

# State Interagency Coordinating Council

June 3, 2024 Minutes

American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, CT

**Cynthia Jackson**

*ICC Chair/Provider*

**Leona Adamczyk**

*ICC Vice Chair*

**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*

**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*

**Joshua Vaughn**

*Parent Representative*

**Shakira Wade**

*Parent Representative*

**Jennifer Dowty**

*Department of Insurance*

**Kristina Gilbertie**

*Rehab Associates, Provider, Pending*

**ICC Members Present:** Donna Maitland-Ward, Julie Hall, Enrique Pabon, John Lamb, Lisa Opert, Anne Giordano, Robb Dunn, Maris Pelkey, Renee Kleinman (pending appointment), Caitlin McNamara, Cynthia Jackson, Elaine Balsley, Kristina Gilbertie, Nicole Cossette, Sharon Marie, Shanda Easley, Joshua Vaughn, Ginny Mahoney, Leona Adamczyk, Tiffanie Allain (Remote)

**ICC Members Absent:** Ann Milanese, Tammy Venenga, Jennifer Dowty, Ceci Maher, Liz Linehan, Louis Tallarita, Mary Beth Bruder, Shakirah Wade

Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM by Cindy Jackson, ICC Chair

## Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

## Old Business:

April 2024 minutes approved.

*Legislative/Fiscal:* Reported that they had no updates.

*System Support/Professional Development:* Reported that they had no updates.

*Communication/Education & Outreach:* Reported that they had no updates.

*ICC involvement with 211:* Parent Representatives on the ICC met to discuss their concerns with the backlog and 211. They wanted to provide a parent's perspective to the situation. From that Parent Forums were created. As of this moment several have been held, but there have not been any parents who have attended. Discussion has occurred about inviting parents to the meeting to discuss how the referral and intake process was. Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, provided additional updates. Staff and program directors have made calls to families through the referral process, which has provided valuable insight into the process and how to make the process more effective and efficient. She reported that there was a significant number of referrals pushed to programs over the last several weeks. Nicole reported that Weekly Office Hours have been held for Providers to allow times for questions and to provide updates on the backlog. She has been providing daily counts which are pulled at 3:00 PM and will continue to provide this information to Providers.

Nicole reported that the Lead Agency continues to work on updating and finalizing the Intake Procedure and updating 211's contract. It was asked if the non-compliance would fall on 211 for the 45-day timeline, which Nicole confirmed that the non-compliance will fall on 211 and not Providers for those children that were part of the backlog. Leona Adamczyk asked how we will monitor 211 moving forward. Nicole discussed that there are timelines in place, and we are monitoring times and past due.

Nicole reported that stabilization payments were submitted and should go out to providers within the next few weeks. She reported that she is trying for another payment at the end

of the summer hopefully. She provided a RAIN update. She reported that within the next two weeks it should be out to providers to test for provider input.

### **New Business:**

#### *211 Child Development Infoline: Next steps for advisory, Data*

Anne Giordano asked what lessons learned with the situation with 211. She asked how did it “fall down” and how do we move forward. Anne also asked what are the consequences federally, and how does this impact the state’s program. Nicole reported that there are multiple factors that led up to backlog at 211 including leadership changes within Child Development 211 as well as higher up within their leadership. Nicole addressed the federal consequence for this issue. She reported that it will be a non-compliance to the state, but by the time we need to report on it we will have answers. The Lead Agency is in contact with OSEP, there will be no loss of funding because of the backlog, and it has led to system improvement. Cindy discussed having an ICC Task Force for monitoring, looking at process, systematic procedures, and hold time.

#### *Family Connection/CPAC Report*

Leona Adamczyk provided an update from CPAC. Please see the attached report.

#### *Review of New Procedures: Lobbying*

Elisabeth is working with PSM to update lobbying procedure. Nicole stated that she contacted Maggie Adair to find if there were any trainings, in particularly advocacy vs lobbying. Maggie reported that there are lots of national trainings. Nicole stated that there will be training offered for providers and ICC members. Nicole stated that no federal funds can be used for lobbying. Cindy requested that if the training could occur before the next legislative session, if possibly September or October, that would be beneficial to ICC.

**Lead Agency Report:** Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, reviewed the Lead Agency Report. See below.

