

Maryland SICC

Division of Early Intervention & Special Education Services
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STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Brenda Hussey-Gardner, PhD, MPH, Chair

Kristen Murphy, PT, DPT, Vice-Chair

SICC General Meeting—Virtual February 3, 2022 Minutes

I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

- Brenda welcomed attendees and everyone signed in the chat. (See attached list of attendees)

II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

- Attendees (members and guests) were added to the draft that was shared.
- No questions or changes were suggested.
- Minutes were unanimously approved by poll.

III. Announcements & Public Comment:

IV. SICC Report

A. General Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

- Donna Mullen will be replacing Mary LaCasse as the interim representative from Maryland Department of Health.
- The April meeting will be virtual.
- Looking for a location for future in-person meetings -- if you might be able to host, please contact Brenda. Virtual meetings have been well-attended and successful, but in-person brings certain benefits of connection and conversation.
- Hopeful that the joint SICC/LICC meeting in June will be in person.
- Kristen Paul agreed to represent the SICC at the State Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting and will share updates as needed.
- Looking for 1-2 new members for the SICC executive committee members to meet on the 1st Thursday of the months there is not a general meeting. Please contact Brenda if interested.

B. Legislative Updates: Rachel London

- The legislature is in session and hearings are in process, so Delegate Ebersole sends his regrets for not being able to attend.
- The budget process is underway - hearings until the first week of March. The governor has proposed:
 - 100 additional slots for the autism waiver.
 - ~\$90 million for public pre-K (part of the Kirwan blueprint).
 - \$4.3 million increase for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.
 - Increase in the childcare scholarship program, which includes additional funds for

- providing support and accommodations for children with disabilities in childcare.
 - Early Childhood programming budget hearings are happening now. Aid to education will be 3/7 in the Senate and 3/9 in the House.
 - MDH budget includes support for DDA, reducing waitlists for DDA services, \$5.5 million for low-intensity support services, ongoing funding for Community Support Waiver and Family Support Waiver.
 - Legislation
 - The process of posting bills that have been introduced is a little slower than it has been in past years.
 - The Early Childhood Mental Health Program is HB513 and includes increased funding.
 - A bill banning seclusion in schools is expected.
 - A bill entitled “End the Wait” will require MDH to reduce the Autism Waiver wait list by 50% by 2024.
 - HB 664 would require child care providers to give families information about the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (variation of previous developmental screening bills).
 - The “3 Cs” are the legislative focus: Care (e.g., child care, family and medical leave), COVID (ongoing needs and issues), and Cannabis.
 - The DD Council provides weekly updates on actions and monitoring updates on their website -- updated every Friday. <https://www.md-council.org/policy/legislative-reports/>.
 - Worked with legislative leadership to create plain language summaries of legislative processes and procedures.
 - The Development Disabilities Council will have an advocacy day in Annapolis virtually. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/developmental-disabilities-day-at-the-legislature-tickets-250188619897>.
 - Brenda suggested that she might provide written testimony on behalf of the SICC to support the appropriation for MITP in Aid to Education. The motion carried. The written testimony will be included with the minutes.

C. SICC Initiatives

New members are welcome to join the task forces -- contact the chairs if interested.

1. PIE Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

- Looking at areas of potential overlap with the Technology Task Force.
- Discussed “early” referrals” from NICUs to LITPs -- presentation to follow.
- Next meeting will focus on tracking data on VBLW infants (between 1200-1500 grams) to discuss potential eligibility guideline recommendations related to birth weight.
- Meetings are first Friday at noon contact Brenda to participate (do not need to be an SICC member).

2. Technology Task Force Update: FloJean Speck/Mary Manning-Falzarano

- New group - co-chairs have met a few times.
- Planning for a meeting with LITP directors to discuss current technology use, issues, and challenges (scheduled for March 8).
- Next steps will come from that discussion and may eventually make recommendations to MSDE for implementation.
- Contact Mary to join the task force: mary.manning-falzarano@montgomerycountymd.gov!

