State Interagency Coordinating Council

April 3, 2023 Minutes 9:00 AM-12:00 PM American School for the Deaf

Family Focus Meeting

ICC Members Present: Cindy Jackson, Tiffanie Allain, Ginny Mahoney, Nicole Cossette, Lisa Opert, Leona Adamczyk, Sharon Marie, Julie Hall, Bethanne Vergean (representing UCEDD), Senator Ceci Maher, Robb Dunn, John Lamb, Anne Giordano

ICC Members Absent: Elaine Balsley, Shonda Easley, Representative Linehan, Ann Milanese, Donna Maitland-Ward, Gerard O'Sullivan (pending appointment), Karen Pascale, Louis Tallarita, Maris Pelkey, Lauren Black, David Gonzalez-Rice, Tammy Venenga

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

Introductions: Cindy Jackson introduced American School for the Deaf (ASD) Executive Director, Jeff Bravin, who welcomed the ICC and families to their campus. Mr. Bravin shared information about programs offered at ASD. Cindy Jackson introduced both Commissioner Beth Bye and Deputy Commissioner Elena Trueworthy from the Office of Early Childhood.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Old Business:

Approval of the February 2023 minutes: Tabled until June meeting.

Updates from Committees since February 2023 meeting:

Legislative/Fiscal Committee Members are advocating at the LOB for current proposed bills SB2 and HB6644. SB2 includes reimbursement for interpreters for Spanish Speaking families (ICC Retreat 2022 outcome around Equity) and continuation of GAP rate of \$200 per child. HB6644 includes language around transition.

Education and Outreach Committee Members focus has been on this current meeting in supporting families presenting at today's Family Focus Event. Following today, the focus will return to the planned family engagement event at Camp Harkness this summer.

System Support/Personnel Development Committee Members met on Zoom to discuss some short-term steps: need for continued funding to staff supervising student placements and marketing materials and partnering with new Ed Outreach hire once onboarded with the Office of Early Childhood.

Cynthia Jackson ICC Chair/Provider Leona Adamczyk

ICC Vice John Lamb

Dept. of Public Health

Tiffanie Allain Parent Representative

Donna Maitland-Ward Dept. for Children and Families

Maris Pelkey

Creative Interventions, Provider

Elaine Balsley

Reachout, Provider Nicole Cossette

Office of Early Childhood

Senator Ceci Maher

State Senator Shonda Easley

Parent representative

Sharon Marie

Dept. of Aging & Disabilities Services

Ginny, Mahoney Dept. of Social Services

Anne Giordano

Education Connection, Provider

Louis Tallarita SDE-Homeless Children

Pending Appointment

SDE-619

Julie Hall

SARAH Inc, Provider

Karen Pascale

Early Head Start

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

Gerard O'Sullivan, pending

Department of Insurance

New Business:

Nicole Cossette shared Lead Agency report. See below.

Family Focus Event, chaired by Leona Adamczyk, included seven families present at the meeting, sharing their Birth to Three experiences with the ICC. There were also 3 families who recorded short videos that were played during the meeting. An additional five written statements from families were read aloud during the meeting. Experiences shared were both positive stories and stories that offered opportunities for improvement. Shared themes from the families included the need for more awareness that Birth to Three is available, the need to know families can ask for another provider and program when unhappy, the appreciation for their early intervention teams that supported them in their homes, the wish for continuation of supports following their children turning 3, the appreciation for the connection to CPAC and their mentors, and the challenges families are facing after they have transitioned to Part B services in their school districts.

Priscilla Irvine, from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), shared a short presentation on the Federal Perspective of Family Engagement.

Nicole Cossette shared short presentation on CT's Family Survey results.

Next Meeting: scheduled for June 5, 2023. Location to be determined.



Birth to Three Lead Agency Report April 3, 2023 Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator



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 Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on January 30, 2023. Thank you to all the reviewers!
 - The final APR and SSIP Report is posted here: <u>Annual Performance Reports Birth23.org</u>
 - The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Week of Clarification begins April 11, 2023.

