

State Interagency Coordinating Council

September 19, 2023 Minutes
12:30 - 2:30 PM
CT Science Center, Hartford

Cynthia Jackson

ICC Chair/Provider

Leona Adamczyk

ICC Vice

John Lamb

Dept. of Public Health

Tiffany 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

Renee Kleinman

SDE-619, pending

Julie Hall

SARAH Inc, Provider

Enrique Pabon

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

Caitlin McNamara

Parent representative

Lauren Black

Parent Representative

Jennifer Dowty

Department of Insurance

ICC Members Present: Cindy Jackson, Elaine Balsley, Nicole Cossette, Lisa Opert, Tiffany Allain, Donna Maitland-Ward, Julie Hall, Anne Giordano, Maris Pelkey, Tammy Venenga, Robb Dunn, Leona Adamczyk, Enrique Pabon, Renee Kleinman (pending appointment), Caitlin McNamara

ICC Members Absent: Ginny Mahoney, Louis Tallarita, Sharon Marie, Shonda Easley, Representative Linehan, Ann Milanese, Senator Ceci Maher, Lauren Black, Mary Beth Bruder, John Lamb, Jennifer Dowty

Meeting called to order at 12:30 PM by Cindy Jackson ICC Chair

Introductions: Members introduced themselves. Cindy Jackson invited Deputy Commissioner Elena Trueworthy to say few words marking the 30th Celebration of CT Birth to Three. Office of Early Childhood Parent Cabinet members present were also introduced. The ICC Parent Representatives and OEC Parent Cabinet were able to connect and network prior to the ICC meeting.

Public Comment:
No public comment.

Old Business:
June 2023 minutes approved.

Updates from Committees since June 2023 meeting:

Legislative/Fiscal Committee Elaine Balsley provided update. The CT Birth to Three System rate study which includes both cost and time study reports has started. The hope is the rate study will support increased rates as providers have had the same reimbursement rate for 6-7 years now. PCG is the contractor conducting the rate study and plans to join the December meeting to share results with the ICC.

Education and Outreach Committee Lisa Opert provided update. The original plan for Family Day event at Harkness has been postponed to the Spring 2024 as Family Day opportunities were included in 30th Celebration of Birth to Three event hosted at CT Science Center today.

System Support/Personnel Development Committee Anne Giordano provided update. EIS credential update is almost complete. There has been an increase of Service Coordination trainings offered, with 10 trainings per year. There is continued partnerships being built with Institutes of Higher Education to increase recruitment and retention of staff in the System.

New Business:

CPAC report provided by Leona Adamczyk. Quarter 3 data was reviewed. CPAC has seen an 86% increase in referrals. Large number of calls continue to center around two main topics: Transition and Explaining difference between supports in Birth to Three and medical model. They held 6 virtual events for families. They continue to look for parent mentors for matching with families who want to participate in Family Connections program. Lisa Opert to give contact information to Sabrina Crowe so that she can contact the parent who is interested in being a parent mentor.

The draft ICC Annual Report was shared with ICC members. The ICC is required to report out to the Governor and Legislators annually. Nicole Cossette would like to have the report finalized to present at the December ICC meeting. She welcomes feedback and will be sending the draft out to ICC members for comment. Cindy asked to highlight the work from the ICC Retreat in October 2022 that led to action steps of revising the CT Birth to Three mission and vision statement using an equity lens. Data on Transition was included in the report as a result of Family Focus stories from parents at the April ICC meeting. Nicole would like to have all feedback by mid-November so the report can be finalized prior to the December 4th ICC meeting. This report was sent to the Fiscal and Legislative subcommittee and Communication and Education Outreach subcommittee for further discussion.

Nicole Cossette shared Lead Agency report. CT State Department of Education (Part B) will join ICC for the December meeting to share overview of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) awarded to CT and how Part C (Birth to Three) will be included in the work. Nicole also shared that fiscal data will be sent out separately in 1-2 weeks to ICC members as Mary Coyle will be using the new format requested by ICC for fiscal reports. Cindy Jackson asked Nicole to share with ICC the current concerns around 211 Child Development and the intake process as well as the current pilot program running as a result. Nicole shared it was brought to the attention of the Lead Agency that it was taking significant time for families to be connected with a program for evaluation following a referral. The pilot program rolled out addresses online referrals only and has several criteria that must be met for a referral from a parent to be sent automatically to a program for scheduling an evaluation. Cindy Jackson shared the impact on the programs receiving influx of referrals at once with parents upset that they have been waiting for 2-3 months for phone call. Concerns were shared that for those in the pilot program the initial call was no longer coming from 211 Child Development. Cindy Jackson suggested bringing this issue to the Communication/Education Outreach subcommittee to further discuss this referral concern.

Committee Report Outs:

Fiscal/Legislative: PCG to give data from Rate Study at the December ICC meeting, with recommendation for current rate setting plus the next two years. The subcommittee would like this information to help prepare for next legislative session. RFP timeline will also be shared in December for the following year. Request for Annual Report to also include number of programs available for choice by town when showing data for referrals, eligible, and served by town.

System Support/PD: Discussion around the 26 learning modules that are close to being launched on the Office of Early Childhood's Learning Management System, Canvas. The modules are all around 30 minutes in length. Service Coordination trainings on the calendar for 2024. Potential topics for new trainings include: sleep, potty training, engaging parents in early intervention visits, relationship building between Birth to Three and Early Childhood Education partners.

Education Outreach: Discussion around referrals to 211 Child Development and the time waiting for parents to be contacted. Concerns from how long parents and others are on hold with 211 to make a referral as well as online referrals made but no contact after from 211. Discussion around the need for

transparency- potentially having a statement on the Birth to Three website acknowledging the work being done to expedite the intake process as well as what parent should expect to happen following a referral and who to contact if no one has reached out to them regarding the referral.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2023 at the American School for the Deaf, West Hartford