3. IECMH Task Force Update: Cyndi Lessner

- Increased funding was received for mental health support for children and training for childcare providers.
- Recommendations from the steering committee are going through the process of determining how to utilize the funds.

- Focusing on sustainability and data collection for continuous improvement.
- Addressing workforce issues, including training, recruitment, etc.
- Cyndi will provide the SICC with regular updates on the implementation of the funding and will present on the report at a future meeting (Joint meeting in June)

V. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood

Updates: Marcella Franczkowski

- One-time only additional FFY2022 Blueprint funds for LITP.
- Federal grant to support Maryland's unique Extended IFSP Option.
 - Grants to LITPs to improve readiness outcomes for children participating in the Extended Option.
 - Partnership with JHU-CTE to narrow the achievement gap through a variety of tools and supports.
 - Partnership with JHU-IDEALS for 2 year-long fellowships.
- Professional learning to elevate the systemic focus on Kindergarten readiness, including implementation of the ELA for all 3 and 4-year-olds.
- Ongoing professional learning series on using COS data to impact school readiness.

VI. Division of Early Childhood Updates: Cyndi Lessner

- The number of childcare providers ticked up slightly in December after declining steadily since the beginning of the pandemic (does not reflect slots, just programs).
- 5,189 programs received stabilization grants in round ones.
- Additional grants provided in round 2.
- Public PreK declined in 2021 but has increased this year.
- The percent of children demonstrating readiness on KRA decreased from 47% in 2019 to 40% this year. This is not unexpected but is concerning.
- Cyndi will share the slides on declines in readiness, which are being analyzed in light of SES and other categories of analysis.
- Focusing on social-emotional development and mental health supports that promote Kindergarten readiness, not only looking at academic skills, but an opportunity also to look at the comprehensive picture.

VII. "Early" NICU Referrals

A. Overview: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

- Babies in the UMMC NICU are monitored throughout their stay for potential referral to MDITP and information is shared with families.
- Online referrals are made for babies who meet the diagnosed condition or delay or atypical developmental criteria at the time that they leave the UMMC NICU.
- Babies are now being transferred out of the Level 4 NICU to community hospitals or Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital more quickly.
- Brenda makes the referral when the baby goes to another hospital, if the baby is not going home from the UMMS NICU to ensure that the family and the LITP are aware of one another.
- One LITP provided feedback asking Dr. Hussey-Gardner not to refer babies before they go home because the LITP will be unable to meet the referral to evaluation timeline.
- If the referral waits, the child may be lost to the system and not receive the early intervention services they need.
- Brenda spoke to Brian, who explained that LITPs will not be "penalized" for timelines around babies who are not available for assessment because they are still hospitalized. It is appropriate to make these early referrals. LITPs can note that the child was unavailable, if the continued hospitalization makes it impossible to meet the 45-day timeline.

B. MSDE DEI/SES Perspective: Brian Morrison

- There have been some questions about “early” referrals from NICUs on hospitalized babies because of timelines or other issues. MSDE supports referring babies as soon as the primary referral source believes the child may be eligible.
- It is helpful for families to make connections with the programs early; the timing of the evaluations, IFSP, etc., can be determined based on the family need. Timelines are not an issue.

C. Local Perspective: Prince George’s County Infants and Toddlers Program—Megan Fleury, Andrea Paprocki & Erin Simmons

- PGITP is part of PGCPS.
- PGITP has a NICU team of an OT, Educator, and Administrator who work with the local hospitals and the families of early-referred babies to keep them connected to the program and provide support to families before and after discharge.
- PGITP has met the SPP/APR target for child find for children from birth - 1 and believes the NICU team supports this.
- The intake Team reviews and screens referrals and sends appropriate referrals to the NICU team. The NICU team screened ~150 cases and provided support to approximately 50 families.
- The team reaches out to the family, explains Early Intervention, provides support with navigating the medical system, and refers the family to the appropriate assessment team or conducts the assessment, depending on the situation.
- Follow up with families while babies are hospitalized to provide information, support, and developmental opportunities.
- Megan shared a success story of an early referral that led to a relationship with a family and the implementation of services shortly after the baby was discharged.
- Families may receive information in the NICU, but often need it re-explained, because the amount of information is overwhelming, and families may not be able to connect with the specialists seeing the baby because of visitation schedules.