Nicole updated ICC on our Part C Grant. She reported that it was submitted May 14, 2024 and is posted on the Birth to Three website. She reported that the state received a 3.7% increase in funding totaling \$4,881,099. Within the grant application we outlined that we are seeking funding for the State Incentive grant (SIG), which will help fund the summer extension option (EIS over 3). Nicole reported that if more than 5 states apply, we will not receive funding. She stated that this is most likely not going to be an option for next year since more states are applying for this option.

Nicole stated that the Expense Reports for Providers is on hold due to EIS over 3 and the influx of referrals to programs due to the backlog.

Nicole provided updates on the Leadership Academy. She reported that it is behind about a year. This present cohort concludes over the summer, and they will begin the application process in the Fall for the next cohort.

Personnel Development proctored their first EIS Exam on April 1, 2024. 2 out of 7 passed. The other 5 will have the opportunity to re-sit for the exam in July and October. Leona asked why only 2 out of 7 passed the exam. Koleen Kerski reported that the exam is designed to be rigorous, and the study guide is extensively comprehensive. She reported that they have asked for input from those who are using the study guide and have taken the exam. PD provided update on Protraxx and they continue to work on transferring information over to it.

Nicole reported that we have be working with the University of Colorado to update our procedures/contract with NEAT. The Lead Agency wants to better integrate it within IDEA regulations within the procedures.

### **Committee Report Out**

#### **Legislative/Fiscal:**

Chairs: Elaine Balsley, Julie Hall, and Shanda Easley

Discussed reviewing annual data to share with Legislature. They want to show all the good work that the ICC and Birth to Three has done, but also show the areas where we need support within the system. They discussed how to better represent the data and how to incorporate family stories and information on the rate study. The Legislative/Fiscal committee will regroup in about 3 weeks to continue to discuss.

**System Support/Professional Development:**

Chairs: Anne Giordano and Robb Dunn

Discussed creating a handout for families explaining all the acronyms families come across within Birth to Three. Also discussed the credentialing and the tiers and how to explain this to families. They proposed an idea that with the individuals sitting for the EIS Exam, maybe it would be possible for those who do not pass, to only have to retake the parts they did not pass.

**Communication/Education & Outreach:**

Chairs: Lisa Opert and Maris Pelkey

Discussed ICC Video Outline and what next. Will re-meet in a few days as a committee to continue to discuss. Discussed creating a handout to support parents with talking about their child with different needs to medical providers, especially if needing to take them to the Emergency Room or interacting with First Responders.

Meeting ended 12:00 PM

**Next ICC Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, October 7, 2024
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
<b>Location:</b>	American School for the Deaf, West Hartford



### **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

- Connecticut's final Annual Performance Report (APR) was submitted on April 16, 2024; the state expects determinations to be issued on June 18, 2024.
- Connecticut's local determinations will be issued over the next few weeks and reported out on in the October Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).

#### Fiscal Enhancements

- Connecticut's Part C Grant Application was submitted on May 14, 2024. The final application can be found here: [Annual Part C Application – Birth23.org](https://www.birth23.org/annual-part-c-application)
  - The state received a 3.7% increase in funding totaling \$4,881,099.
  - The state outlined in the grant application that we will seek funding for the State Incentive Grant (SIG), which will help fund the summer extension option (EIS Over 3).

#### Education Outreach

- 211 Child Development updates:
  - Referrals continue to be processed.
    - Staff and program directors made calls to families through the referral process, which provided valuable insight into the process and how to make the process more effective and efficient.
    - There was a significant number of referrals pushed to programs over the last three weeks.
    - Stabilization payments were paid to programs to help offset the cost of overtime and hours worked as part of the sudden referral increase.
    - United Way has three temp staff who began working on the referral process to maintain the referrals coming into the system.
    - RAIN development continues and is a priority as it will help streamline the process.
- The intake procedure will be updated and posted for public comment in the coming months.
- Script editing continues with a focus on streamlining the process and keeping the process family focused.
- Outreach to pediatrician offices continues, including outreach with the Community Health Centers (CHC). Completed Grand Rounds for all of the CHCs April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Rebecca Smith tabled several events including ACEs Early Head Start/Head Start Collaborative, Newington SEPTO Resource Fair, Safford Safety Day and presented to the New Haven WIC Office, and Help Me Grow Advisory on the referral process to Birth to Three. Upcoming activity: CHC Meriden – tabling and lunch and learn with pediatricians; Navy Subbase Family Event; ACE's EHS/Head Start Family Dinner.

