

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

Thursday, May 5, 2022
5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. - Members and Guests

ZOOM MEETING

Notes

Welcome and Executive Committee Update –

- A. Approval of Minutes from March meeting minutes – Quorum achieved with 12 voting members.
- B.** New member Marie Marino, program coordinator for the Mid County Infants and Toddlers site, was welcomed.

Updates from Offices

A. MCITP

1. **State Report Card Results and Correction Plan** – Mary shared details from the MSDE report card. Overall, the program met expectations, however a few items were flagged as needing improvement in the child outcomes summary and regulatory categories. These were reviewed by program leadership and valid reasons for the deficiencies were discussed. Based on these discussions, a corrective action plan has been developed and was submitted to MSDE last week.
2. **CLIG – MSDE Consolidated Local Implementation Grant** – The annual grant which funds the Infants and Toddlers program is a blend of Federal and State funds and funds generated through Medicaid billing. The application has been streamlined this year, but included a new source of funding, so an application will be written for this supplemental amount.
 - i. Due May 31st
 - ii. Additional Funds for Family Outreach - Included this year is a new source of funding for FSN outreach to families.
3. **Services** - Continue with hybrid services, majority in-person – In-person services resumed in February. Most services are in-person, but families continue to have a choice between the two models. The program saw the highest number of children ever recorded entering the program in the month of March 2022.

B. Family Support Network/Family Involvement Center (FIC)

1. **FIC Updates** – This is an initiative of ECS program for families to attend pyramid-model based classrooms, staffed by parent educators. The program provides circle time and assists the families in creating connections, as well as sharing resources to assist families. The program has recently re-opened to in-person services and attendance is picking up. Members were asked to spread the word those sites are open:
 - Virtually: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays –10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
 - In-person: Tuesdays and Thursdays (both locations) 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 - Summer schedule is TBD

2. **FSN** - prepping for FY23.
 - i. Enhance digital platform
 1. DHHS Text Messaging Feature
 2. Reconstruct Website-more family friendly with tabs and links for workshops and events
 - ii. Community Opportunities in Collaborations with MCITP Sites – The ITP sites have been instrumental in identifying opportunities where ITP and Extended C families can engage in activities, services, resources with the greater community.
 - iii. Outreach to Ethiopian Community – Down and East County sites have partnered with Azim Adir, of the Eritrean/Ethiopian Special Needs Community Organization, to coordinate and implement bi-weekly parent/child groups at the White Oak Community Center with a target date of September, FY23.
 - iv. Collaboration with Muslim Community Centers of Community Engagement Specialist – Meeting scheduled to explore a partnership between Ethiopian families and the communities where they live.
- C. **MCPS** - Program Updates – Interviews for the East County program coordinator begin in June 2022, with a hire date of July 1, 2022. Pam Nehring, the current program coordinator, has made the decision to retire and is currently on long-term leave. Kathy Toscano is the acting program coordinator.

Multiple grants are being written: Extended C children, receive some funds through the CLIG and DHHS pass-through services, while some funding for Part B and Pre-K Special Education services comes through an MSDE grant. Funding, awarded 1.5 years ago, for a Pre-K ARP grant through MSDE has yet to be received – the deadline for spending is June 2023.

Workgroup to review the practices for transition continues. Many families with children currently over the age of 3, who left ITP between March of 2020 and February of 2022, are now entering Child Find. There are many reasons for this; more data on this topic will be shared in the fall.

Pre-K expansion of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future funding is opening many more seats for Pre-K eligible children throughout the county, which is an opportunity to place more children with special needs in classrooms.

East and Mid county staff are holding Positive Solutions for Families classes, in both English and Spanish, with 8 families joining. These are virtual classes; hybrid may be coming later in the year.

Continuing to build capacity of providers in coaching and evidence-based practices with in-person training experiences with national experts.

- D. **ECEI/Budget/Legislative Updates** - The county budget process is still underway. The Early Childhood session will be on Monday, May 9th at 12:00. There were no negative impacts in the recommended budget to either the Early Care and Education Initiative or Early Childhood Services. The County Council must pass the budget by May 15, 2022. The ECEI will have \$20M if it is passed and includes money that has been carried over.