Fiscal Enhancements

- ➤ The Office of the Attorney General (AG) approved the finalized Public Consulting Group (PCG) contract and it is now fully executed.
- ➤ The Lead Agency posted the Federal Part C Application here: <u>Annual Part C Application –</u> Birth23.org
 - This application is due on May 24, 2023.
 - This application is based on FFY22-23 budgets as appropriations have not been finalized.
 - We will continue to apply for the State Incentive Grant (SIG) to support the summer extension option.
 - o There is a new General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) form.
- > 1915(b)(4) waiver renewal has been posted for public comment.
 - o Thank you to our partners at the Department of Social Services (DSS).
 - This has been a longstanding waiver that the OEC has worked with DSS on since 2017.

Education Outreach

- The position for Education Outreach at the Office of Early Childhood in the Birth to Three division, which includes Child Find and Public Awareness responsibilities and Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) staff support, was posted and closed on March 31, 2023. Sabrina Crowe will continue to support this position until filled and new staff is onboarded.
- Website updates continue.
 - Birth to Three website calendar of events has been updated and is fully functioning. The calendar includes training for professionals and parents, parent events, and Communities of Practice meetings.
 - Updates to the Towns page should be live soon.
- Additional outreach events have been scheduled for the summer and fall of 2023 with various library groups across the state.

Leadership Grant

- ➤ Cohort 2 participants are working diligently on their local projects. They have presented their reports and many of which focused on transition outcomes.
- Cohort 3 recruitment will begin in the coming months with a focus on aspiring leaders in the system.
 - There will be an in-person aspect in the next cohort.

The next Annual Performance Report (APR) is due in May.

Personnel Development Grant

- ➤ Infant Toddler Family Specialist (ITFS) update: Two additional candidates have piloted the exam, feedback was provided and incorporated into the final version. The guidance manual has now been developed with related resources for perspective candidates going forward. The first candidate is moving on to the "implementation" phase with 4 representative observations soon to be scheduled. The Lead Agency appreciates all the candidates and their supervisors willingness to collaborate on this project.
- ➤ The coaching year 3 TA groups are generally 4 TA sessions in and moving toward the six required to submit for grant reimbursement. It is important to support the continued timely process to meet grant deadlines for submission.
- ➤ The next Annual Performance Report (APR) is due in May, and a final report on the grant will be due in January 2024.

Personnel Development

- The Circle of Security initiative is wrapping up. The final group of 8 week trainings has concluded. There are a few additional staff on a waitlist who are seeking facilitator training. The Lead Agency is working with our Department of Children and Families (DCF) partners to get a registration slot for as many staff as possible who originally applied for the Facilitator training.
- ➤ The summer Student Placement applications went out last week with the provider update. This will be the last application with the current funding. The Lead Agency has received favorable feedback and suggestions from some programs voicing the desire for continued funding. The Lead agency will propose a small focus group to determine how best to modify and incorporate feedback from the stakeholders.
- ➤ BDI-3 materials (English and Spanish versions) are working their way through the ordering process. Due to the large order size, this will be in two separate disbursements and will be directly delivered to programs. The Lead Agency will reach out regarding kits allocated for each program. If a program does not want some or all of the kits designated for them, the kits will be stored at OEC.

General Supervision

A written complaint was submitted by a parent in January. Findings of non-compliance for 211 Child Development and a program were found.

