm

April 3, 2025: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

May 1, 2025: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

June 5, 2025: Joint SICC/LICC Meeting, 10am-2pm