#### Leadership Grant

- Cohort 3 participants are working on their projects.

## Personnel Development

- On April 1, 2024, seven candidates sat for the Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) Credential proctored exam. Two of the candidates passed the exam and will move on to the implementation portion of the credential with observations. The other five candidates shared the remaining two dates (July and October) for the proctored exam.
  - Additional technology kits were ordered to support more candidates in the implementation portion of the EIS credential, which includes video recordings as part of the observation requirements.
- The Lead Agency continued partnerships with Institutes of Higher Education, including Southern, University of New Haven, University of Hartford, and Charter Oak.
  - Staff presented to University of Hartford Early Childhood Summer Placement Orientation class.
  - Charter Oak: a development evaluation and assessment course was discussed between the Lead Agency and Charter Oak. There was preliminary discussion about access for Birth to Three staff.
- The Professional Development (PD) team had a preliminary exploration of the Play Project (PP) online Workshop which included two live group meetings.
  - To debrief many of the tenets align with and support family-centered practices. PD will touch base with Dr. Solomon (head of PP) and continue to explore additional PD-related support in other areas.
- The learning Pathway for the Initial Certificate should launch for trial next week through Protraxx. Thank you to those who volunteered to trial. Information will be coming soon!
- Koleen Kerski and Sabrina Crowe will present at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership Conference and the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) conference later this summer, highlighting the Rainbow Grant's (84.325P) impact on the CT Birth to Three System.

## General Supervision

- Elisabeth Teller, along with a staff member from the TA Center CADRE, will be presenting at the DEC conference later this summer on Navigating Intra-Family Conflict for Service Coordinators in Early Intervention.
- All programs submitted information for this year's priority rubric. The results will be shared at the next ICC meeting.
- We are exploring working with staff at the University of Colorado to assist with updating our Assistive Technology procedure, processes, and billing. More information will be shared at the next ICC meeting.
- Changes were made to the Evaluation and Assessment procedure to align clinical opinion procedures with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

## Other Topics:

- **July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, Annual Report:** The Office of Early Childhood has yet to receive feedback from the ICC on what should go into the report or any recommended changes. We will draft the report to share at the October meeting. If changes are requested, the OEC would need those changes by July 15, 2024.