<u>Data</u>

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

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

	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Calls to 211CDI	1512	1258	1303	1216	1116	1281	1204	1190	1106	1054	1247	1180
Percent compared to CY2019 average (1113)	136%	113%	117%	109%	100%	115%	108%	107%	99%	95%	112%	106%
Families declining the referral to B23 ¹	277	229	228	244	175	174	193	224	185	167	149	40
Percent compared to CY2019 average (199)	139%	115%	115%	123%	88%	87%	97%	113%	93%	84%	75%	20%
Percent of calls to 211CD (CY2019 average was 17%)	18%	18%	17%	20%	16%	14%	16%	19%	17%	16%	12%	3%
Referrals to Birth to Three	1235	1029	1075	972	940	1107	1011	966	921	877	1005	887
Percent compared to CY2019 average (913)	135%	113%	118%	106%	103%	121%	111%	106%	101%	96%	110%	97%
refletit compared to C12013 average (913)	13370	113/0	110/0	100/0	10370	121/0	111/0	10070	101/0	90%	110/0	9170
Families declining eligibility evaluations ²	70	64	111	84	69	103	123	69	66	67	77	55
Percent compared to CY2019 average (67)	104%	96%	166%	125%	103%	154%	184%	103%	99%	100%	115%	82%
Percent of B23 referrals (CY2019 average was 7%)	6%	6%	10%	9%	7%	9%	12%	7%	7%	8%	8%	6%
[005	004	05-1	055	202	1000	000	050	222	00.4	0.40	0.44
Initial Eligibility Determinations	935	901	957	955	802	1023	989	953	922	834	948	841
Percent compared to CY2019 average (843)	109%	105%	112%	112%	94%	120%	116%	111%	108%	98%	111%	98%
Determined to be Eligible	699	624	628	627	534	665	670	670	613	565	657	572
Percent compared to CY2019 average (570)	123%	109%	110%	110%	94%	117%	118%	118%	108%	99%	115%	100%
D (5) 31	750/	600/	660/	6604	670/	650/	600/	700/	660/	600/	600/	600/
Percent Eligible	75%	69%	66%	66%	67%	65%	68%	70%	66%	68%	69%	68%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (68%)	7%	1%	-2%	-2%	-1%	-3%	0%	2%	-2%	0%	1%	0%
Families leaving Part C in the month before an initial IFSP meeting 3	25	25	26	30	28	33	29	35	26	26	27	28
Percent compared to CY2019 average (55)	45%	45%	47%	55%	51%	60%	53%	64%	47%	47%	49%	51%
Percent of B23 those eligible (CY2019 average was 10%)	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Initial LIFCD and action health devices who are such	620	F00	C15	F70	FOC	coc	COF	640	F00	F73	500	FFC
Initial IFSP meeting held during the month	639	588	615 119%	570 110%	506 98%	606	685 133%	649 126%	580 112%	572	599 116%	556 108%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (516)	124%	114%	119%	110%	98%	117%	133%	126%	112%	111%	116%	108%
Families leaving Part C after the initial IFSP meeting but before EITS ³	11	7	3	6	7	11	9	12	12	8	9	7
Percent compared to CY2019 average (15)	73%	47%	20%	40%	47%	73%	60%	80%	80%	53%	60%	47%
Percent of all Exits	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
File-this shill as a second or FITC to the second of FITC to the second or FITC to the s	C007	6027	C4.40	C20-1	C240l	CC04	C2 42	Canal	CAACI	caacl	CEEE	CEO 4
Eligible children who received an EITS in the month	6087	6027	6140	6287	6349	6684	6243	6382	6419	6336	6555	6504
Percent compared to CY2019 average (5177)	118%	116%	119%	121%	123%	129%	121%	123%	124%	122%	127%	126%

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

	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Average hours per child per month	5.8	5.1	5.2	5.4	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.8	5.3	4.8
Percent compared to CY2019 average (7.3)	79%	70%	71%	74%	67%	71%	70%	70%	70%	66%	73%	66%
Eligible children with an ASD who received an EITS in the month	734	724	730	763	791	822	677	646	636	621	561	602
Percent compared to CY2019 average (676)	109%	107%	108%	113%	117%	122%	100%	96%	94%	92%	83%	89%
Average hours per child per month	13.0	11.3	11.5	12.1	10.1	11.3	10.1	10.9	10.6	9.8	8.5	10.0
Percent compared to CY2019 average (24.9)	52%	45%	46%	49%	41%	45%	41%	44%	43%	39%	34%	40%
Eligible children without an ASD who received an EITS in the month	5411	5333	5451	5561	5582	5885	5602	5773	5806	5731	4818	5929
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4529)	119%	118%	120%	123%	123%	130%	124%	127%	128%	127%	106%	131%
Average hours per child per month	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.2	3.2	4.3
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4.7)	100%	89%	91%	94%	85%	91%	96%	94%	96%	89%	68%	91%
Children in families who exited before age 3 ³	198	170	194	239	229	670	298	220	168	176	211	161
Percent compared to CY2019 average (224)		76%		107%	102%	299%	133%	98%	75%	79%	94%	72%
Percent compared to C12019 average (224)	0070	70%	6/70	107%	102%	299%	155%	96%	75%	79%	94%	7 2 70
Children in families who exited at age 3 ⁴	356	332	224	149	154	347	408	369	347	378	385	312
Percent compared to CY2019 average (322)	111%	103%		46%	48%	108%	127%	115%	108%	117%	120%	97%
Children in Families who exited at age 3 as eligible for Part B	257	230	121	65	84	717	389	253	226	262	245	212
Percent compared to CY2019 average (225)	114%	102%	54%	29%	37%	319%	173%	112%	100%	116%	109%	94%

