

Early Intervention Advisory Council and Stakeholder Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022

I. Call to order

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

II. Roll Call

Jody Beall*, Julie Brem, Tracey Chestnut*, Elisha Cangelosi, Cindy Davis, Christine Dobrovich*, Maggie Gons, Kathy Greenwalt-Cherry*, Bonnie Hubbard-Nicosia*, Susan Jones, Julie Litt, Lori Mago*, Jennifer Ottley*, Megan Palasik, Jenni Remeis*, Erin Simmons*, Susannah Wayland*, Kristen Wheeler*

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Cindy motioned to approve minutes without objection.

IV. DODD Updates

Rule changes: Nathan DeDino explained that we will need to start discussing EI rules because they are due for their five-year review in approximately two years. We will formally start the process at the end of this calendar year/beginning of next calendar year to ensure that data system updates are made, training is ready, and job aids and guidance are complete in advance of a July 1, 2024 implementation date.

EI data: EI referrals and child counts have both been on the rise starting at the end of last year. So far, all months in 2022 are either the highest or among the highest months of referrals ever. There has also been a slight increase in the number of referrals going on to an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). While we are unsure whether referrals are going to decrease or stabilize, we are aware that increased referrals have produced challenges that DODD will explore ways to address. Child counts are rising along with referrals. The April 2022 child count is the highest it has been since 2011-2012 with numbers above 13,000. The SFY23 EI service coordination overall allocation reflects a 7.5% increase in response to these increasing referrals and child counts.

Online screening: Bright Beginnings will be launching an online Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) soon. Brooks Publishing hosts the online ASQ and parents will be directed to a portal to complete the screening. Bright Beginnings will share the information with whoever has filled out the online ASQ. They will also discuss making a referral to EI with interested parents. We are conducting this screening as a pre-referral public awareness child find activity. We are hopeful that this pre-referral effort will help ensure that the referrals that we are getting during this process will be more likely to go on to an IFSP.

Federal updates: The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has reviewed Ohio's Annual Performance Report (APR) and accepted all targets that the Advisory Council set last year. OSEP sought only minor clarifications in Ohio's APR, and DODD submitted those in April, with one being around baseline data. DODD submitted the Part C application to OSEP last week. We have had full approval for our application for three years now and we anticipate

receiving full approval of this application. There was an increase of a few hundred thousand dollars on our allocation. OSEP was late communicating states' allocation since Congress was delayed in finalizing the budget. Ohio has received additional American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding available to Ohio and other states for EI. We are receiving approximately \$800,000 additional ARPA funds. We are looking for ways to leverage those funds to support local programs that are struggling with referrals.

EI eligibility process supports: Eligibility process supports for counties are underway. We had been receiving some feedback from EI program consultants and DODD Accreditation around eligibility so in our January service coordination program report, we provided an assessment about coordinating eligibility. We found some areas for growth in knowledge about the eligibility process. DODD shared results in April to the counties. We are also developing additional tools that will be available to counties. We are looking for ways to streamline processes that we have in place that do not require rule changes.

Biweekly updates: We are adding a new feature to the biweekly communication called, "Did you know?" It will be a short blurb with a relevant reminder to guide readers back to some of the relevant resources that we already have. This will address items like the EI Data System (EIDS), professional development, guidance, etc. and will only be 2-5 sentences to summarize past topics that we covered.

Early childhood mental health consultation: OHMAS is providing early child mental health services and may expand the scope of what they are able to offer to serve as an evaluator or assessor. The earliest this would be implemented is July 1. We are still trying to determine if this will be for initial or ongoing eligibility. The mental health consultant would need to have one of the licenses in Appendix B of OAC 5123-10-02.

V. Technical Assistance (TA) Team Updates

Diane Fox provided TA team updates. All counties have received a TA call and revised their TA and training plan to include additional support around eligibility. We have not yet been able to gather the data and analyze trends and patterns from the calls, but we will determine if there is anything that we need to further respond to and provide additional support. We will be doing another assessment in SFY23 to gauge whether the supports we have been provided have increased individuals' knowledge.

We are currently coordinating three funding sources and doing so in a new grant management system. SFY22 will be the last year that we use the EI Grant System (EIGS); all new grants will be in DODD's Grants Management System (GMS).

We have been having API challenges with the interface that communicates from MyLearning to OCCRRA. We had a bug that has been fixed as of yesterday and wanted to make renewing credentials as easy as possible.

There have been changes to the consultant map (program consultant and fiscal program consultant additions) which go into effect in June. We are ensuring that seasoned program consultants are supporting urban counties. Kelli Lanzot has become the fiscal program

consultant. She will communicate and provide TA and training on the EISC Grant Agreement and will also be reviewing and approving budgets and expenditure reports for all 88 counties. We will also have a TA team lead who will provide administrative and reflective supervision to the regional EI program consultants.

VI. Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Update

Tiffany Madden provided CSPD updates. The CSPD advisory workgroup had its first meeting in February and started discussing some of the workforce challenges and brainstorming about how to approach the challenges. There were two subsequent meetings where we finalized our vision and mission. We also developed several draft goals to inform our written CSPD plan. Next, we will draft action steps to address the goals. We will try to have a final document to review at the August Advisory Council meeting.

We are continuing to work with OCALI to implement updates to the EI website. We have revamped the training page and created new categories to find trainings based on their delivery method. The website will have a special category for developmental specialist seminars, and we are working on updating filters. This requires cataloging all trainings and hand-assigning tags to all trainings.

DODD has a new partnership with AnLar for some advanced-level training. There have been many requests to support parents with intellectual disabilities and we are trying to support families experiencing poverty and homelessness. AnLar has a team of professionals who have expertise in social justice and early childhood. AnLar is conducting focus groups with providers and parents to find out about their experiences. Asynchronous modules should be ready later this year. There are currently no requirements to participate, but the pilot will start this fall and announcements will be made in the bi-weekly.

DODD has contracted with Dana Childress for five webinars based on her book, "Pause and Reflect." This series will focus on evidence-based practices and supporting the caregiver and child learner during and between visits. She has tools and checklists that she incorporates for fidelity. As a companion, Dr. Childress will also lead a leadership community of practice to help leaders support their staff with fidelity to evidence-based practices.

DODD is offering a 3-day training for those who have never participated in the Newborn Behavioral Observation to obtain certification. We are also offering a half-day training which is a follow-up to focus on working with families impacted by substance use disorder. Registration has been a little sluggish possibly because of a misunderstanding that both trainings are being offered. The half-day training will be a good refresher for those who are already certified and will present the information in a slightly different fashion. The target audience consists of Ohio evaluators and assessors.

We are working with OCCRRA to make dashboard enhancements for service coordinators. Program administrators will be able to run reports on each service coordinator they supervise to see their credential expiration date and their progress on professional development. This should

be available in the fall and OCCRRA has also agreed to help with training and job aids to help navigate the new dashboard.

VII 2022 EI Family Questionnaire and EI Rules

EI Advisory Council and Stakeholder group members then broke into small groups to discuss the 2022 EI family questionnaire and revisions to the current EI rules. Afterwards, the small groups reported out on suggestions to wording of the questionnaire, ways to boost responses to the questionnaire, aspects of the EI rules to retain, and ways to increase opportunities to hear from diverse stakeholders in drafting rule revisions.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00pm. The next meeting will be August 16 at the State Library of Ohio.