

Early Intervention Advisory Council and Stakeholder Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022

I. Call to order

Nathan DeDino called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

*Jody Beall, *Maria Breno, *Tracy Chestnut, Kim Christensen, Cindy Davis, *Kathy Greenawalt-Cherry, Arley Hammons, *Bonnie Hubbard Nicosia, *Grace Kolliesuah, *Jennifer Ottley, *Jamie Sanders, *Susannah Wayland, *Kristen Wheeler
Guests: Maggie Gons, Katie Parker, Beth Rutter, Beth Shearing

III. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

There were no additions or edits to the minutes beside adding the names from the last meeting.

IV. Open Issues

DeDino opened the meeting with a discussion of updates from the department.

- Provider survey

DeDino thanked the group for its feedback at the last meeting about the EI provider survey. DODD sent almost 900 surveys out and has received about 285 already (received responses from 86 of 88 counties). Some of the feedback that we received this group was about keeping the survey as short as possible. It is taking around 14 minutes to complete the survey. DODD will share results as they are available.

- Council of Government (COG) and County Board Pilots

DODD has been working with COGs since the summer to help support evaluation and assessment needs in counties. We are using one-time American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds for this pilot, but are looking at how other funding may be used after ARPA funding ends. Out of the seven COGs, only one is not able to participate. The grant will run through the end of June with a potential three month extension. This may be helpful for those counties who have an evaluation and assessment need and will free up time to provide services instead of doing evaluations and assessments. Some of the counties that will be served are already working with the COGs to expand the hours for providers.

We recently started a pilot with the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This is the first time that the department has provided funds directly to a county board to provide EI services; typically, we have used system of payments providers. This pilot also involves Scioto supporting a neighboring county. We look forward to evaluating the effectiveness of this approach compared to how we have typically funded services in the past.

- EI rules

Katrina Bush and Nathan DeDino will be leading this work throughout 2023. We will have an updated timeline to share by our first meeting in 2023. We are also looking at ways for people to provide feedback efficiently if they are not able to participate in one of the workgroups. We are not anticipating significant changes to the rules. At prior meetings, this group did not propose many changes to the rules. The transition section may need the most work around the transition plan and steps and services. We have significant feedback about making updates to the forms and. We want to hear from service coordinators in particular about the forms and families.

- Personnel updates

Tracy Millhon is our fourth program consultant who comes to us from Licking County EI. She started during the summer and is now serving the northwest portion of the state. We have an updated map on the EI website. Shelly Palumbo has been serving in the role of program consultant team lead for several months. The EI program consultant team is continuing to see a high rate of inquiries from counties. In September, we had 1,000 unique on the spot contacts and in October, we had 732. Kelli Lanzot is handling the fiscal technical assistance related to the DODD-issued EI grants. Lori Myers retired in August, and we welcomed Anni Monks as our new training officer. We had over 200 applications, for the EI monitoring consultant position and hope to begin interviews by the end of the year.

- Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) updates

Tiffany Madden then gave CSPD updates. She began by thanking everyone from the last meeting for their help in reviewing our CSPD plan. We defined an EI service provider within the document and defined what a core team of EI professionals is. We made sure all acronyms are spelled out at least once in the document and included some of the suggested resources. The plan will be finalized and disseminated by the end of the year.

The shorter trainings, like Doughnuts with Di, we offer seem to be well-attended. Dana Childress's series had 235 attendees today. We have added more training sessions for the Battelle. The Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) training's third day was yesterday, and we had around 21 for session, and the capacity for each training is 23 individuals. We would like to offer this to any professional within the state of Ohio, especially those that may be potential referral sources to EI. We are working on a flyer with that information.

- Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation

We have an interagency agreement with OHMAS, and they have been providing ECMH consultants to every EI team for the last couple years. We are working to partner to have the consultants assist with Part C evaluation and assessment. Five ECMH agencies cover the entire state.

- Annual Performance Report

Taylor Hammond then led a review of this year's Annual Performance Report (APR), which is due to OSEP February 1, 2023. Meeting participants had copies of the APR, and Hammond went through each indicator. She explained the data and how each indicator is calculated, flagged changes and consistencies with prior years, and answered questions from the group. She reminded the group about their role in setting the targets that are used in the APR. During the discussion about child outcomes, Hammond noted that data are likely more accurate now than they were several years ago and appear to have stabilized. During the discussion of family outcomes, Hammond explained the state's focus on improving representativeness and indicated that the Council will need to add a fourth factor for the 2024 survey. Members were very actively engaged in discussion for both of these indicators. At the conclusion of the discussion of the APR, appointed members of Council voted unanimously to submit the APR as the Council's report to the governor.

- Small Group Activities

The larger group broke into smaller groups to discuss the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) form (EI-04). Members discussed the parts they liked and found useful on the IFSP form and what could be improved. After small group discussion, there was a report out. Some of the items that members found helpful were the information about the service coordinator and family on the first page and the IFSP grid. There was discussion about adding a Transition section to the IFSP, looking at how child outcomes are collected on the IFSP, and how assessment and evaluation information is summarized.

After the discussion about the IFSP form, the group had a brief discussion about screening for autism. Group members expressed an interest in an optional screening protocol and raised questions about how to use the information later, when the screening would be administered, and what resources are available for families.

DeDino adjourned the meeting at 2:00pm and announced that the 2023 schedule would be available at the end of 2022/early 2023.