

Early Intervention Advisory Council Meeting

February 28, 2024

Boardroom Conference Room, State of Ohio Library, Columbus, Ohio

Attendance

Lindsay Althaus, Jodi Beall, Maria Breno, Elisha Cangelosi, Cindy Davis, Amanda DeLuca, Kathy Greenawalt-Cherry, Pam Hamer, Arley Hammons, Johni Hayes, Nick Johnson, Maggie Gons, Karen Mintzer, Cheree Nelson, Jennifer Ottley, Jenni Remeis, Erin Simmons, Beth Shearing, Erica Wallace, Shelly Palumbo, Jackalyn Jones, Kelly Sylvester, Diane Fry, Tiffany Regenstein

Department Updates

Nathan DeDino began the meeting at 10:00.

Professional Development Updates - Tiffany Madden

Key points that were noted were the Stepping Stone video series that can be found on the EI website (also noting that development in partnership with Ohio Association of County Boards of DD and parent collaborators moving along). The videos in this series are over a multitude of topics including the following: why say yes to EI, how to get the most out of the EI experience, tips to transitioning from EI, and additional topics for parents thinking of joining EI.

Training:

There will be a training series with Dr. Jayne Singer available on the Training sections of the EI website (Workshop 1: Development of Social Emotional Competence in the Context of Trauma, Workshop 2: Relationship-based Practices for Enhancing Family-Child Relationships and Mental Health, Workshop 3: Building Our Own Resilience and Mental Health).

Professional Development priorities through December 2024 include training related to 24 EI rule revision and evaluation and assessment leading to higher quality outcomes. EI will focus on "Training the Trainer" in hopes that the trainer will also be able to help train staff and there will be a continuous level of training.

In-person training will continue from last year and include case studies and will help with evaluation and assessment of practices. The First Phase (environmental scan) will have research conducted based on how other states are creating and compiling their resources. All compiled information will be put into a report and will be used to develop a training package for Ohio which will have rule trainings implemented for the in-person Fall 2024 training.

EI Technical Assistance – Shelly Palumbo

A new map of program consultants has been sent out.

Leadership Circles Pilot: This will focus on the West Central Region and will utilize the ECHO model for the second phase of the pilot. This model will include gathering information through conversation on collaboration (bringing the regions together and having conversations on what is working and what isn't). Feedback will also be requested to better serve the outcome of the program. There have

already been two sessions and the first round of feedback has led to expanded time for breakout sessions. Tweaks and changes are still ongoing and there will be a mixture of in-person and virtual sessions. There will be a pre and post-test to see what is needed for productivity. The second session is about quality assurance, referrals, and intakes. The focus is on what OEI looks like in Ohio.

There will be nine sessions with a wide variety of topics. There will also be focus on what can be done for employee retention and what resources can be given during onboarding to give staff the support they need. Included in the resources supplied, how to implement them as far as what tools are needed and how do we get the information out to those who need it. There will also be a look at what worked in the past and what didn't.

Feedback: Positive feedback on how the sections are broken down and managed. This helps better with frequency and intervention. In Session #2, it would be great to highlight how to most effectively include the vision. It would be nice to also have a support network not just for the child but also the parent(s). Reminders for parents to let them know that there are people and support networks out there. There was also feedback in the area of discussions around the first few visits which is an ongoing process. The most stressful time is when families/children are transitioning out of EI since support is leaving and coming up with a warm hand off for parents and EI programs.

EI Updates: Nathan DeDino

We have seen some significant increases in enrollment over the last year even with numbers being a little wonky due to COVID. There has not been the same trajectory as last year. The December point-in-time child count was 14,063 and December EI referrals were 2,365.

The federal Part C application and lead agency designation is due to be posted by the third week of March and has 60 days of participation and number of assurances that policies are in place. Ohio will formally indicate a change in the lead agency to the lead agency will change from DODD to DCY and funds will be available July 1, 2024.

The Part C Coordinator position will be posted but Nathan DeDino will continue to support over the next several months. Nathan won't be going anywhere and will continue to support throughout this transition in lead agency.

The OSEP site visit will occur over the next two years. The EI state team has been working to look over outside state reports to learn what other states have been dinged for and to learn how local partners are monitored. An EI grant questionnaire will be sent out to help strengthen monitoring.

The US Department of Education is placing a stronger focus on compliance. As lead agency, DCY will likely need to issue more findings, but will take a constructive and supportive approach. The focus will always remain on improving the outcomes for the children.

With new rules going into effect July 1, 2024, we are exploring moving up the Family Questionnaire a few months. We want to finish up by late spring/early summer and focus on rules and not worry about the questionnaire when there are new forms in August/September. Everyone did such a great job last year. Response rates are getting higher and the multi-year process has increased by 20% over 5-10% from the previous year.

The EI Service Coordination Grant will look very similar to the past grant years. DCY does not have their own Grants Management system so EI will likely use DODD GMS. Exhibits and addenda will look similar to past years.

Promoting online developmental screening (ASQ/AQS SE) will continue as an EI child find strategy.

Break Out Groups (11:53)

Discussion Activity: (35 minutes)

1. What are some of the opportunities for EI being part of DCY?
 - a. Which does your group identify as the three most important?
2. What are some of the potential cautions of EI should be aware of during this transition period?
 - a. Which does your group identify as the three most important?
3. What are the most important things DCY can do during the next 5 years to continue to strengthen Ohio's EI system?

Three groups had a robust discussion and then reported out on their discussion. Common themes around opportunities revolved around greater opportunities for collaboration and consistency. Cautions had themes around ensuring new leadership was aware of EI and its benefits. Themes around the most important priorities included strengthening relationships with school-age programs, creating supports for children not eligible for special education, and increasing funding for EI.

Announcements:

The All Ohio Literacy website will have an early childhood series this summer. During the fall, there will be emergent bilinguals. And RFA for family engagement will focus on families connect to militaries and two main areas in the state (Dayton area and Port Clinton).

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Next meeting on May 13, 2024.