

## Early Intervention Advisory Council Meeting

May 13, 2024

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

**Attendance:** Lindsey Althaus, Jody Beall, Carrie Beier, Julie Brem, Maria Breno, Elisha Cangelosi, Cindy Davis, Amanda DeLuca, Denielle Ell-Rittinger, Pam Hamer, Johni Hayes, Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia, Nick Johnson, Laura Maddox, Karen Mintzer, Cheree Nelson, Jennifer Ottley, Jenni Remeis, Jamie S. Sanders, Erin Simmons, Allyson Vanhorn, Beth Shearing, Sam Kingdom, Jenny Vogelgesang, Lauren Lewis, Manny Maram, Kelly Sylvester, Erica Wallace, Diane Fox

### Department Updates

Nathan DeDino began the meeting at 10:13am.

The application for Federal Funding for Part C is posted for public participation. The lead agency change is occurring July 1, 2024 and we will soon have updates with contracts and grants, reporting, and department rules. DCY worked closely the US Department of Education's office of general counsel to complete the application. For the budget this year, all federal funding is being put in EI service coordination. EI will be using the DODD grants management system and will use GRF funds. A memo accompanies the application that lays out all changes in the agency and answers a lot of the most common questions.

EI service coordination grant materials were posted Friday, May 10, 2024. The overall allocation table includes a \$2M increase compared to last year. The process for this grant will look fairly similar to past years. Future years will have some changes.

DCY legal is reviewing two-year DODD contracts for EI. We believe that these contracts will easily transition to DCY and not need to be rebid.

Because all DODD EI staff have transitioned to DCY, DCY will assume the responsibility for all federal program reporting (e.g., the Annual Performance Report).

The Annual Performance Report (APR) due February 1, 2025 will require states to report additional information about their monitoring procedures and findings for issues unrelated to the compliance indicators states have traditionally reported on in their APRs. DCY, in collaboration with stakeholders, will also continue to look at data related to APR targets and make updates as necessary.

The EI Questionnaire timeline has been moved up. The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has been interested in overall responses and response rates. As a state, we have made significant strides forward in our work with the family questionnaire, and the response rate has been the highest we have had in a number of years. The bulk of the EI Questionnaires were collected electronically and there are online English and Spanish versions. We also provided paper copies of the questionnaire to families speaking any of the 10 most common languages other than English. The surveys were moved up due to the July 1 rule implementation date. Joint branding between DCY and DODD on the questionnaires was included with the surveys.

**EI Numbers:** As of April 2024, the point-in-time child count was up to 14,140. This shows a significant increase and EI enrollment is at an all time high, even since before the pandemic. EI numbers have been the highest that they have been in 10 years.

Diane Fox provided an update around EI and Help Me Grow branding. All state agencies and programs are in the midst of implementing consistent “Ohio: Heart of It All” branding. New branding materials for EI will be shared with the field later in May.

### **Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Update**

There is a planned training on new rules and data. On May 30, DCY will host a rule revision webinar that will break down changes into more consumable parts. June 6 is the Ohio Early Intervention Eligibility and Assessment Process Overview. June 27 is the intervention transition and procedural safeguard overviews. July 13 is the Intervention IFSP Process overview. There is currently low attendance in the Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) tool and motivational interviews and input was sought from the group about reasons that may be.

After department update, the larger group was broken into smaller groups. Henry Mathews facilitated receiving feedback around the rules, forms, and guidance to assist the department in supports available later this summer. After the report out, the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm. The next meeting will be August 14. DeDino reminded the group that we are still in need of a co-chair for the council.