## Data

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**

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
<b>Calls to 211CDI</b>	1336	1118	964	1401	1108	1199	1059	1075	1315	1129	1160	1320
Percent compared to CY2019 average (1113)	120%	100%	87%	126%	100%	108%	95%	97%	118%	101%	104%	119%
<i>Families declining the referral to B23<sup>1</sup></i>	265	265	203	203	186	235	179	186	189	148	102	53
Percent compared to CY2019 average (199)	133%	133%	102%	102%	93%	118%	90%	93%	95%	74%	51%	27%
Percent of calls to 211CD (CY2019 average was 17%)	20%	24%	21%	14%	17%	20%	17%	17%	14%	13%	9%	4%
<b>Referrals to Birth to Three</b>	1071	852	761	1198	921	964	880	889	1112	919	947	1038
Percent compared to CY2019 average (913)	117%	93%	83%	131%	101%	106%	96%	97%	122%	101%	104%	114%
<i>Families declining eligibility evaluations<sup>2</sup></i>	78	63	64	90	96	66	80	44	73	68	60	58
Percent compared to CY2019 average (67)	116%	94%	96%	134%	143%	99%	119%	66%	109%	101%	90%	87%
Percent of B23 referrals (CY2019 average was 7%)	7%	7%	8%	8%	10%	7%	9%	5%	7%	7%	6%	6%
<b>Initial Eligibility Determinations</b>	983	968	729	933	890	948	839	728	947	915	961	915
Percent compared to CY2019 average (843)	115%	113%	85%	109%	104%	111%	98%	85%	111%	107%	112%	107%
<b>Determined to be Eligible</b>	663	647	504	646	586	656	607	497	658	634	622	639
Percent compared to CY2019 average (570)	116%	114%	88%	113%	103%	115%	106%	87%	115%	111%	109%	112%
Percent Eligible	67%	67%	69%	69%	66%	69%	72%	68%	69%	69%	65%	70%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (68%)	-1%	-1%	1%	1%	-2%	1%	4%	0%	1%	1%	-3%	2%
<i>Families leaving Part C in the month before an initial IFSP meeting<sup>3</sup></i>	33	29	18	26	21	24	21	18	22	33	28	31
Percent compared to CY2019 average (55)	60%	53%	33%	47%	38%	44%	38%	33%	40%	60%	51%	56%
Percent of B23 those eligible (CY2019 average was 10%)	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%
<b>Initial IFSP meeting held during the month</b>	656	629	487	588	579	625	595	506	587	591	623	600
Percent compared to CY2019 average (516)	127%	122%	94%	114%	112%	121%	115%	98%	114%	115%	121%	116%
<i>Families leaving Part C after the initial IFSP meeting but before EITS<sup>3</sup></i>	5	7	11	7	8	9	6	4	6	8	6	5
Percent compared to CY2019 average (15)	33%	47%	73%	47%	53%	60%	40%	27%	40%	53%	40%	33%
Percent of all Exits	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Eligible children who received an EITS in the month</b>	6937	7066	7009	7328	6620	6703	6732	6548	6771	6710	6885	6947
Percent compared to CY2019 average (5177)	134%	136%	135%	142%	128%	129%	130%	126%	131%	130%	133%	134%
Average hours per child per month	5.6	5.3	4.8	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.2	4.7	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.4
Percent compared to CY2019 average (7.3)	77%	73%	66%	71%	68%	75%	71%	64%	77%	73%	74%	74%
<b>Eligible children with an ASD diagnosis who received an EITS in the month</b>	777	844	886	982	818	808	816	799	836	867	906	886
Percent compared to CY2019 average (676)	115%	125%	131%	145%	121%	120%	121%	118%	124%	128%	134%	131%
Average hours per child per month	11.0	10.4	9.4	10.2	9.9	11.4	10.8	9.7	11.7	10.8	11.0	11.2
Percent compared to CY2019 average (24.9)	44%	42%	38%	41%	40%	46%	43%	39%	47%	43%	44%	45%
<b>Eligible children without an ASD diagnosis who received an EITS in the month</b>	6205	6272	6175	6396	5859	5935	5965	5785	6000	5906	6031	6113
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4529)	137%	138%	136%	141%	129%	131%	132%	128%	132%	130%	133%	135%
Average hours per child per month	4.8	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.0	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.5

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

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4.7)	102%	98%	87%	94%	89%	98%	96%	85%	100%	94%	96%	96%
<b>Children in families who exited before age 3<sup>3</sup></b>	196	258	195	229	209	207	182	156	202	175	187	162
Percent compared to CY2019 average (224)	88%	115%	87%	102%	93%	92%	81%	70%	90%	78%	83%	72%
<b>Children in families who exited at age 3<sup>4</sup></b>	199	167	164	995	585	393	393	393	398	370	418	392
Percent compared to CY2019 average (322)	62%	52%	51%	309%	182%	122%	122%	122%	124%	115%	130%	122%
<b>Children in Families who exited at age 3 as eligible for Part B</b>	92	65	73	867	430	261	255	236	247	242	270	243
Percent compared to CY2019 average (225)	41%	29%	32%	385%	191%	116%	113%	105%	110%	108%	120%	108%

*data as of 05/28/24\**

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 Part C FFY21 / SFY22 SPP-APR Summary

Indicator	FFY20	FFY21	Target	FFY22	Notes
# 1. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs on 12/1/22 who receive the NEW early intervention services on their IFSP in a timely manner.	99.6%	99.9%	100%	99.9%	2 new services were late due to staff error.
# 2. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.	99.97%	99.98%	95%	99.92%	
# 3a. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)	73% / 56.36%	74.0% / 60.21%	73% / 60%	73.6%/56.40%	Summary Statements 1/2  Summary 1 = Reduced Gap Summary 2 = Caught Up
# 3b. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication)	79.0% / 47.29%	80.57% / 52.9%	83% / 53%	79.0%/47.3%	
# 3c. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs	81.0% / 67.2%	83.8 % / 70.89 %	84% / 72%	81.0%/67.30%	
# 4a. Percent of families in Birth to Three for at least six months who report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights	90.9%	89.9%	90%	91.0%	
# 4b. Percent of families in Birth to Three for at least six months who report that early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs	89.6%	89.6%	90%	94.9%	The SiMR for the SSIP (Indicator 11) is aligned with this but not this result exactly since it is only about children with diagnosed conditions.
# 4c. Percent of families in Birth to Three for at least six months who report that early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn	96.7%	97.3%	93%	98.7%	