D. Maryland’s PRIDE: A unique collaboration between the Baltimore City Infants and Toddlers Program and the University of Maryland Children’s Hospital—Brenda Hussey-Gardner

- PRIDE = Premature Infant Developmental Enrichment.
- The program will be featured in an upcoming article in a UMMS publication.
- PRIDE began in 1994 to provide identification, evaluation, and coordination for eligible babies in the NICU and NICU follow-up program.
- Currently has program director (Brenda) and two service coordinators.
- Goals: expedite referrals, facilitate timely services, avoid duplicative evaluations, and ensure follow-through.
- Operates at UMCH and Mercy (slightly different processes) in the NICU, at the NICU Follow-Up Program, and in the family’s home.
- Eligibility evaluation can be done in the NICU, the family’s home after the baby is discharged or at a follow-up appointment (based on family preference -- most chose to do it in the NICU).
- Continue to refer babies who weren’t initially eligible through the NICU follow-up clinic when appropriate. Evaluation and IFSP development can be done on the same day.
- Service coordinators provide ongoing support, home visits, developmental monitoring, and guidance for upcoming steps.
- Compared preemies in BITP who were and were not in the PRIDE program. There were some differences in demographics, referral source (more PRIDE

babies were referred by professionals), average age of referral (6 mos. PRIDE Vs. 14 months), eligibility category (PRIDE were 75% high probability condition; general BITP was 50% for 25% delay and only 40% for high probability), length of stay (longer for PRIDE participants), and rate of withdrawal from the program (4% for PRIDE, 12% for BITP). Loss due to unable to contact was about the same (25%). Completion of IFSP before age 3 was similar, but PRIDE babies were eligible for IEP at 3 at a higher rate (40 vs. 28%).

- Other states are interested in replicating the model.
- Brenda shared two success stories.

VIII. SSIP Update: Marsye Kaplan

- Sharing of SSIP work at the state level and in four jurisdictions.
- Focus on strategic collaboration, resources, and coaching to promote child outcomes through the implementation of evidence-based practices.
- Measure is Indicator 3A, Summary Statement 1 - children will exit with substantial growth in positive social-emotional skills.
- Evidence-based practices include the Pyramid Model, RBI, and reflective coaching.
- Data shows substantial increase in implementation with fidelity in SSIP counties, but the work continues.
- The four jurisdictions have seen an increase in the number of children making significant progress in social-emotional skills increased to 60.4% in 2020-2021.
- Jurisdictions that had reflective coaching in place were able to transition to virtual services more efficiently and effectively.
- Moving forward, MSDE intends to scale-up existing sites to full implementation, as well as to add at least 2 new LITPs and develop a process guide to help LITPs embrace, implement, and scale multiple EBPs, as well as implementing professional learning for all jurisdictions around understanding and using data to improve child and family outcomes.

IX. Wrap-Up & Adjournment

Motion from FloJean Speck, seconded by Kristin Paul to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:32.

