

State Interagency Coordinating Council

February 14, 2022 Minutes

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

Cynthia Jackson

ICC Chair/Provider

Leona Adamczyk

ICC Vice

Ann Gionet

Dept. of Public Health

Tiffanie Allain

Parent Representative

Kim Nilson

Dept. for Children and Families

Maris Pelkey

Creative Interventions

Elaine Balsley

ReachOut

Nicole Cossette

Office of Early Childhood

Senator Mary Abrams

State Senator

Shanda Easley

Parent representative

Sharon Marie

Dept. of Aging & Disabilities Services

Ginny Mahoney

Dept. of Social Services

Anne Giordano

Education Connection

Carol Peltier

American School for the Deaf

Louis Tallarita

SDE-Homeless Children

Andrea Brinnel

SDE-619

Karen Pascale

Early Head Start

Myra Watnick

Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.

Ann Milanese, M.D.

American Academy of Pediatrics

Representative Liz Linehan

House of Representatives

Tammy Venenga

Dept. Of Developmental Services

Mary Beth Bruder

UCEDD

Lisa Opert

Parent Representative

Robb Dunn

Parent Representative

David Gonzalez-Rice

Parent representative

Lauren Black

Parent Representative

Melissa Roberts

Department of Insurance

ICC Members Present: Andrea Brinnel, Anne Giordano, Cindy Jackson, Tiffanie Allain, Shanda Easley, Carol Peltier, Elaine Balsley, Ginny Mahoney, Myra Watnick, Nicole Cossette, Robb Dunn, Lisa Opert, Karen Pascale, Maris Pelkey, Leona Adamczyk, Sharon Marie, Tammy Venenga

ICC Members Absent: Representative Linehan, Senator Abrams, Melissa Roberts, Mary Beth Bruder (Bethanne Vergean present for UCEDD), Kim Nilson, Ann Gionet, Lauren Black, David Gonzalez-Rice, Louis Tallarita,

CPAC represented by Leona Adamczyk

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Cindy Jackson ICC Chair

Introductions: ICC members in attendance introduced.

Public Comment:
No public comment.

Old Business:
Approval of the October 4, 2021 ICC Minutes and December 13, 2021 ICC Minutes: Approved.

Updates from Committees since October 2021 meeting:

Legislative/Fiscal Committee Annual data report to the Governor; final draft to be shared for comment. Workgroup has been meeting to discuss talking points for public testimony with the Legislators at Appropriations Committee.

Education and Outreach Committee Carol Peltier shared she has sent quotes to Nicole Cossette at Lead Agency for magnets and is waiting to hear back how to proceed. Committee will continue work on survey to families regarding early intervention supports, remote vs. in person.

System Support/Personnel Development Committee No update.

New Business:

Leona Adamczyk, sharing information from Adriana Fontaine, CPAC/Family Connections: reported 173 new referrals in the last quarter, with 100 families connected with supports. CPAC attended 18 events. The first First Steps training (4 sessions) was completed with good attendance from both parents and providers. Next First Steps session to be scheduled for Spring 2022. CPAC continues to report decreased referrals for Spanish-speaking families, and is looking for ways to connect and support.

Cindy Jackson updated on the Part C Equity Committee through the OEC. Nicole shared they are looking into inviting a consultant to guide their work as well as ways to partner with other groups/divisions at OEC (Home Visiting, Child Care) with this lens. Cindy suggested holding an ICC retreat with consultant support in establishing mission statement. Cindy will connect with Sabrina (ICC Staff Support with Birth to Three) to determine available funds for retreat. Cindy suggested small short-term subcommittee to schedule and organize the retreat. Leona Adamczyk and Tiffanie Allain volunteered to help. Survey for availability in scheduling will go out to all ICC members.

Family Focus for April ICC meeting discussed. It is scheduled for April 4, 2022. Opportunity for families to present and share their stories, both positive and barriers. Communication/Ed Outreach Committee will be lead for organizing this event again this year. Birth to Three programs are asked to share with their families to invite them to the meeting. CPAC is available to support families in presenting, as they were last year. Lisa Opert will be contact for both CPAC and Communication/ED Outreach Committee for the Family Focus ICC meeting. Discussion on whether the meeting will be in person or remote. Elaine Balsley shared there was increased participation last year from families due to remote option. Others agreed. Consensus on remote for the April meeting to encourage more family participation. Leona asked if possible to think outside the box this year in addition to the traditional stories shared; to have at least one story in action shared by parent and possibly provider about how they partnered together to reach an outcome. Leona stated how powerful it is to see early intervention in action especially for those who have no direct experience with it. Suggested a video snippet of a Birth to Three visit. Another suggestion from Anne Giordano was a video snippet or written statement from a family of how CPAC supported them personally. Other ideas was showing snippets from different families of the journey in Birth to Three; from initial referral with 211 Child Development to evaluation to supports to CPAC and other community connections to transition. Further ideas to be discussed at Communication/Ed Outreach Committee. Leona reiterated that CPAC will support families in framing barriers in a way to support the system going forward, not to identify people or program, and that barriers often present opportunity for growth.

