

The Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) met four times in the 2022 fiscal year: 09/22/2022, 11/10/2022, 3/2/2023, and 5/4/2023. All meetings were held virtually in the early evenings.

Topics of discussion by the LICC this year included increasing parent engagement through participation on the LICC and committees and better supporting parents with children in the Infants and Toddlers Program, especially during the transition from early intervention to Preschool Special Education. Three work groups continued their work to advance the goals of the LICC: family outreach, easing transitions, and inclusive childcare. A fourth work group addressing the needs of medically-fragile children and their families is convened when necessary. The By-Laws and Nominating Committees are also convened as needed.

The following activities took place during the 2023 fiscal year:

- Efforts to recruit new members continued, especially parents of children currently or formerly in the ITP. Two parent leaders of recently-transitioned ITP children have volunteered as co-chairs for FY24. There are additional parents who have regularly been attending.
- Meetings began with committee work followed by committee reports, a format which began at the end of FY '19, to ensure that committees had ample time to meet and plan. Quarterly updates from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and local, county and state legislation are distributed in writing for members to review, instead of taking up valuable time during the meetings to provide these updates.

During FY '23:

- The **Family Engagement Committee** focused on exploring ways to reach out to families already in the ITP and to new families in the community. New members are being recruited for the FY24 LICC session which begins in November.
- The **Transition Committee** was focused on improving the transition process of ITP children to next level, prekindergarten and kindergarten. Families often struggle with this, and the committee works to make the process more user friendly.
- The **Inclusive Child Care Committee** focused on improving communication with childcare programs, family childcare centers, and providers on making classrooms more inclusive to ensure children in the ITP can engage with their peers who are not in the ITP program.

An issue that MCITP LICC would like the SICC to address is the increased need for social-emotional supports demonstrated by both children and families in the wake of the pandemic.



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Perhaps with partner support (JHU-CTE, University of MD School of Social Work, etc.), a statewide research study could be conducted to survey parents about their life challenges in the wake of COVID-19 and how they could better support their children emotionally.