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

General Meetings (1:00-3:30pm) April 7, 2022

Joint Meeting (10:00am-2:00pm) June 2, 2022

Executive Meetings (1:00-2:00pm, Virtual) March 3, 2022, May 5, 2022

Participants 2/3/2022

First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Job Title	Are you an SICC member?
Alyson	Felder	alyson.felder@pgcps.org	Prince George's County Public Schools	Instructional Supervisor	Yes
Andrea	Paprocki	andrea.paprocki@pgcps.org	Infants and Toddlers	Occupational Therapist	No
Andrew	Pollock	andrew.pollock@montgomerycountymd.gov	Mont Co DHHS		No
Anna	Benshoof	annabench@mac.com	Parent Member		Yes
Annemiek	Wilms Floet	wilmsfloet@kennedykrieger.org	Kennedy Krieger Institute		Yes
Beth	Boyle	beth.boyle@jhu.edu	Johns Hopkins University		I'm not sure
Brenda	Hussey-Gardner	bhussey@som.umaryland.edu	Division of Neonatology University of Maryland	Professor	Yes
Brian	Morrison	brian.morrison@maryland.gov	Maryland State Department of Education		No
Cecilia	Leger	cleger@jhu.edu	CTE		Yes
Christy	Tirrell-Corbin	ctc@umd.edu	UMD		Yes
Cyndi	Lessner	cynthia.lessner@maryland.gov	MSDE	Branch Chief	Yes
Cynthia	Millikin	cmillikin@jhu.edu	CTE		I'm not sure
Deborah	Gudger	deborah.gudger@montgomerycountymd.gov	Montgomery County Infant and Toddlers Program		I'm not sure
Dona	Mullen	dona.mullen@maryland.gov	Maryland Dept. of Health	Program Coordinator-MIECHV	No
Erin	Simmons	erin.simmons@pgcps.org	PGCITP		No
FloJean	Speck	fspeck@marylandfamilynetwork.org	Maryland Family Network	Director, LOCATE: Child CCare	Yes
Gloria	Valentine	gloria.valentine@baltimorecity.gov	Baltimore City Health Department Infants & Toddlers Program		No
Jennifer	Willis	jcwillis@umd.edu	Connections Beyond Sight and Sound		No

Kathleen	TodcanoToscano	kathleen_toscano@mcpsmd.org	MCITP	PT/Program Support Specialist	I'm not sure
Koryne	Nnoli	kcarro11@jhu.edu	Johns Hopkins University		No
Kristen	Paul	kristen@ppmd.org	The Parents' Place of Maryland	Early Childhood Specialist	Yes
Kristin	Murphy	Murphy.kristind@gmail.com	parent SICC co-chair		Yes
Linda	Grossman	lindagrossman.peds@gmail.com	Johns Hopkins Medical Institution	Clinical Assistant Professor	No
Lisa	Shanty	lshanty1@umbc.edu	Johns Hopkins IDEALS	Fellow	No
Marcella	Franczkowski	marcella.franczkowski@maryland.gov	MSDE DEI/SES		Yes
Margo	Candelaria	mcandelaria@ssw.umaryland.edu	University of Maryland, School of Social Work		No
Marny	Helfrich	marny.helfrich@maryland.gov	MSDE	Performance Specialist	No
Mary	Manning-Falzarano	mary.manning-falzarano@montgomerycountymd.gov	MCITP	Program Director	I'm not sure
Mary jo	Harris	maryjo.harris1@maryland.gov	Mdh	Nurse consultant	Yes
Megan	Fleury	megan.fleury@pgcps.org	Prince George's County Infants & Toddlers Program	Special Educator	No
Michele	MC McCoy	michele.mccoy@maryland.gov	Maryland Insurance Administration		Yes
Nancy	Hiltbrand	Nancy_T_Hiltbrand@mpsmd.org	MCITP	Coordinator	No
Patricia	Muldowney	patricia.muldowney@msd.edu	Maryland School for the Deaf	Assistant Principal	No
Rachel	London	RLondon@md-council.org	DD Council	ED	Yes
Townsend	Janney	townsend.janney@gallaudet.edu	Connections Beyond Sight and Sound	Social Work Intern	No
Victor James	Young	vjamesyoung@jhu.edu	IDEALS - JHU	Project Administrator	I'm not sure
Wendy	Baber	wendy.baber@montgomerycountymd.gov	Mont Co ITP	Program Manager	No