## Connecticut Part C FFY21 / SFY22 SPP-APR Summary

Indicator	FFY20	FFY21	Target	FFY22	Notes
<u>9# 5.</u> Percent of infants and toddlers age birth to 1 on 12/1/22 with IFSPs compared to State Census age 0	1.48%	1.40%	1.30%	1.44%	
<u># 6.</u> Percent of infants and toddlers age birth to 3 on 12/1/22 with IFSPs compared to State Census ages 0-2	5.39%	4.81%	4.90%	5.81%	
<u># 7.</u> Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were held within 45 day from referral.	99.92%	99.84%	100.00%	99.32%	48 were late due to program error.
<u># 8a.</u> Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including IFSPs with transition steps and services	100%	100%	100%	100%	
<u># 8b.</u> Percent of all children exiting Birth to Three who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including notification to school district if a child is potentially eligible for preschool special education	100%	100%	100%	100%	
<u># 8c.</u> Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including a transition conference at least 90 days before age 3, if the child potentially eligible for preschool special education	99.6%	99.9%	100%	99.45%	22 were not held due to program errors including delays waiting for the LEA to attend.

Notes:

**OEC Birth to Three System Direct Service Expenditures<sup>1</sup>**

Invoice	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24
Paid in	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Escrow	1,902,012	1,323,962	1,914,506	1,801,177	1,886,941	1,935,604	1,762,512	1,819,312	1,946,773	1,971,889		
GAP	1,098,000	1,105,400	1,151,000	1,038,800	1,024,600	1,041,000	1,024,600	1,032,200	1,022,200	1,043,200		
Interpretation	19,065	34,478	36,562	21,088	85,858	69,759	89,151	68,516	75,000	114,957		
ATech + Other	45,733	54	28,317	5,806	38,124	23,986	28,263	48,148	36,494	37,550		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,064,810</b>	<b>2,463,894</b>	<b>3,130,385</b>	<b>2,866,871</b>	<b>3,035,523</b>	<b>3,070,349</b>	<b>2,904,526</b>	<b>2,968,176</b>	<b>3,080,467</b>	<b>3,167,596</b>		

**Commercial Insurance Payments<sup>2</sup>**

	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Claims Paid	343,848	358,554	334,584	354,534	386,115	344,155	309,547	219,950	286,284	325,364		
Amount Billed	1,489,089	1,454,610	1,302,414	1,315,290	1,243,527	1,111,527	1,017,975	967,749	1,069,602	1,119,207		
%Paid/Billed	23%	25%	26%	27%	31%	31%	30%	23%	27%	29%		
Billing Fees	-	20,902	52,920	29,146	29,913	-	-	27,336	-	-		

Birth to Three Funding:	
State Appropriation	33,793,626
Part B Evaluations	1,130,000
Part C for Direct Services	1,839,988
SID 29685/87 Billing Fees	110,223
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>36,873,837</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(461,402)</b>

Direct Service Hours (Units were used prior to 11/1/17)						
FY	19 Act.	20 Act.	21 Act.	22 Act.	23 Act.	24 Est.
Jun	36,792	39,459	33,683	34,276	39,605	43,921
Jul	36,942	42,673	34,273	32,815	36,033	39,425
Aug	38,265	41,179	30,114	33,879	40,831	44,786
Sept	35,742	42,384	31,226	33,868	38,246	39,281
Oct	41,640	44,791	31,724	34,088	38,367	43,667
Nov	37,810	38,150	29,208	33,941	38,327	41,876
Dec	33,032	49,433	30,734	30,902	35,619	36,489
Jan	41,645	42,772	30,865	33,140	41,201	45,151
Feb	37,283	41,300	30,888	35,092	34,875	42,400
Mar	40,631	32,283	35,848	41,678	46,094	44,002
Apr	42,542	33,630	31,892	36,031	39,656	43,582
May	44,478	32,416	31,720	37,926	45,356	49,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>466,801</b>	<b>480,470</b>	<b>382,171</b>	<b>417,634</b>	<b>474,209</b>	<b>514,425</b>
<b>% Chg</b>	<b>344.34%</b>	<b>2.93%</b>	<b>-20.46%</b>	<b>9.28%</b>	<b>13.55%</b>	<b>8.48%</b>

