

To facilitate compliance with federal requirements, the State Interagency Coordinating Council requests that each LICC submit an annual report of its activities during the grant period. Information from the LICC Annual Reports is included in the Annual Report of the State Interagency Coordinating Council to the U.S. Department of Education and the Governor. The LICC Annual Report must include the following components:

- ***A summary of how the LICC has advised and assisted the local lead agency to develop and implement the local early intervention system during the grant period;***
- ***Successful LICC efforts that may be helpful to other LICCs;***
- ***Issues to be considered by the State Interagency Coordinating Council; and***
- ***The dates that the meetings were held, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.***

The Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) met four times in the 2021 fiscal year: 09/17/20, 11/5/20, 02/25/21, and 04/29/21. All meetings were held virtually in the early evenings.

The main topic of discussion by the LICC this year was the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on service delivery. This included how to engage and better support families through virtual services and other programming. The three work groups continued their work to advance the goals of the LICC through the lens of the pandemic: Family Outreach, Easing Transitions, and Inclusive Childcare. The *Medically-Fragile Children*, *By-Laws* and *Nominating* Committees are convened as needed and did not meet in FY '21.

The following activities took place during the 2021 fiscal year:

- Efforts to recruit new members continued, especially parents of children currently or formerly in the ITP.
- 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 shared and discussed.
- Recommendations were developed for adjusting service delivery in light of the pandemic, including feedback from parents on the LICC and surveys that were conducted with parents and providers regarding virtual services.
- Partnership with the Montgomery County Early Childhood Coordinating Council to distribute 161 early learning kits to families participating in the Family Involvement Centers.
- Participation in a local initiative, *The Basics Montgomery County*, with a focus on families living in the 20877 (Gaithersburg) zip code.

- The Family Outreach work group developed a plan to continue conducting focus groups to identify challenges and successes in family outreach. However, the focus groups were temporarily put on-hold during the pandemic. While virtual focus groups were discussed, it was determined that this would not be the best option when targeting certain communities, including the Amharic- and Spanish-speaking communities, and that focus groups would again be offered when in-person activities resume.
- The Inclusive Child Care Committee completed a PowerPoint to share with child care programs. They also discussed data around expulsion rates. The group will advocate for greater collaboration between the Montgomery County Child Care Resource & Referral Center and the Early Childhood Mental Health Program to support child care programs. They will also advocate for the return of the *Learning Language and Loving It* (Hanan) program which was extremely valuable but previously discontinued due to funding limitations.
- The Transition Committee had previously worked on a video regarding the transition into the Preschool Education Program with a focus on equity for parents who were not able to participate in tours in-person. The group is considering the development of a new video to demonstrate how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the continuum of services. Of discussion was also the importance of consistency with the intake process across all forty public schools.

An issue that MCITP LICC would again like the SICC to address is the continued unfunded expense incurred by Infants and Toddlers Programs for IFSP translations. The families served by the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) in FY '21 continue to reflect the diversity within the county. Over 40% of MCITP families with active *Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs)* in FY '21 reported that they spoke a language other than English as their first language.