Maggie Adair, Director of Government and Community Relations at OEC and Legislative Liaison, shared update on current legislative session. This short session will run from Feb 9 through May 4, 2022. Maggie shared the OEC will continue to strongly recommend mask wearing even after the mask mandate ends. She shared the Governor's budget for B23. The appropriations committee meets next week. Commissioner Bye will be before the committee on Thursday, 2/17/22, morning and public hearing will start at 4 pm that day for public testimony to share concerns.

Lead Agency report by Nicole Cossette. See attached. In discussion around Priority Rubric for the coming year, it was suggested a subcommittee to meet 1-2 times to support the Lead Agency in determining the measures. Those interested in this subcommittee were requested to let Sabrina Crowe know. Plan would be to meet in March, likely for two meetings.

Committee reports outs:

Legislative/fiscal topics: One-page talking points around current challenges and recommendations to legislators shared. Talking points for upcoming public testimony. This document was shared on screen with full ICC. Motion to use this as representation of ICC for providers and system as whole. Approved to use by vote of quorum. Document will be sent to Sabrina Crowe to distribute to ICC members and B23 program directors.

Education and Outreach topics: Discussion around what questions to include on survey to families for feedback on remote. Survey still work in progress. Discussion around B23 FAQ sheet to give to

families: who to contact, b23 program, director. Further magnet discussion. April Family Focus meeting discussed; Lisa Opert will be contact for families who would like to participate.

System Support/Personnel Development topics: Revisited document designed by Jen Buffington some months ago around transition supports and next steps in disseminating it. Discussed PD Grant and increased PD opportunities. Recruitment opportunity in the beginning stages shared as discussion with college in the state in offering practicum experience in Early Intervention as part of their degree.

Next Meeting: scheduled for April 4, 2022. Family Focus Meeting will be held remotely.



State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

Parents will be able to describe their child's abilities and challenges more effectively as a result of their participation in Early Intervention.

FFY20-25 SPP / APR SSIP

- The new logic model was submitted with Connecticut's Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) on January 31, 2022

Current SPP / APR / SSIP

Reporting Review.

- The APR and SSIP submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) are posted publicly here: [Annual Performance Reports – Birth23.org](https://www.birthtothree.org/annual-performance-reports)
- The public reporting tables will be published **by February 24, 2022.**

Education and Outreach

- There were four Sparkler Overview trainings held for Birth to Three providers with good attendance for each.
- Updates were made to the Parent Rights Brochure. The translation is in process, and will be followed by printing. Once translations are complete, updated links will be posted to the Birth to Three website.
- Family Handbook One has been updated to reflect State Fiscal Year '21 (SFY21) legislative changes. The handbook is now a series of one-page documents on important topics regarding referral and evaluation. Translation of the handbook is in process.
- The Updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Birth to Three and Early Head Start has been posted to the Birth to Three website here: [Interagency Agreements, MOUs, and MOAs – Birth23.org](https://www.birthtothree.org/interagency-agreements-mous-and-moas).

Personnel Development

- Early Intervention Specialist class (Cohort 7) through UCONN UCEDD has 24 applicants.
- New learning modules largely based on the ICC sub-committee professional development survey have moved from planning to design and production. These will be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
- The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) will host a learning management system with Protraxx integrated for registration and ongoing record of trainings. Current and historical data housed in Protraxx will be ported over to the new integrated system in order to maintain a complete continuous record of trainings. The system will also be used as a platform to share resources.

Fiscal Enhancements

- The Part C Application for Federal Fiscal Year '22 (FFY22) will be posted for public comment on **February 28, 2022**. The federal appropriations for FFY22 have not been released yet.
- There are ongoing conversations with PCG regarding the adjudication process.

Leadership Grant

- Cohort two scholars began the leadership academy in January 2022.
- Two of cohort one scholars are mentoring cohort two leaders.
- Scholars from Cohort One presented their projects to the advisory board, the Office of Early Childhood, in addition to the ICC.

Personnel Development Grant

- Four new Family Infant Preschool Program (FIPP) modules were purchased addressing Activity-Based Teaming best practices in Early Intervention and will be uploaded to the OEC learning management system as soon as it is operational.

