

State Interagency Coordinating Council

April 28, 2025 Minutes - Family Focus Meeting

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT

Cynthia Jackson

ICC Chair/Provider

Leona Adamczyk

ICC Vice Chair

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

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, Sylvia Murray (representing Tammy Venenga), Lisa Opert, Anne Giordano, Robb Dunn, Maris Pelkey, Caitlin McNamara, Cynthia Jackson, Elaine Balsley, Kristina Gilbertie, Nicole Cossette, Sharon Marie, Shakirah Wade, Renee Kleinman (pending appointment); Jill Isenberg (UCEDD; representing Dr. Mary Beth Bruder); Shanda Easley (remote); Ginny Mahoney, Leona Adamczyk, Jennifer Dowty.

ICC Members Absent: Ann Milanese, Ceci Maher, Liz Linehan, Louis Tallarita, Enrique Pabon, Joshua Vaughn; John Lamb; Tiffany Allen

Guest Present: Beth Byes, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood; Elena Trueworthy, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood; Jill Rigsby, PCG (remote)

Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM

Cindy Jackson, ICC Chair, provided opening remarks for the family focus meeting. She stated that it provides an opportunity for families to share their stories either through speaking or through letters. She thanked Lisa Opert for organizing family input.

Commissioner Byes and Deputy Commissioner Trueworthy both spoke welcoming families.

Public Comment:

Susan C. of Lumibility – KIDSTEPS: Discussed connection between stories shared by families with challenges in consistency in staff/providers with what is happening within programs. Discussed the need for supporting the workforce from the Lead Agency and OEC. She stated without the support it is providing challenges in supporting families and providing consistent service. She reported that KIDSTEPS gave 13 offers to speech therapists who declined the position due to salary and cannot continue to support families without a rate increase. She stated that the rates are impacting the workforce which is impacting families.

Old Business:

Legislative/Fiscal: Reported that they have been active and meeting one on one with legislators. They have presented in front of legislative committees. Providers and committee members have been going out within the community and within town hall meetings. They have been discussing and advocating for funding for Birth to Three and GAP and the need for a rate change.

System Support/Professional Development: Reported that they had no updates since last meeting.

Communication/Education & Outreach: Reported that they had no updates since the last meeting apart from meeting with families to prepare for today's Family Focused meeting.

211 Advisory: Cindy advised the Lead Agency on the process and families who want or do not want a specific program. Parents are not able to make a request for a program, and that this is taking unnecessary time on the provider's part to then transfer to the program the parent wanted in the first place. ICC is in support of the advisory committee to continue and to be an ad hoc committee for the 211-intake process for families.

New Business:

Families presented their stories and perspectives on their time in Birth to Three during the meeting. Four families were in person, one video was sent in, there were 2 virtual parents, and 11 letters were sent in and read by the ICC parent representatives.

Leona Adamczyk, co-chair of the ICC spoke about her Birth to Three story as well as her advocacy work and work on the ICC. She will be attending one last meeting and then focusing her attentions on her CPAC role.

Family Connection/CPAC Report

Lisa Opert provided an update from CPAC. Please see the attached report.

Lead Agency Report: Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, reviewed the Lead Agency Report and Family Survey Report. See below.

Questions with regards to form 3-8 and districts reaching out to families within the referral process to Part B services. Additional question with regards to families receiving letters and documentation.

Committee Report Out

Legislative/Fiscal:

Chairs: Elaine Balsley, Julie Hall, and Shanda Easley

Discussion around fiscal reporting to the ICC. Specifically, how is insurance revenue is being represented, and how the increased insurance revenue is impacting the overall budget.

System Support/Professional Development:

Chairs: Anne Giordano and Robb Dunn

Communication/Education & Outreach:

Chairs: Lisa Opert and Maris Pelkey

Discussion around parent information going to LEAs when the child turns 2.5 as part of Child Find but it's causing some parents to opt out of completing their Birth to Three services

February 2025 minutes approved before the meeting adjourned.

