

The Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) met four times in the 2022 fiscal year: 09/23/2021, 11/04/2021, 03/03/2022, and 05/05/2022. 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 2022 fiscal year:

- Efforts to recruit new members continued, especially parents of children currently or formerly in the ITP. Two parents leaders of current or recently-transitioned ITP children have regularly attended meetings.
- 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 '22:

- The **Family Engagement Committee** discussed the importance of keeping the momentum of fostering family engagement going in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group decided to focus on developing family relationships across ITP sites through an ITP parent/caregiver-led family support group. Two potential parent leaders were identified.
- The **Transition Committee** is focusing on recreating videos made pre-pandemic using a different lens. They will portray scenarios that are specific to different types of classrooms to reduce the anxiety families are feeling in placing children in in-person services. The videos would also ensure consistent communication across sites regarding the intake process. They are also exploring the provision of an "Intake Bag" for families which includes an "All About Me" packet which will help connect the Part B program and the new families.
- The **Inclusive Child Care Committee** had two foci for FY '22: to revise the PowerPoint presentation for childcare providers, addressing misconceptions about ITP, and examine the possibility of offering the Hanen Program for child care providers, "Learning

Language and Loving It,” teaching child care providers how to promote language development in young children. It was decided to offer two sessions of “Learning Language and Loving It” to child care providers, funded by Montgomery County’s Early Care and Education Initiative.

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. 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.