- Year two Mentor Technical Assistance (TA) began in September 2021, and the first reports on TA were submitted by December 31. Invoices submitted reflect Mentor Coach estimates remain on track. Fidelity checks are somewhat low, but it is anticipated that these will increase as six-month TAs begin to wrap up, and agency mentor coaches become available to complete them.
- Year Two Career Pathway analysis, alignment, and recommendations are tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2022.

General Supervision

- Individual Compliance Self-Assessment Results are attached.
- There is a need to determine what areas to focus on for the 2022 Priority Rubric which determines the level of technical assistance (TA) to providers.
- A Written Complaint was submitted to the Lead Agency on January 11, 2022.

Other

- The final draft of the Annual Report that will be submitted to the Legislature is Attached

Data

- What data is helpful for 2022 ICC Meetings?

The enrollment and fiscal data requested by the ICC on a regular basis are attached.

2021 Birth to Three ICSA (IDEA Compliance Self-Assessment) Summary

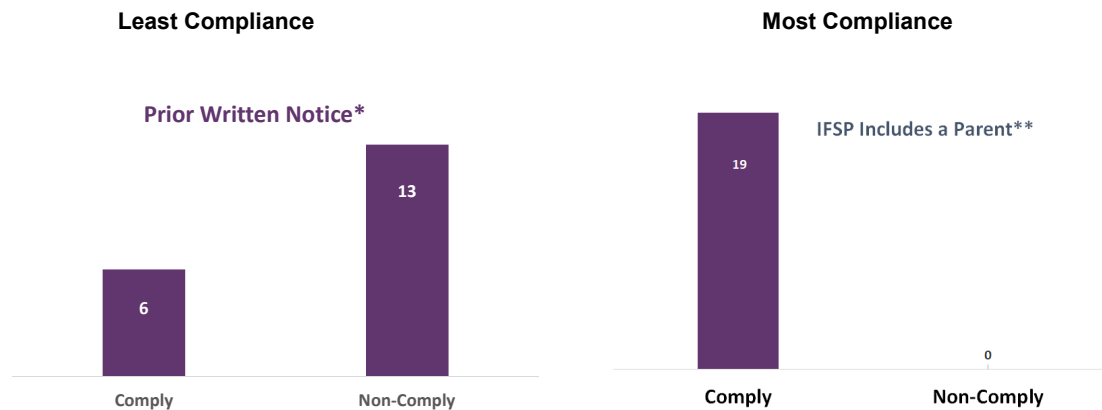
One way the Lead Agency ensures that providers are following IDEA regulations:

1. ICSA is a self-monitoring assessment of Birth to Three's 19 program's compliance and quality
2. 26 General Supervision measures
 - Example: Form 1-4 Consent for Evaluations and Assessments is present, complete, and accurate for all evaluations
 - Example: With the concurrence of the family, IFSP includes a statement of the family's priorities, related to enhancing the development of the child
3. Sample size is 10% of children enrolled with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 50 records