Actual  
Estimated

- 1) Based on Budget Tracking system as of April 2024
- 2) Based on data from PCG using date paid not date of service  
Values in grey are being double checked with PCG.
- 3) Based on monthly estimates by the OEC including a list of assumptions and data that change frequently
- 4) Based on reconciled invoices (actual) and estimates using a list of assumptions using available information

## CT Parent Advocacy Center January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

### Executive Summary:

We received 69 referrals to the Family Connections Program during this quarter, 32 families accepted services. We were unable to contact 9 families and we are on our third attempt to contact 28 families. Currently, seven families are being supported by mentors. The Early Childhood team focused on providing support to these families, contacting them on 70 occasions to discuss the topics highlighted below. Our Center was invited to participate in the DaSy Data Leadership Project Cohort-a family data leader train the trainers program. Through this project, CPAC will recruit and train families to understand and use data so that they can become involved stakeholders for systems change and program improvement. We have not set dates and times for the actual training sessions, but these will take place before August. Additionally, we facilitated a parent panel at the University of Hartford where Birth to Three families shared their experiences with the referral process, evaluations procedures and services and supports from Birth to Three. CPAC hosted its first playgroup “Sparkler Brunch Bunch Playgroup” a sensory-friendly playgroup for young children, and their parents, 24 families registered and five attended. Families received: Sparkler Fine Motor Learning kit, containing learning materials and fun games to take home and practice skills at home. We are looking into hosting more playgroups for Birth to Three families.

Birth to Three Reporting- Quarterly Oct 15, Jan 15, April 15, July 15 <b>FAMILY CONNECTIONS</b>	Q2 10/01/23-12/31/23	Q3 01/01/2024-3/31/2024																																																								
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CT Parent Advocacy Center  
January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

2) Number of parents referred to Family Connections	69 referrals, 47 families contacted/78 contacts from them	<b>69 referrals, 32 families contacted/70 contacts from them</b>																																																																																	
3) Number of parents who received supportive services were referred at this time and chose to participate.	47 families reached and accepted services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 families unable to contact</li> <li>• 17 families we are trying to reach</li> </ul>	32 families reached and accepted services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 families unable to contact</li> <li>• 28 families we are trying to reach</li> </ul>																																																																																	
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CT Parent Advocacy Center  
January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

		<b>3/13 aRPy/ECTA Meeting</b> <b>AF</b> <b>3/18 Family Outcomes Birth to Three</b> <b>LO</b> <b>3/19 DaSy Data Leader Cohort</b> <b>LO, AF</b> <b>3/21 DaSy Data Leader Cohort</b> <b>LO, AF</b> <b>4/1 aRPy/ECTA Meeting</b> <b>AF</b>
8) Supervision and Monitoring activities	None Requested at this time	None Requested at this time
9) A narrative describing activities related to the contract and delivered to the SICC -	Adriana attended and presented CPAC data 12/4/23	Leona presented CPAC data 1/22/24