Meeting ended 12:00 PM

Next ICC Meeting

Date:	Monday, June 9, 2025
Time:	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location:	American School for the Deaf, West Hartford, CT



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 week of clarification has begun and concluded. The Lead Agency has revised Indicators 7 and 8C to clarify noncompliance reporting in FFY2022. Furthermore, the Lead Agency modified the introduction and SSIP.
 - The final report is posted here: [Annual Performance Reports - Birth23.org](#).
 - The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Public Reporting tables are attached below.
- What happens next?
 - The Lead Agency expects our federal determination to be issued on **June 15, 2025**.
 - Determinations will be sent to programs over the summer of 2025.
 - The Lead Agency will begin discussions on the next SPP/APR package within the next year. This will include potential updates to the State identified Measurable Result (SiMR), SSIP, and other reporting requirements (state targets, SSIP, etc.).

Fiscal Enhancements

- Each year, Connecticut submits an application to the US Department of Education (ED) Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for about \$4.8M in funding to support the administration of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part C).
 - Here is a [link](#) to the draft FFY25 Part C Application.
 - The written comments on the draft application must be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025**. 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.
- The February ICC report included a quick reference guide that outlines fiscal responsibilities and how they interact with the ICC.
 - Quick Reference Guide on the Fiscal Responsibilities of Part C State Interagency Coordinating Councils provides a foundational understanding of the fiscal responsibilities of the state ICC under IDEA, enabling the state Lead Agency and ICC to have meaningful discussions about the state's Part C funding.
 - In addition, Engaging Part C State Interagency Coordinating Councils in Fiscal Discussions helps state lead agency staff build the Part C fiscal knowledge of ICC members and encourage their increased participation in budget discussions. Together, these invaluable resources ensure informed decision-making and strategic planning with the ICC as you move through the Part C Grant Application process.
- The Office of Early Childhood is actively working on the 1915(b)(4) waiver in conjunction with the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Education Outreach

Completed Events:

- Manchester Children's Fair
- West Haven Library Storytime (tabling and led Storytime)
- Waterbury Community Health Center (tabling and met with the new pediatrician)

- Groton Child First Resource Fair
- Westbrook Early Childhood Council Sparkler Kickoff
- Manchester Library Children's Place
- Community Baby Shower – Norwich

Upcoming Events:

- Presentation to Pediatric Psychiatry Residents with Hartford Healthcare
- Together We Will
- Stafford Safety Fair
- Community Baby Showers in Hamden and Norwalk

Personnel Development

- Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) credentialing opportunities are ongoing, with an additional proctored exam that occurred in April. Several candidates have successfully passed portions of the exam, demonstrating their excellence in implementing family-centered practices. Efforts are still underway to develop a training framework and provide guidance for observers.
- In late March, training modules hosted by DPH encountered some technical difficulties. However, two programs have kindly partnered to pilot the OEC's Initial Certificate and Service Coordination modules, supported in Protraxx, with positive results. This initiative will allow us to consolidate staff training in one location and streamline the prerequisite process for service coordination.
- The lead agency has issued support for student placement reimbursements for the Fall to participating programs.

General Supervision

- Determination Report of Outcomes and Program Priorities (DROPP) report update:
 - For the coming year, we are focusing primarily on federally required measures (SPP/APR) and using data that the Lead Agency has collected in the state data system (SPIDER) verified through the Lead Agency typical verification process.
- We received our notice from the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) outlining that Connecticut's Differentiated Monitoring System (DMS) 2.0 site visit will occur between **August 2027 and January 2028**. This visit will include a discovery, engagement, and close-out phase. The Lead Agency continues to prepare for this visit.
- The Central Billing Office Request for Proposals (RFP) has been scored, and the awardee has been notified. We expect contract discussions with the awardee to be forthcoming.

Data

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

Connecticut Part C FFY22 / SFY23 SPP-APR Summary					
Indicator	FFY21	FFY22	Target	FFY23	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.	99.9%	99.9%	100%	99.9%	5 instances of noncompliance at 2 programs.
# 2. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children.	99.98%	99.92%	95%	99.90%	
# 3a. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)	74.0% / 60.21%	73.6%/56.40%	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)	80.57% / 52.9%	79.0%/47.3%	83% / 53%	79.0%/47.3%	
# 3c. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who	83.8 % / 70.89 %	81.0%/67.30%	84% / 72%	81.0%/67.30%	