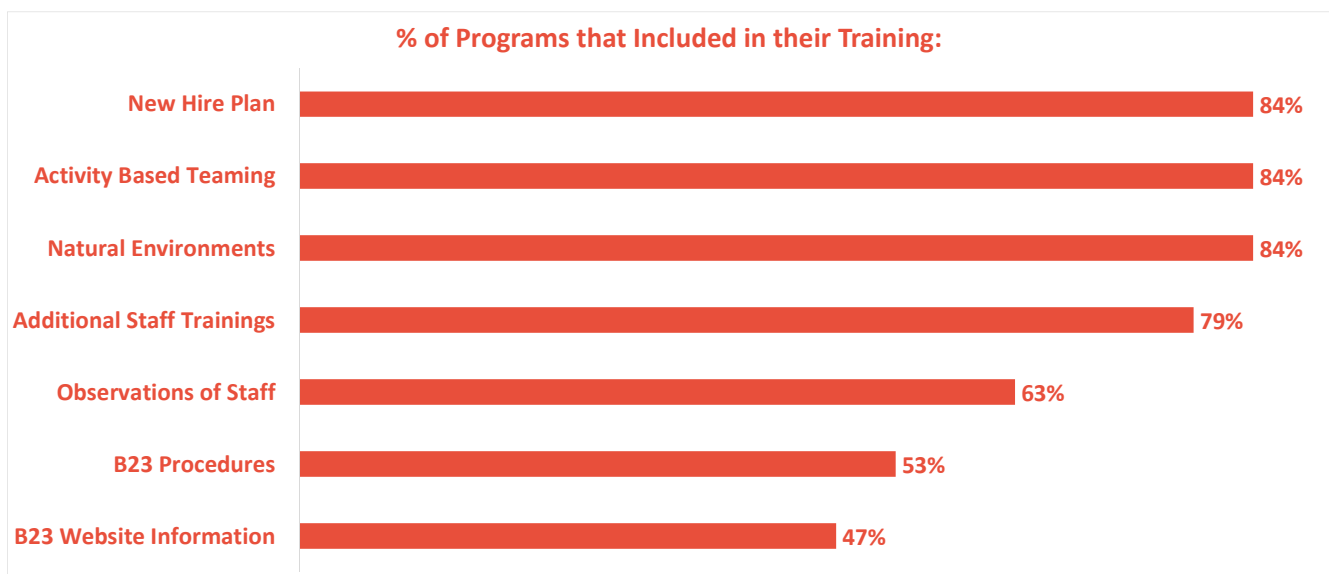
Findings

4. The assumption is that each program will have findings of non-compliance
5. Each program creates an improvement plan that the Lead Agency approves that is incorporated into their Training & Supervision Plan
6. Has a year to correct findings. Lead Agency provides access to TA
7. Lead Agency verifies correction within a year

Self-Assessment- Measure that Programs have the...



Corrective Plan



*Documentation verifying that Prior Written Notice was provided to the family any time the program proposes, or refuses, to initiate or change the evaluation, or the provision of early intervention

**IFSP includes at least one parent as defined in the IDEA participates in the meeting

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Birth to Three System Monthly Enrollment Data

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec*	Jan*
Calls to 211CD	1193	1280	1008	1302	1110	1111	1086	1119	1116	1088	806
Percent compared to CY2019 average (1113)	107%	115%	91%	117%	100%	100%	98%	101%	100%	98%	72%
<i>Families declining the referral to B23¹</i>	230	245	185	255	182	187	207	196	188	102	17
Percent compared to CY2019 average (199)	116%	123%	93%	128%	91%	94%	104%	98%	94%	51%	9%
Percent of calls to 211CD (CY2019 average was 17%)	19%	19%	18%	20%	16%	17%	19%	18%	17%	9%	2%
Referrals to Birth to Three	962	1033	823	1045	927	924	879	923	925	882	530
Percent compared to CY2019 average (913)	105%	113%	90%	114%	102%	101%	96%	101%	101%	97%	58%
<i>Families declining eligibility evaluations²</i>	94	104	78	99	103	86	81	69	90	82	55
Percent compared to CY2019 average (67)	140%	155%	116%	148%	154%	128%	121%	103%	134%	122%	82%
Percent of B23 referrals (CY2019 average was 7%)	10%	10%	9%	9%	11%	9%	9%	7%	10%	9%	10%
Initial Eligibility Determinations	870	777	802	875	816	923	802	813	804	782	483
Percent compared to CY2019 average (843)	102%	91%	94%	102%	95%	108%	94%	95%	94%	91%	56%
Determined to be Eligible	669	558	613	631	559	633	574	564	577	548	349
Percent compared to CY2019 average (570)	117%	98%	108%	111%	98%	111%	101%	99%	101%	96%	61%
Percent Eligible	77%	72%	76%	72%	69%	69%	72%	69%	72%	70%	72%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (68%)	9%	4%	8%	4%	1%	1%	4%	1%	4%	2%	4%
<i>Families leaving Part C in the month before an initial IFSP meeting³</i>	39	29	41	42	35	28	40	36	28	20	13
Percent compared to CY2019 average (55)	71%	53%	75%	76%	64%	51%	73%	65%	51%	36%	24%
Percent of B23 those eligible (CY2019 average was 10%)	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%	4%	7%	6%	5%	4%	4%
Initial IFSP meeting held during the month	599	551	525	555	569	585	555	528	563	551	299
Percent compared to CY2019 average (516)	116%	107%	102%	108%	110%	113%	108%	102%	109%	107%	58%
<i>Families leaving Part C after the initial IFSP meeting but before EITS³</i>	13	15	12	14	12	10	15	10	13	4	4
Percent compared to CY2019 average (15)	87%	100%	80%	93%	80%	67%	100%	67%	87%	27%	27%
Percent of all Exits	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Birth to Three System Monthly Enrollment Data

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec*	Jan*
Eligible children who received an EITS in the month	5072	5080	5219	5324	5360	5630	5530	5565	5597	5547	3453
Percent compared to CY2019 average (5177)	98%	98%	101%	103%	104%	109%	107%	107%	108%	107%	67%
Average hours per child per month	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.7	2.8
Percent compared to CY2019 average (7.3)	82%	75%	73%	75%	71%	71%	71%	71%	71%	64%	38%