**Training**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b># Attended/Audience</b>	<b>Post Views</b>
<b><u>01/17/24</u></b>	<b>Backpack Series: Backpack Series new year, New Routine. Presented by Bethanne Vergean UCEDD</b>	10 Families/Early Childhood Providers	N/A
<b><u>01/16/24</u></b>	<b>618 and 619 Coordinator Lunch and Learn</b>	35 professionals	N/A
<b><u>02/14/24</u></b>	<b>Backpack Series: Big heart Podcast. Presented by Julia Levy, CEO Sparkler</b>	10 families	N/A
<b><u>02/15/24</u></b>	<b>Morris Street School Family Resource Center Playgroup</b>	28 families	Organized by Family Resource Center
<b><u>02/20/24</u></b>	<b>Parent Panel University of Hartford</b>	18 Early Intervention Students	N/A
<b><u>2/28/24</u></b>	<b>Parent Panel Southern CT State University</b>	36 professionals	N/A
<b><u>03/07/24</u></b>	<b>Family Resource Expo and Preschool Showcase</b>	100 families	N/A
<b><u>03/09/24</u></b>	<b>Sparkler Brunch Bunch Playgroup</b>	5 families	Organized by CPAC
<b><u>03/23/24</u></b>	<b>Early Childhood &amp; Community Resource Fair 2024</b>	400 families and professionals	N/A
<b><u>3/23/24</u></b>	<b>Groton's Early Childhood Resource Fair</b>	240 children and 81 families 50 Professionals	Organized by Children's First Groton

CT Parent Advocacy Center  
January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

<u>3/28/24</u>	<b>Early Intervention: Navigating Birth to Five Process Webinar</b>	79 professionals	Organized by UCEDD
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**SERVICE COORDINATION:** 1/17 and 3/13 LO

**SICC PARENT SUPPORT:** N/A

**MATERIALS DEVELOPED:**

Developed Early Childhood Newsletter, sent to 2756 families on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Program Materials:**

1. Family Connections Parent Mentor FAQs (Eng/SPA) with Online Application
2. Family Connections One Pager (Description of Program, how to sign up) for B23 providers, referral sources, and parents.
3. Birth to Three Transition Infographic (Key aspects of transition and support through Family Connections Program) distributed to families.
4. Early Intervention in CT (Birth to Three, Family Connections DEC recommended Practices) PowerPoint.
5. Family Connections Developmental Evaluations Postcard
6. Family Connections info-graphic waiver cost fees
7. Family Connections "Parent Mentor Flyer."
8. Family Connections questions and Family Connections Line (Postcards Social Media)
9. Video About B23 Transition Preparation: [What Needs to Happen Before Your Child Turns Three Video](#)
10. Early Childhood Newsletter (September) Included a Family Connections section video about partnering with your B23 provider.

# CT Parent Advocacy Center

## January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

### **Executive Summaries Previous Quarters**

#### **Executive Summary Q4**

CPAC received a total of 69 referrals during this quarter. Referrals for monolingual (Spanish/Other) remains low. Our Early Childhood Parent Consultants provided support as described in the Technical Assistance table, contacting the families 81 times. 48 families accepted services, seven we were unable to contact, and we are still trying to reach fourteen families. One of the highlights during this quarter is the engagement levels on Facebook. We have 700 families on Family Connections Support Group on Facebook, families are connecting with each other through posts and sharing Early Childhood development information, events and questions about specific situations. We created a chat for “transition questions” and is very active with 20 members participating. Our Early Childhood Manager attended the Inclusion Institute and some of the sessions included: Every Child Can Fly: Elements of High-Quality Inclusive Learning Environments, and Inclusion Stories: Using Storytelling Podcasts to Change Mindsets Toward Inclusive Education. Our Parent Consultant Lisa Opert was invited to participate in a Family Panel at the Inclusion Institute where she shared her experiences and about raising a young child with developmental delays and her experiences in Early Intervention. She will be participating in CT Equity Cohort through North Carolina Early Learning.

#### **Executive Summary Q3:**

Referrals to the Family Connections Program increased by 86%. We received 96 referrals compared to 52 in the previous reporting period. Out of those 96 referrals, 54 families accepted services, 7 families were matched with a parent mentor. Our Early Childhood team provided one to one support to 16 families regarding transition from Birth to Three into Pre-K Special education, this topic continues to be the most important. We explained the differences between medical model vs. educational model as this seems to be a gray area for families and many families of young children with ASD are choosing ABA therapeutic placement over Pre-K Special Education. Other relevant topics included: preparing for your child’s Birth to Three Transition Conference, understanding the IFSP, partnering with your child’s assessment team and we helped families prepare for PPT1. We conducted 6 virtual events for families, and childcare providers i.e., Child Find in CT: how to talk to families when concerns arise? Transitioning Your Child with Autism into Pre-K Special Education. We continue to host our monthly Backpack Series which covers social emotional development, and we continue to have our weekly support group.

