

**Early Intervention Advisory Council Meeting**  
**August 14, 2024**  
**Boardroom Conference Room, State of Ohio Library, Columbus, Ohio**

Attendance: Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia, Erica Wallace, Erin Simmons, Cheree Nelson, Maggie Goins (in place of Laura Maddox), Jenni Remeis, Kaitlin Rush (in place of Alyson Van Horn), Amanda DeLuca (co-chair), Jamie Sanders, Kathy Greenawalt-Cherry, Karyn Sleppy, Jennifer Ottley, Beth Shearing, Elisha Cangelosi, Lindsey Althaus, Julie Brem, Nicole Clayton, Karen Mintzer, Cindy Davis, Tiffany Madden, Taylor Hammond, Shelly Palumbo, Diane Fox, Jodi Beal, Nathan DeDino  
Meeting started by Nathan DeDino at 10:06

**Department updates with Nathan DeDino**

**Application for Federal Part C funding and lead agency change:** We received a conditional approval on the Part C application dependent on completing certain activities such as an interagency agreement (IAA) with our partners at Ohio Department of Medicaid and an IAA with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Both will be due June 30, 2025. The new rules have also been finished and will be submitted for full approval by the US Department of Education (USDOE). We did engage closely with USDOE on both the new rules and the Part C application reflecting the change in lead agency. With the conditional approval of the application, the transition of lead agency to DCY is now complete.

**El Rules:** Due to a canceled JCARR meeting in June, the EI rules had an effective date of July 4 rather than July 1 as originally intended. The rules were approved without issue. We have encountered some delays in getting translations of the forms done. The Spanish forms will go live soon followed by the top five languages other than Spanish. Parent brochures are currently up on the EI website in English, Spanish, and five additional languages.

**Biweekly Communication:** If you've subscribed to the biweekly communication, you will notice that you are subscribed to DCY Tuesday Times. The newsletter publication date was transitioned from a Friday to a Tuesday bi-weekly communication. It is the same EI information you are accustomed to receiving with the added benefit of updates on other DCY programs.

**State Team Member Updates:** Our Central Ohio Regional Program Consultant, Henry Matthews, has transitioned to a new role (Franklin County CBDD). DCY will have a new consultant map in the coming weeks. This will be Tiffany's last meeting with us. She is transitioning to a new position in the Policy area in Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

**EI Data Points:** DeDino then discussed point-in-time and cumulative child count data for July and SFY24. He explained that additional data will be shared at the November meeting. He reminded the group that several years of EI data are on the EI website. Ohio has seen an almost 30% increase in referrals from 2018 to 2024 and a 26% increase in children served from 2018 to 2024.

**TA, Training, and Credentialing Updates with Tiffany Madden and Shelly Palumbo**

Due to rule changes, EI staff are working with OCCRRA to physically update the EI service coordination credentialing within their system. Madden explained some recent glitches and the plan to resolve these.

**Newborn Behavioral Observations (NBO) system:** A survey was conducted for those who have participated in NBO trainings. Between August 2018-March 2024, 17 trainings were posted, and 433 providers were trained. Attendees have reported more confidence with caregivers and parents as well as more confidence in helping caregivers understand baby communications.

**2024 EI Rule Update Training/Guidance:** The department is focusing on written guidance and multimedia resources like videos to give information about the forms in an easy-to-follow instructional setting. Please continue to let DCY staff know what questions you have and where there are gaps in existing guidance.

**Ongoing TA:** DCY state EI team members are collaborating to ensure everyone is providing consistent answers to questions from the field. This is especially important as we implement the new rules and forms. Thank you to everyone for your patience with compiling frequently asked questions from our webinars as we work to ensure correct answers to the questions.

**New Ohio EI Training: IFSP Foundations:** The contract with AnLar was extended for another year and new trainings will be created. Madden and Palumbo provided feedback we have received about the training and future plans.

### **Help Me Grow with Karen Mintzer (11:15)**

**ASQ Online Services:** Mintzer provided an overview of online developmental screening. Beginning in July 2024, the screening is now available for children birth-age 5. In September, online screening will shift to Sparkler. This is a new platform for doing the ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire). The application has many engaging features for families and community partners that can be used directly on caregivers' phones. The app also offers activities to support a child's developmental growth and offers resources and guides for caregivers and providers. Mintzer explained how Bright Beginnings will be promoting Sparkler in the coming months and how it can be used with different providers (e.g., child care providers).

### **SFY25 Public Awareness Plan and Community Resource Directories**

Mintzer then outlined outreach and public awareness work for early intervention planned in SFY25. First, Bright Beginnings is working to rebrand all existing EI materials to be consistent with state branding guidelines and the change in lead agency. Bright Beginnings will engage in outreach campaigns focused on child care, vulnerable populations, and children with diagnosed conditions on the automatic eligibility list (including children with hearing loss). Finally, Mintzer explained that Bright Beginnings will continue to enhance and improve the community resource directories, including rebranding this resource.

### **Breakout Discussion Groups (11:51)**

Members broke into small groups to discuss how to support the implementation of new EI rules. Some of the ideas and considerations highlighted include the following:

1. Office hours once a month for anyone.
2. Meet with all EI staff within a county after all guidance sent out.
3. If there is an in-person road show, trainers need to be consistent across sessions.
4. Utilize canned recordings and hold periodic virtual live town halls.
5. If regional trainings, make sure questions that come up are added to a statewide Q/A. Need consistency between each county.

6. Need time between rule adoption and implementation.
7. Ensuring materials are in writing

Next meeting is **Thursday November 7, 2024**

Nathan adjourned meeting at 1:30pm