February data as of 03/24/23*

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

Actual Actual Actual Actual Actual Actual Actual Actual **Estimate Estimate Estimate Estimate** Total Month of Direct Services June July August September October November December January February March April May Number of Direct Services 39,605 36,033 40,831 38,246 38,367 38,327 35,619 41,201 40,619 48,246 41,717 43,912 482,722 **Direct Services Provided** 4,774,461 4,317,387 4,916,463 4,617,648 4,607,898 4,586,868 4,282,014 4,979,283 4,902,062 5,821,354 5,064,530 5,348,582 58,218,549

1.847.293

8,671

17,315

976.000

28,642

12,236

2.542

14,778

1,380,782

(676.681)

704.101

3.596.800

1.030.628

SFY 2023 Summary of Birth to Three Budget

Janaury

1.669.628

19,386

16,166

971.800

16,363

1.023.716

676,681

(718.422)

2.651.603

(41.741)

February

1.241.335

21,575

17,516

996.600

33,417

50,711

5.730

56,440

718,422

(600.111)

(1.318.533)

1.766.772

1.069.108

December

March

1.862.783

10,700

13,000

980.100

26.500

38,779

43.984

1,318,533

1.318.533

4.255.600

5.205

1.030.300

April

2.212.115

10,700

13,000

980.100

26,500

20,000

2.650

22,650

3.265.065

1.030.300

May

1.924.521

10,700

13,000

980.100

26,500

20,000

2.650

22,650

2.977.471

1.030.300

YTD

22,720,200

129,452

149,067

287,119

259,902

294,155

11,756,056

(11,747,386)

34.842.264

31,102,407

734.799

161,818 **34,059,328**

(782,936)

2,060,304

8.670

34,253

11,253,600

11.819.239

June

2.032.461

10,700

13,000

980.100

26,500

20,000

22,650

3.085.411

State Appropriation

Part C for Direct Services

SID 29685/87 Billling Fees 10/1/22

Part B Evaluations

Total Funding
Surplus (Deficit)

2.650

1.030.300

November

2.058.356

7,931

7,734

965.800

24,319

21,740

2.759

24,499

1,721,252

(1.380.782)

3.429.108

340.470

1.005.784

Escrow Payments

Additional Services: Assistive Technology

Medicaid Billing Fees

Net OEC Payments

Data Integration

Interpretation

Administrative Fee (GAP)

Subtotal Additional Services

Commercial Insurance Billing Fees

Subtotal Net Parent and Billing Fe

Previous Month Invoices Paid

Current Month Invoices Pavable

Net Accounts Pavable

Other

August

1.916.254

14,060

7,790

974.200

14,018

37,605

21,000

63,380

1,727,265

(2.765.645)

(1.038.380)

1.951.321

4.775

1.010.068

September

2.017.762

5,677

8,824

28,722

(21,000)

(21,000)

2,765,645

(1.438.807)

1.326.838

4.382.623

1.015.800

1.059.022

October

1.828.088

1,075

11,207

954.800

28,686

995.768

38,832

5.292

44,124

1,438,807

(1.721.252)

2.585.536

(282.445)

July

2.109.604

8,278

10,516

6,951

8,670

(1.727.265)

(1.718.595)

894.954

478.200

503.946

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, COMMENTS, AND HEARINGS ON CONNECTICUT'S ANNUAL STATE APPLICATION UNDER PART C OF IDEA FOR CONNECTICUT BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM'S FEDERAL FUNDING

Posted: March 16, 2023

Connecticut's Federal Application for Part C funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 is currently out for public comment until April 26, 2023. This document can be found on the Birth to Three Website – under About Birth to Three > Annual Part C Application on the left menu or by following this link: http://www.birth23.org/aboutb23/fedapp/.

