

Early Intervention Advisory Council and Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021

I. Call to order

Nathan DeDino called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

II. Roll Call

Jody Beall*, Carrie Beier*, Julie Brem, Maria Breno*, Tracey Chestnut*, Cindy Davis, Christine Dobrovich*, Jody Fisher, Diane Fox, Kathy Greenawalt-Cherry*, Taylor Hammond, Arley Hammons, Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia*, Susan Jones, Megan Kloss, Grace Kolliesuah*, Martha Lausé, Julie Litt, Lori Mago*, Beth Martin, Henry Mathews, Karen Mintzer, Caley Norton, Jennifer Ottley*, Stefanie Post, Jenni Remeis*, Jamie Roe, Jamie Sanders*, Erin Simmons*, Jessica Smith, Kristen Wheeler*

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the February 23, 2021 meeting were approved with no changes.

IV. Open issues

a) DODD updates

Maintenance of effort. DeDino gave the group an update about Part C maintenance of effort. He reminded members that DODD had worked with agency information technology staff to create a SharePoint solution to track this required information. This application was deployed in February 2021 and county boards of developmental disabilities had until early March to report Early Intervention budget and expenditure information. All county boards reported, and DODD was able to report to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that this maintenance of effort tracking system was successfully deployed. OSEP sent DODD a close out letter for this issue indicating resolution of the issue.

In-person EI activities. DODD is working with other state agencies, including the Ohio Department of Health, to update guidance about in-person EI activities. This guidance will discuss, in light of changing circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, consideration for safely completing EI activities in-person. Once complete, the guidance will be sent via the EI biweekly program updates.

SFY22 requests for proposals and contracts. DODD is working on requests for proposals (RFPs) and contracts for the upcoming biennium. DODD will issue competitive RFPs for EI nutrition services and EI services for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. You can learn more on the Ohio Buys website, and links will be provided in the biweekly program updates as they become available.

SFY22 EI service coordination grant. DODD made some changes to the SFY22 service coordination grant to streamline the process. The program narrative will be due in October, rather than in June. DODD also added training requirements for EI contract managers similar to those requirements for EI service coordinators and supervisors.

Developmental Specialist (DS) certification. The DS certification rule has gone out for public comment. There have not been any significant changes since November 2020. Barring significant public comment, the rule is expected to go into effect July 1, 2021

EI Referrals. Referrals are beginning to recover, and numbers this late winter/spring were some of the highest in two years. Referral numbers are available under data and monitoring resources by county. The counts are located here: <https://ohioearlyintervention.org/data-and-monitoring-resources>.

Evidence Based Coaching for DSs. The new DS rule requires a year of coaching for holders of the one-year certification. DODD has worked with OCALI to pilot some of the activities that will be required as part of the coaching.

Other professional development and technical assistance updates. DODD continues to work on a comprehensive system of professional development (CSPD) written plan. Once we have a draft, we will share it with the group for feedback. DODD-issued EI credential due dates have been extended to July 1, 2021 due to the pandemic. Doughnuts with Di trainings will continue, and we are looking for training topics and subject matter experts in Leadership. Please feel free to forward any contacts you have that will be able to brainstorm topics. EI Program Consultants will be conducting calls with county leaders to see how they are able to support their service coordinators and staff in the fields.

b) State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and American Recovery Act (ARP) funding discussion

DeDino gave an overview about new SSIP and ARP work. Since the group decided to update the focus of the SSIP to social-emotional development, DODD must complete a new infrastructure analysis to understand better the strengths and weaknesses of Ohio's EI system. DeDino shared that details were still in flux with ARP funding. However, the funding would be one-time in nature and likely bound by all funding requirements in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Before dividing members into two groups, DeDino asked the small groups to consider the following:

For the SSIP, consider the strengths and opportunities for growth in the following areas: Governance, Professional Development, Technical Assistance, Quality Standards, Accountability/Monitoring, Fiscal, and Data

For the ARP discussion, understanding that the funding is one-time, consider how can we strengthen local EI systems, especially using implementation science and better utilizing evidence-based EI practices.

V) Adjournment

DeDino adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.