Eligible children with an ASD who received an EITS in the month	515	532	610	564	530	675	694	674	634	632	91
Percent compared to CY2019 average (676)	76%	79%	90%	83%	78%	100%	103%	100%	94%	93%	13%
Average hours per child per month	15.7	16.2	14.5	14.1	15.0	13.9	11.7	12.3	12.3	10.9	9.8
Percent compared to CY2019 average (24.9)	63%	65%	58%	56%	60%	56%	47%	49%	49%	44%	39%

Eligible children without an ASD who received an EITS in the month	4557	4548	4609	4760	4830	4955	4836	4891	4963	4915	3362
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4529)	101%	100%	102%	105%	107%	109%	107%	108%	110%	109%	74%
Average hours per child per month	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.7	3.1
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4.7)	89%	94%	93%	90%	100%	92%	85%	89%	87%	79%	66%

Children in families who exited before age 3³	207	177	211	210	237	473	311	198	182	136	61
Percent compared to CY2019 average (224)	92%	79%	94%	94%	106%	211%	139%	88%	81%	61%	27%

Children in families who exited at age 3⁴	303	254	255	172	124	253	319	327	263	342	97
Percent compared to CY2019 average (322)	94%	79%	79%	53%	39%	79%	99%	102%	82%	106%	30%

Children in Families who exited at age 3 as eligible for Part B	210	181	189	87	56	174	214	226	179	243	66
Percent compared to CY2019 average (225)	93%	80%	84%	39%	25%	77%	95%	100%	80%	108%	29%

December and January data preliminary as of 1/25/22

All counts are counts of cases and include may include referrals within 45 days of age 3.

- 1) includes parent declined, referred to LEA, DCF no concerns and unable to contact
- 2) includes parent declined, moved out of CT, deceased and unable to contact
- 3) EITS stands for Early Intervention "Treatment" Services vs EIS (also evaluations, assessments, and IFSP meetings)
- 3) includes parent withdrew, moved out of CT, deceased and unable to contact
- 4) includes eligible for Part B, not eligible, and eligibility not determined/LEA not included

Connecticut Birth to Three System Fiscal Data Report

OEC Birth to Three System Direct Service Expenditures ¹											
Invoice	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Paid in	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
Escrow	2,974,994	2,834,630	2,834,859	2,787,842	2,806,686	2,999,325	3,310,356				
GAP	398,000	404,300	421,200	418,200	422,600	426,000	426,400				
Interpretation	20,907	17,343	23,828	11,396	5,750	27,063	14,933				
ATech + Other	8,765	4,576	7,644	5,294	7,972	522	10,997				
Total	3,402,666	3,260,849	3,287,532	3,222,732	3,243,008	3,452,909	3,762,686				
Commercial Insurance Payments ²											
	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-22	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Mar-22	Apr-22
Claims Paid	293,193	312,397	254,076	246,402	257,926	226,708	237,916				
Amount Billed	2,226,090	2,991,324	1,531,551	1,461,915	1,411,701	982,668	796,170				
%Paid/Billed	13%	10%	17%	17%	18%	23%	30%				
Billing Fees	-	30,993	21,868	-	17,800	35,303	15,870				
OEC Birth to Three State Allocation Budget Actual & Projections [Surplus / (Deficit)] ³											
Invoices	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22
Report	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Deficit Proj	921,660	1,026,669	440,947	85,615	273,246	21,236	-52,047				
Direct Service Hours ⁴											
FY	19 Act.	20 Act.	21 Act.	22 Est.							
Jun	36,792	39,459	33,683	34,276	1) Based on Budget Tracking system as of January 2022						
Jul	36,942	42,673	34,273	32,815	2) Based on data from PCG using date paid not date of service Values in grey are being double checked with PCG.						
Aug	38,265	41,179	30,114	33,879							
Sept	35,742	42,384	31,226	33,868	3) Based on monthly estimates by the OEC including a list of assumptions and data that change frequently						
Oct	41,640	44,791	31,724	34,088							
Nov	37,810	38,150	29,208	33,941							
Dec	33,032	49,433	30,734	30,902	4) Based on reconciled invoices (actual) and estimates using a list of assumptions using available information						
Jan	41,645	42,772	30,865	32,747							
Feb	37,283	41,300	30,888	35,521	Actual						
Mar	40,631	32,283	35,848	41,225	Estimated						
Apr	42,542	33,630	31,892	38,270							
May	44,478	32,416	31,720	38,064							
Total											
% Chg	466,801	480,470	382,171	419,594							
	55.88%	2.93%	-20.46%	9.79%							
											As of 2/10/22