Written comment on the application must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023. Comments should be sent to the attention of Nicole Cossette, by mail at the Office of Early Childhood, 450 Columbus Boulevard Suite #205, Hartford, CT, 06103-1835; by Fax 860-622-2789 or by e-mail: Nicole.Cossette@ct.gov.

Two public hearings concerning the proposed application will be held as follows:

1. Monday, April 17, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. remotely at the link below:

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)
+1 860-840-2075,,184918986# United States, Hartford
Phone Conference ID: 184 918 986#

Find a local number | Reset PIN

2. Thursday, April 27, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. remotely at the link below:

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)

+1 860-840-2075,,940566665# United States, Hartford Phone Conference ID: 940 566 665# Find a local number | Reset PIN

The Family Survey

What do we report out on the family survey?

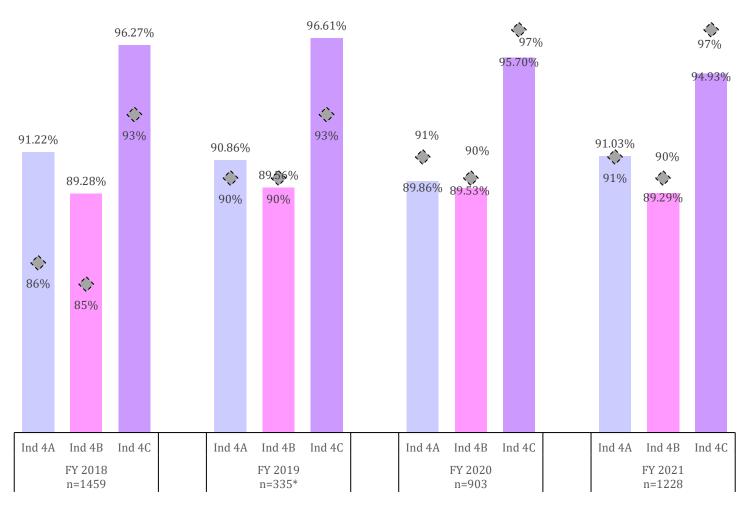
Indicator 4 of the SPP/APR focuses on the percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family:

4A Know their rights

4B Effectively communicate their children's needs

4C Help their children develop and learn

For FY 2021, the Birth to Three System in Connecticut met the OSEP target for indicator 4A, but did not meet the OSEP targets for indicator 4B or 4C.



* Important Note - Connecticut's family survey population size took a dip during reporting for FY 2019 (7/1/18-6/30/19). These surveys were distributed during spring 2020 and the results need to be interpreted with a Covid-19 lens. We are currently trending towards pre pandemic numbers for survey completion.

Legend:

- represents the OSEP generated target for each indicator. The targets are based on historical data for the state and change yearly.
- represents the percent of families who report that services have helped the family know their rights (Indicator 4A)
- represents the percent of families who report that services helped the family communicate their children's needs (Indicator 4B)
- represents the percent of families who report that services helped their children develop and learn (Indicator 4C)

What do our families say about B23?

We are very thankful to Birth to 3 family. The staff was amazing, professional, always available and patient with my child. I learned so much from them and they helped my child thrive. I cannot thank you enough.

Es bueno sentir que hay programas y personas dentro de mi comunidad con los mismos sentimientos y necesidades en las cuales podemos encontrar apoyo.

It's good to feel that there are programs and people within my community with the same sentiments and needs in which we can find support.

It is a very good program, for all parents to be able to start on the fastest way to understand and help children with disabilities. We always have that support so we don't feel sad or confused. Thank you

Our family's experience has been amazing. Our therapist is wonderful, patient, understanding, & caring. She has helped us by leaps and bounds.

What is next?

The lead agency team is working with an external educational consultant, Dr. Bonnie Keilty, to review both the questions used and methods for distribution for the 2023 family survey. We are looking to include questions on cultural responsiveness and equity within the Birth to Three System as a whole, in addition to evaluating the current questions and their benefits.

Look for the new and improved family survey coming end of Spring 2023!

Any comments or questions? Reach out to CTBirth23@ct.gov with Family Survey in the subject.