

**State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Minutes**  
August 1, 2024, Meeting

**Members in Attendance**

Dr. Sadia Batool	Family Member
Mr. Mark Beall	Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
Dr. Kris Bowman	Provider/Early Intervention Providers Association
Ms. Lisa Parker	Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports
Ms. Jamie Buchenauer	Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Ms. Tracy Duarte	Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office
Representative Liz Hanbidge	Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Ms. Amanda Kurtz	Altoona Area School District
Ms. Ruby Martin	Bureau of Certification Services
Mr. Jason McCrea	Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health
Ms. Wenxi Schwab	Family Member
Ms. Jane Stadnik	Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center
Ms. Lindsi Swarz	Pennsylvania Insurance Department
Ms. Tia Thompson	Family Member
Ms. Lea Sheffield	Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Michele Walsh	Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth, and Families

**Members Absent**

Ms. Jameekia Barnett	Department of Human Services, Office of Policy
Dr. Sandhya Iyengar	American Academy of Pediatrics
Ms. Carmen Medina	Department of Education, Homelessness Initiative
Dr. Michelle Reichard-Huff	Intermediate Unit Representative

**Guests**

Molly Martz	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Kim Koteles	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Gina Federico	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Sheila Stevenson	Centre County
Annie Smith	Strawberry Fields
Lisa Richards	Goldstar Rehabilitation
Amy Reed	Cumberland/Perry Counties
Susan Levi	The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers
Roxann Emigh	Central Intermediate Unit 10
Tammy Shoff	Dauphin County
Sharon Richards	Achieva
Anne Lang	Early Intervention Specialists
Tammy Delahunty	Allegheny County
Leann Wash	Wayne County

Deb Kraus	Achieva
Jennifer Pusateri	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Rebecca Kichman	Cumberland/Perry Counties
Michele Hawk	Westmoreland County
Michele Mapes	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Betsy Gamza	Pittsburgh Public Schools
Joy Polignano	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Stephanie Graaf	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Susan White	Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
Brandie Stevens	Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5
Karen Yosmanovich	Family Member
Cynthia Bosserman	HealthPro Peds
Nikki Herman	Family Member
Deb Noel	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Dr. Maisha Richardson	Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services
Samantha Moss	Family Member
Shelley Chapin	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Sade Thompson	Family Member
Charlene Filsaime	Family Member
Lauren Stuparitz	Family Member
Brandi Binakonsky	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Danielle Hagenbuch	Family Member
Barb Clark	Crawford County
Kevin Youngblood	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Nipho Msibi	Family Member

**Welcome and Introductions** – Ms. Gina Federico, Early Intervention Technical Assistance, introduced herself and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She asked everyone to put their name and agency in the chat box for attendance.

Dr. Sadia Batool introduced a new SICC member, Ms. Lindsay Swarz. Ms. Swarz is the director of the Life, Accident, and Health Insurance Bureau within the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Ms. Swarz is also the mother of three children with autism.

**Approval of the June Meeting Minutes** – Dr. Sadia Batool asked for any concerns or corrections to the June minutes be placed in the chat box. No concerns or corrections were identified, and the minutes were approved. The minutes for the June 6th meeting are posted on the SICC [padlet](#).

### **Family Story**

Ms. Karen Yosmanovich shared her family's Early Intervention experience. Ms. Yosmanovich was first introduced to the world of disabilities when her younger sister was diagnosed with autism and developmental disabilities. She later went into the field of special education and has worked as a teacher, adjunct professor, and a director at a non-profit for autism.

Ms. Yosmanovich is also the mother of two young children who were in the NICU after birth. Her younger son was later diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder and has received physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, hearing therapy, feeding therapy, social work, and special instruction through Early Intervention. She believes that it is important for EI professionals to connect families with hopes and dreams for their children, to connect families with practical resources, to always show families compassion, and to serve the entire family unit.

Ms. Yosmanovich participated in Confidence and Competence: Partners in Policymaking Early Intervention (C2P2 EI) and is incredibly grateful for the experience. It helped her find her village of other family members to connect with, it helped her feel empowered. Additionally, Ms. Yosmanovich was reminded of the importance of taking care of herself so she can take the best possible care of her family.