#### **Executive Summary Q2:**

## CT Parent Advocacy Center January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

During this quarter we received 52 referrals and provided support to 34 families. Our Early Childhood team provided one to one support regarding transition to 12 families, this continues to be the most important topic for families. We also supported families to understand their IFSP. We are offering the Sparkler APP to families enrolled in Birth to Three. Through this APP we are able to offer coaching advice and over 1,500 of off-screen play activities and games that might reinforce EI services and provide ideas to engage with their children.

### Executive Summary Q1:

During this quarter, we received sixty-two referrals to Family Connections, and seven parents requested a mentor, and they are currently matched with a parent mentor. The Early Childhood team focused on providing support to these families, contacting them on 84 occasions to discuss the topics highlighted below. The team focused on several activities, such as creating our [Family Connections Website](#), which includes Development Information and Resources, Transition from Birth to Three, Communicating Needs to professionals, Parent Mentor Portal, and Training Resources; please note that the match request forms and parent mentor application are currently being translated into Portuguese, and these items will be uploaded next week. Additionally, our manager attended the aRPy Meeting in Atlanta June 22-23, an event organized by Parent to Parent of Georgia to conduct activities related to the aRPy Ambassador Project through a subcontract with the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center at UNC-Chapel Hill. In this event, we presented a workshop regarding Birth to Three's partnership with CT's PTI, Family Connections Program, and how to help families create a parent statement for their IFSP/IEP meetings via Google docs and using personas to describe their child's unique needs to EI professionals and School Personnel. Additionally, we attended OSEP Leadership and Project Directors' Conference 2022 for sessions related to Early Childhood: Reimagine Early Childhood Transitions—Focus on the Family's Vision: What Every Policy Maker, Leader, and Practitioner Needs to Know and IDEA Part C Extension Option-Providing Choices for Early Childhood Transition. Finally, we have been invited to participate in the 2022 virtual advisory board meeting for the project, *Bridging the Gap*, headed by Dr. Thyde Dumont-Mathieu, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at Connecticut Children's. The main goals of this project are to improve outcomes for all children at risk of having developmental disorders, including ASD, and to identify and serve children of color by eliminating racial/ethnic disparities in the early identification of and early intervention for children at-risk.

### Trainings Previous Quarter

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u># Attended/Audience</u>	<u>Post Views</u>
<u>7/06/22</u>	<b>CPAC Services/211</b>	15 Professionals	Private
<u>7/20/22</u>	<b>Transitioning Your Child with Autism into Preschool Special Education (Spanish)</b>	71 Early Childhood professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Child Care Network Hartford
<u>8/10/22</u>	<b>Take a Break-Backpack Series Presented by Bethanne Vergean UCCEDD</b>	100 Participants registered	81 Views



CT Parent Advocacy Center  
January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

<u>8/17/22</u>	<b>SIT for Autism (Spanish)</b>	43 Early Childcare Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Child Care Network Hartford
<u>8/19/22</u>	<b>Backpack and School Supply Fair (Outreach Hartford)</b>	100 families	CREC
<u>8/22/22</u>	<b>Intervening Early</b>	25 Early Childhood Professionals	Building Blocks Staff Childcare Conference
<u>8/23/22</u>	<b>Effective Communication</b>	115 Early Childhood Professionals	Building Blocks Staff Childcare Conference
<u>8/26/22</u>	<b>Effective Communication</b>	25 Early Childhood Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Building Blocks
<u>8/26/22</u>	<b>Understanding Challenging Behavior</b>	67 Early Childhood Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Building Blocks
<u>8/26/22</u>	<b>Intervening Early</b>	24 Early Childhood Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Building Blocks
<u>8/29/22</u>	<b>Children with Special Needs</b>	180 Early Childhood Professionals	TVCCA Headstart
<u>8/31/22</u>	<b>Understanding Challenging Behavior</b>	9 professionals	ACES
<u>9/9/22</u>	<b>Back to School (outreach)</b>	495 professionals	CT State Department of Education
<u>9/14/22</u>	<b>Tantrums: What Do They Tell You? Backpack Series Presented by Bethanne Vergean UCCEDD</b>	100 Participants registered	80 views