

**Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program**  
**Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)**  
**Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021**

**Meeting Notes**



I. Welcome and Executive Committee Update – **Jody**

A. Approval of Minutes from April meetings – motion Tory Pegram, second – Lauren Mangrum

B. Jody welcomed new Parent Representatives Anna Alderete and Rachel Bonas

II. Updates from Offices

A. MCITP – **Mary**

1. Professional Development Plan – Plans for the upcoming year were shared and ongoing training is planned for the following topics:

- Rush and Shelden Reflective Coaching and Mentor Coaching for all providers and mentor coaches
- Child Outcome Summary (COS) training for all staff
- Child Outcome Summary / Developmental Assessment Reference Tool (COS-DART) training for all staff
- Child Outcome Summary Team Collaboration (COS-TC) training for all staff
- Primary Service Provider approach to Teaming training for MCITP Leadership and team leaders
- Early Intervention webinar series made available for all staff
- Infants and Toddlers (IT) Academy training for all onboarding staff
- Pyramid Model for supporting social emotional competence in infants and young children training for new staff and Pyramid coaches
- Equity and Anti-Racism in providing Services training for all staff
- Individualized Family Service Plan refresher training for all staff
- Autism Speaks caregiver skills training for select providers and MCITP Leadership
- Project Impact training

2. In-Person Services Updates – resumed on July 6, 2021. Families were roughly 50-50 in-person and virtual, in-person is slowly climbing to pre-pandemic levels
3. Referral and Enrollment Update – 3012 referrals, served 4004 children, up 3% from 2020, averaging 250-275 referrals per month.
4. MSDE Performance Monitoring Review – HHS MCITP staff attended MSDE meeting on 9/23. Highlights include change in format for performance monitoring and transitioning to an online data system. Documentation will be uploaded to the system for feedback throughout the year. Montgomery County is in the first cohort to upload documentation for this year.
5. Compensatory Education – National Department of Education mandated that all educational systems should review all Special Education and Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention files to ensure that all families should have received free and appropriate public education. Service Coordinators are reviewing files to ensure children made adequate progress. 1907 families came into program between 3-18-2020 and 7-6-2021. 736 files have been reviewed so far. Of those, 27 have been deemed eligible. Of those 6 families declined and 2 have started services. Reviews are ongoing and all files must be reviewed by October 1, 2021. Discussion with families will happen no later than January 15, 2022 and services must be completed no later than May 30, 2022.

B. Family Support Network (FSN) / Family Involvement Center (FIC) – **Deborah / Sophia**

1. FIC Activity Updates - **Sophia** – Literacy kits were created, using a grant from the Early Childhood Coordinating Council. Kits were shared with families from the FIC. Kits will be used for story time and activities provided by the FIC. In development is a presentation for a comprehensive plan and orientation to assist families with return to in-person services. The FIC is also working one-on-one with families to provide additional help.
2. Relocating Emory Grove - **Barbara** – The FIC and the Upcounty Early Childhood center are currently housed at the Emory Grove center. That facility will house an elementary school that is being renovated, so will be moving to Watkins Mill HS. More information will be shared as it is available.
3. FSN Returning to the Community - **Deborah** – The FSN is collaborating with DHHS program partners and community organizations to provide in-

person activities in the community. Parent education and resource support workshops are still being provided virtually. This program allows programs in Montgomery County to share information with families. The FSN is also working with MCPS ITP provider sites to implement programs in the community and community playgroups, as well as to host quarterly transition workshops.

### C. MCPS - **Faith**

1. MCPS Staff Vaccination requirement-October 27 – Vaccinations are required for MCPS staff and MCITP providers unless there is a medical exemption.
2. Child Find Services Updates – Services returned to in-person in July and are quickly reaching pre-pandemic levels of about 18 children per screening clinic. Child Find is also seeing many ITP families whose children turned three during pandemic. More than 480 children were transitioned to Part B services between May 1 and August 23, 2021. PEP has some under-enrolled classes, due to COVID fears, but mitigation efforts are being shared and families are encouraged to send their children. Child Find is working with child care centers and preschools on increased security guidelines and safety protocols to return to in-person visits in those facilities. ITP groups are back in session and are shifting between in-person and virtual daily. There are vacancies available in ITP, especially in speech and language, but this will not affect services; services are being contracted out as necessary. Tour videos, discussed at the last LICC meeting, are on hold while MCPS works to recover the videos from a defunct computer system.
3. MSDE Liaison Update – MSDE Liaison Sharice has resigned and Marsye Kaplan is the new TA Specialist.
4. ECEI/Budget/Legislative Updates- **Barbara** – There are no updates on the budget. Early Childhood Services is hiring for 10 positions, mostly in the Resource and Referral Center, and therapists for Early Childhood Mental Health. EC Initiative: There is currently a 4-year plan, [Montgomery County Early Care and Education Action Plan](#), with groundwork for the plan being laid behind the scenes. The work is very focused on the Kirwan pre-K – 12 Blueprint. There is a large piece for pre-k on a sliding scale. One of the biggest pieces is the mixed-delivery system, working toward 50% MCPS and 50% private. Hiring is in the final stages for a coordinator for the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

III. Committees-Reconnect/Reestablish purpose - **Jody** – The group broke into committees for committee work.

#### IV. Committee Report Outs

Family Engagement - The group recapped the last committee meeting last meeting. They decided to pool information and set a meeting date before next LICC meeting, where they will revisit notes from 2019 and focus on reimagining what family engagement looks like in the time of COVID.

Inclusive Child Care – The committee regrouped with two main focuses:

1. The completed Power Point needs to be revisited. It will be shared with child care providers possibly through chats, which will address misconceptions about ITP
2. The committee will revisit the Learning Language and Loving it; there may be new funds that could be used to get the program up and running and will also look for staff who are trained and can help train others.

Transitions – The committee discussed videos and the presentation for each of the five sites. All sites had received the presentation, but there have been changes to both content and staff. For the FSN, there is a Power Point on transitions that can be shared so that the message is the same across all entities. There were also videos for families to demonstrate learning skills from the toddler perspective, Tips for Tots, that can be shared. The group will meet before next LICC meeting. There was also discussion on what is the best way to hand off families from ITP to Part C and is there a way to do it so that families feel connected.

#### V. Wrap-up and closing - **Jody**

##### Acronyms:

**ADA - American with Disabilities Act**

**CLIG - Consolidated Local Implementation Grants**

**COS - Child Outcome Summary**

**DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services**

**ECCC - Early Childhood Coordinating Council**

**ELA - Early Learning Assessment**

**ESY – Extended School Year**

**EXCELS - Excellence Counts in Early Learning and School-Age Care, Maryland’s quality rating improvement system**

**FIC - Family Involvement Center**

**IEP - Individualized Education Program**

**IFSP - Individualized Family Service Plan**

**KRA – Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**

**LIR--Local Implementation Results**

**LISS – Low Intensity Support Services**

**LRE - Least Restrictive Environment**

**MCPS – Montgomery County Public Schools**

**MSDE - Maryland State Department of Education**

**OCC - Office of Child Care**

**Part B - Children (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services through Part B of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

**Part C - The Infants and Toddlers Program is established through Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

**PBIS – Positive Behavior Intervention Support**

**RBI - Routine Based Interviews**

**R&R - Montgomery County Child Care Resource & Referral Center**

**SEFEL - Social Emotional Foundation for Early Learning**

**SICC – State Interagency Coordinating Council**

**SSIP - State Systemic Improvement Plan**