### **Next Steps for State Interagency Coordinating Council Restructuring**

Dr. Kris Bowman and Dr. Sadia Batool shared about next steps for SICC restructuring. The SICC will launch subcommittees by February of 2025. The subcommittees would include both members and other participants. Subcommittee topics will include mental health, workforce development, access and inclusion, and outreach and communication, as well as an ad hoc subcommittee dedicated to supporting BEISFS through the OSEP monitoring process (differentiated monitoring and supports).

### **Update on Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application – Bridges to Success: Keystones for Pennsylvania**

Ms. Jamie Buchenauer, Chief of Staff, Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP), shared information on the Bridges to Success: Keystones of Health for Pennsylvania, a grant application

to the US Department of Health and Human Services. With the grant application, OMAP aims to increase the array of options available to address health-related social needs and health outcomes. . A key piece of the application includes the implementation of a multiyear, continuous eligibility process for medical assistance for all children under age six. This would allow children who are deemed eligible for medical assistance before age six, to not have to reapply until their sixth birthday. OMAP hopes to hear about the approval of the application by January of 2025.

### **Title V Five-Year Needs and Capacity Assessment Information Session Update**

Mr. Jason McCrea, Program Manager, Bureau of Family Health, provided an update on the Title V Five-Year Needs and Capacity Assessment. The grant, which is awarded through the US Department of Health and Human Services, is due for renewal in 2025. The PA Department of Health, through listening sessions and outreach to partners, stakeholders, and families, is in the final steps of completing the needs assessment that will shape the next grant cycle. At a future SICC meeting, the PA Department of Health will present an update on the results of the needs assessment.

### **Office of Child Development and Early Learning Update**

Ms. Lisa Parker shared updates on behalf of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. She shared the latest family survey response count. She shared that there will be an Early Intervention Leadership Conference at the Penn Stater Conference Center on October 22-23, 2024.

Ms. Parker provided an update on the presentation of the SICC Annual Report to Secretary Valerie Arkoosh from the Department of Human Services. . Ms. Parker and the SICC co-chairs, Dr. Sadia Batool and Dr. Kris Bowman, met with Secretary Arkoosh to review the report on the work of the SICC. Secretary Arkoosh was impressed by the work of the SICC, in particular, the work being done around family leadership.

Finally, Ms. Parker shared information on the Infant Toddler Early Intervention rate study currently taking place. The report of the rate study will be finished by the end of September. Results will be reviewed and shared.

### **Transition Tools Presentation**

Ms. Gina Federico, EITA Consultant, shared information about the tools available to support both formal and informal transitions for families and children in Early Intervention. The tools are available in the “Transition Resource Library” on [Transition page of the EITA Portal](#).

### **Updates on the Family Meet and Greet Sessions**

Ms. Danielle Hagenbuch provided an update on the Family Meet and Greet meetings that take place prior to SICC meetings. The Meet and Greets review the SICC meeting agenda, facilitate family connections, review key policy issues and developments, and help families get involved in the SICC meetings. Based on feedback from families who attend the Meet and Greets, the

meetings will now be one hour long, allowing for more time to connect and interact, share resources, and discuss pertinent issues. Childcare reimbursement will be increased to support family/caregiver participation. The honorariums that support family members' preparation and facilitation of the Meet and Greets are also being increased.

### **Project ECHO Update**

Ms. Ilecia Voughs, Family Support Consultant with EITA, presented on Project ECHO, which stands for "Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes." Project ECHO is holding a webinar series, *Supporting Children's Early Development ECHO: "Learn the Signs. Act Early."* Sessions will focus on improving the early identification of developmental delays and disabilities by promoting developmental monitoring and screening. The ECHO webinars will include flash talks, case presentations, and collaborative discussions. More details on the sessions will be available soon.

Ms. Voughs encouraged SICC members and audience to share the Center for Disease Control's [Milestone Tracker](#) app with all families of young children. The app is a user-friendly tool for parents and caregivers to complete a milestone checklist on their child and then share with their pediatricians.

### **Open Forum**

No updates were provided.

**SICC Handouts:** The materials from this meeting are available on the [padlet](#).

**Next Meeting Date and Time:** October 10, 2024, at 12:30 pm. Please note that this meeting will take place on the second Thursday of the month, due to the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

**Meeting to adjourn:** Representative Liz Hanbidge provided the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jason McCrea provided the second.