The State Legislature passed a package of bills related to early childhood to bolster and help sustain child care. There were major changes to the Child Care Scholarship; parents will no longer have to provide information about child support and will be considered eligible for the program, unless proven otherwise. Child care programs must also be paid more consistently. There will be a revolving loan fund for expansion of child care programs, which will be interest-free. The package also includes bonuses in the credentialing program to help providers and programs to move up in EXCELS.

Additional funds were awarded to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future these will be used for the Infants and Toddlers Program; earmarked for the Family Support Network, funds for more Judy Centers and more Family Support centers.

- E. **Child Care** – Continue to support child care communities with PPE, but are phasing into a more endemic approach. Two rounds of masks and shields were passed out, with 2 more rounds in June and July scheduled, but masks and no-touch thermometers will not be included. Supplies are given out, free of charge. Members were asked to share the eBlast from the Child Care Support Services with their networks.

Many child care programs are still being challenged by low enrollment, which affects revenue, and therefore staffing and budgeting.

The Early Care and Education Initiative is conducting monthly forums with providers, the topic for May is access and affordability. The Maryland State Child Care Scholarship manager and the DHHS Working Parents Assistance representative have been invited to speak about the upcoming changes to subsidies to help children and families: tiers will be increased, which will provide more access to families.

There will be a Facebook Live event, one in English and one in Spanish, on May 17th and 18th to discuss choosing child care, the value of licensed, regulated child care, what to look for, how to determine what is high-quality, and understanding the supports that exist. This program was also offered in the Fall of 2021, with almost 1000 parents engaged. Jennifer will share the links to the event with members as soon as they are available.

F. **Future Plans-**

- i. **Membership** – The LICC needs more community members, parents, and stakeholders to expand input. Recruiting will begin this summer and hopefully add members in the fall. All were encouraged to keep this in mind. Jennifer mentioned a graphic, created to recruit members, and asked that it be shared with the group.
- ii. **Chair/Co-Chair** – Applicants for the position of Chair and Co-chair were solicited.

- iii. **FY23 Meeting times** – Alternate meeting times/platforms were determined (see below). The motion was passed unanimously. Office updates will be added to the upcoming agenda and will be shared, along with meeting notes from the previous meeting, one week prior to the meeting.
Agenda will include specific discussion items and committee work.

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Platform
9/22/2022	7:00-8:30 p.m.	In-person
11/10/2022	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Zoom
3/2/2023	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Zoom
5/4/2023	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Zoom

Committee Report Outs

1. **Family Engagement** – Discussed the importance of keeping the momentum going over the summer with outreach and activities. Focus on continuing to develop relationships across ITP sites. Debra discussed plans for forming parent and education development teams/committees with the plan to conduct workshops. Anna and Rachel will join and assist with networking and recruiting new parents. Planning for first community meeting in September. Debra will meet with Rachel and Anna to discuss plans.
2. **Inclusive Child Care** – The group agreed to schedule 2 cycles of the Hanen Learning Language and Loving it! program. The ECEI will fund this endeavor. Training stipends = \$20/hour
3. **Transitions** – The group will be recreating videos, which were pre-pandemic, through a different lens. They will include scenarios that are specific to different types of classrooms to reduce the anxiety families are having in placing children in in-person services. Also addressing communication, intake process and consistency across that process. The group also discussed an intake bag for families, along with an All About Me forms for families to fill out to help connect the program and families.

Tentative LICC Meetings for FY23 (Thursdays):

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Platform
9/22/2022	7:00-8:30 p.m.	In-person
11/10/2022	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Zoom

3/2/2023	7:00-8:00 p.m.	Zoom
5/4/2023	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Zoom

Tentative Executive Committee Meetings for FY23 (Fridays at 9 am on Zoom):

- 09/16/22
- 11/04/22
- 02/24/23
- 04/28/23

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