

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

Thursday, March 3, 2022
Meeting Notes

I. Welcome and Executive Committee Update – Jody

Members were welcomed. Attendance was minimal for this iteration for various reasons.

- A. Approval of Minutes from November meeting minutes – Meeting minutes approval was tabled and will occur via email.

II. Updates from Offices

A. MCITP (Mary)

1. In-Person Services Resumed 2/22 – In December, all Infants and Toddlers services returned to virtual services only, due to the most recent Covid surge. In-person services resumed on February 22, 2022. Families continue to have a choice between virtual or in-person services.
2. Compensatory Ed File Review – The Federal Government mandated that all Infant and Toddler Programs (ITP) across the country were required to review files for children who may have missed services or did not make adequate progress due to the switch from in-person to virtual services throughout the pandemic. Service Coordinators and parents of each child in the program discuss the child’s progress and if it is determined that the child did not make sufficient progress, compensatory services will be offered, based on those discussions. Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) makes quarterly reports to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and had reviewed 70% of the files at the time of the last report. An update is due in the next two weeks. MCITP must also review the files of children impacted by the most recent return to virtual services and determine what compensatory services are necessary for those children as well. An update will be provided to this group when it is available.
3. Extended Part C Grant Application Submitted – MSDE offered a grant opportunity to all jurisdictions. The amount of the grant varies, based on the size of the jurisdiction with Montgomery County being offered about \$320k. This grant will be used to bolster services to 3 and 4-year-olds who remain in the Extended C program because MSDE has found that children are not scoring as being ready for Kindergarten on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). The grant application was submitted on February 18, 2022. One requirement of the grant is that all Early Intervention Providers (EIP) are required to be trained on the Early Learning Assessment (ELA). The state will offer a “train the trainer” course to three providers per jurisdiction, to be shared with all EIPs in that jurisdiction, but because Montgomery County is so large, MCITP will use some of

the grant funds to have all EIPs trained. This is being coordinated now and MCITP is hoping to have all EIPs trained over the summer.

4. Consolidated Local Implementation Grant (CLIG) -Meeting April 7th - This is the annual grant which funds the MCITP. The meeting is occurring later than is usual and MCITP will keep this group posted on the due date and the outcome.

B. Family Support Network/Family Involvement Center

1. FIC Updates (**Mary**)

- i. Reopening – Two Pyramid-based classrooms: one in Rockville and one in Watkins Mill HS. Groups are being kept small for now, but numbers at Rockville will increase, while Watkins Mill will be kept at ten people.
- ii. New Up County location at Watkins Mill HS – opened this week.
- iii. Mask wearing strongly encouraged – Parent educators will remain masked, however there is no mask requirement for families, although mask-wearing will be encouraged.

2. FSN (**Mary**)

- i. 2021 Family Survey Results – Response rate was very low for both 2020 and 2021 because of Covid and because surveys were mailed rather than hand delivered. Montgomery County scored in the 98-99 percentile in all three main areas: knowledge about my child’s development, knowledge of my rights as a parent, and knowledge of how to foster my child’s growth and development. Typically, the response rates generally reflect the race break down of families in the program. Over the last two years, the response rate among families of color was down, therefore this will be a focus of the Family Support Network’s outreach in the upcoming years.
- ii. MOU In Process-Plum Gar Play Group – The Plum Gar recreation center is in the Up County area.
- iii. Meeting to Coordinate Outreach to Ethiopian/Eritrean Community has been set up for April 14, 2022. Monthly parent groups are also in the works.
- iv. Community Outreach Presentation with the African American Health Program- has been set up for April 29, 2022.

- v. Montgomery Village Playgroup has resumed – This group is lightly attended with three to four families meeting monthly. This will be a large part of the Extended C activities, so MCITP expects numbers to increase.

C. MCPS -Mary

1. Staffing Updates – Teri Bell has retired, and Marie Marino has been named the new Program Coordinator. Pamela Nehring is on long-term leave, and Kathy Toscano is the acting Program Coordinator. There are two new Program Specialists: Christy Miller at East County and Sarah Weinstein at Emory Grove.
2. Program Updates – None currently.

D. ECEI/Budget/Legislative Updates-(Jennifer)

1. Staffing Updates – Dira Treadvance, former Director of Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff of the Deputy Commissioner to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, New York, N.Y, has been announced as the new HHS Chief of Children, Youth and Family Services. She is making the rounds and getting to know all the programs.
2. Early Childhood Coordinating Entity – The Montgomery County Council has adopted a bill to create a private, non-profit entity known as the Early Childhood Coordinating Entity. As part of this, the council is re-evaluating the roles of many organizations and listed the LICC. The LICC provided clarification that the LICC is a requirement of the CLIG grant and the MCITP program
3. Early Childhood Education Initiative (ECEI) – nothing currently
4. Family Discovery Center – As part of the ECEI, funds were provided for a pilot program called Language ENvironment Analysis (LENA) Start, which measures core language metrics in children, including:
 - **Adult Word Count (AWC):** The AWC is the number of words a child hears from an adult within a specific period. LENA provides breakdowns of AWC in five-minute, hourly, daily, and monthly reports
 - **Conversational Turns (CTs):** CTs occur when a child vocalizes (initiates) and an adult responds or an adult speaks (initiates) and a child responds. Each time that happens one turn is counted. CTs are one of the only ways to measure engaged interaction with a child. LENA offers breakdowns of CTs in five-minute, hourly, daily, and monthly reports
 - **Child Vocalizations (CVs):** A CV is counted when child speech of any length is surrounded by greater than 300 milliseconds of silence or other sound that is not child speech. CVs do not include cries or vegetative sounds. LENA provides breakdowns of CVs in five-minute, hourly, daily, and monthly reports

LENA uses a small wearable device — often referred to as a “talk pedometer” — combined with cloud-based software to deliver detailed feedback that helps adults make proven, sustainable increases in interactive talk with children. LICC members were asked to contact Shari Waddy, Program Manager for the Family Discovery Center, to recommend families to the program but were cautioned that the number of children in the program would remain low due to limitations in the amount of available equipment. The program is still recruiting for both the next English session which will be Wednesday evenings starting on March 16th as well as the Spanish session which will be Fridays starting March 18th. The classes are held virtually via zoom and are one hour a week for 10 weeks. Jody will share a video and flyer with the group.

E. Child Care (**Jennifer**)

1. Mask Guidance – Mask requirements have been lifted in all private businesses, including child care centers, however HHS continues to urge child care providers to wear masks, due to the close proximity to unvaccinated children. HHS staff are seen as role models, and therefore will continue to wear masks when entering child care facilities. Beginning this month, HHS will provide KN95 masks, Covid testing kits, PPE, and other supplies will be provided to child care providers to offset their expenses and allow them to maintain optimal conditions to serve children. KN95 masks and Covid testing kits will also be provided to families.

III. Committees- (**Jody**) - Due to low attendance, the committees did not meet and will reconvene at the upcoming LICC meeting on May 5, 2022.

IV. Future Plans- (**Jody**)

1. Membership
2. Chair/Co-Chair – Jody asked members to consider volunteering for the Chair or Co-Chair position on the LICC.
3. Meeting times – Alternate meeting times will be discussed at the next LICC meeting.

Tentative LICC Meetings for FY22 (Thursdays at 5:30 pm):

- 05/05/22

Tentative Executive Committee Meetings for FY22 (Fridays at 9 am):

- 04/29/21

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
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