Connecticut Part C FFY22 / SFY23 SPP-APR Summary

Indicator	FFY21	FFY22	Target	FFY23	Notes
demonstrate improved use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs					
<u># 4a.</u> 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	89.9%	91.0%	90%	91.0%	
<u># 4b.</u> 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%	94.9%	90%	89.9%	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.
<u># 4c.</u> 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	97.3%	98.7%	93%	94.5%	
<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	1.40%	1.44%	1.30%	1.44%	
<u># 6.</u> Percent of infants and toddlers age birth to 3 on 12/1/22	4.81%	5.81%	4.90%	5.81%	

Connecticut Part C FFY22 / SFY23 SPP-APR Summary					
Indicator	FFY21	FFY22	Target	FFY23	Notes
with IFSPs compared to State Census ages 0-2					
# 7. 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.	99.84%	99.32%	100.00%	99.91%	6 instances of noncompliance at 3 programs.
# 8a. 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%	
# 8b. 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	100%	100%	100%	100%	

Connecticut Part C FFY22 / SFY23 SPP-APR Summary					
Indicator	FFY21	FFY22	Target	FFY23	Notes
preschool special education					
# 8c. 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	99.9%	99.45%	100%	99.23%	33 instances of noncompliance at 4 programs.

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Birth to Three System Monthly Enrollment Data - For Meeting 04/28/25*

	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
Calls to 211CDI	1242	1663	1305	1259	1196	1156	1283	1161	1071	1363	1193	1326
Percent compared to CY2019 average (1113)	112%	149%	117%	113%	107%	104%	115%	104%	96%	122%	107%	119%
<i>Families declining the referral to B23 ¹</i>	204	230	233	250	187	177	230	188	186	72	65	68
Percent compared to CY2019 average (199)	103%	116%	117%	126%	94%	89%	116%	94%	93%	36%	33%	34%
Percent of calls to 211CD (CY2019 average was 17%)	16%	14%	18%	20%	16%	15%	18%	16%	17%	5%	5%	5%
Referrals to Birth to Three	1038	1432	1072	1009	1009	978	1052	973	885	1290	1127	1252
Percent compared to CY2019 average (913)	114%	157%	117%	111%	111%	107%	115%	107%	97%	141%	123%	137%
<i>Families declining eligibility evaluations ²</i>	61	90	79	110	85	87	100	78	94	83	115	142
Percent compared to CY2019 average (67)	91%	134%	118%	164%	127%	130%	149%	116%	140%	124%	172%	212%
Percent of B23 referrals (CY2019 average was 7%)	6%	6%	7%	11%	8%	9%	10%	8%	11%	6%	10%	11%
Initial Eligibility Determinations	916	1032	1075	1056	897	926	1027	777	855	963	968	1065
Percent compared to CY2019 average (843)	107%	121%	126%	124%	105%	108%	120%	91%	100%	113%	113%	125%
Determined to be Eligible	639	694	728	694	627	653	731	526	592	701	696	734
Percent compared to CY2019 average (570)	112%	122%	128%	122%	110%	115%	128%	92%	104%	123%	122%	129%
Percent Eligible	70%	67%	68%	66%	70%	71%	71%	68%	69%	73%	72%	69%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (68%)	2%	-1%	0%	-2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	1%	5%	4%	1%
<i>Families leaving Part C in the month before an initial IFSP meeting ³</i>	31	36	23	40	26	21	39	25	15	32	28	33
Percent compared to CY2019 average (55)	56%	65%	42%	73%	47%	38%	71%	45%	27%	58%	51%	60%
Percent of B23 those eligible (CY2019 average was 10%)	5%	5%	3%	6%	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%
Initial IFSP meeting held during the month	601	631	649	699	620	634	684	558	567	658	591	720
Percent compared to CY2019 average (516)	116%	122%	126%	135%	120%	123%	133%	108%	110%	128%	115%	140%
<i>Families leaving Part C after the initial IFSP meeting but before EITS ³</i>	6	11	7	11	7	13	17	7	9	8	7	8
Percent compared to CY2019 average (15)	40%	73%	47%	73%	47%	87%	113%	47%	60%	53%	47%	53%
Percent of all Exits	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Eligible children who received an EITS in the month	6947	6967	7066	7375	7522	6949	7105	6890	6681	7026	6942	7203
Percent compared to CY2019 average (5177)	134%	135%	136%	142%	145%	134%	137%	133%	129%	136%	FALSE	139%
Average hours per child per month	5.4	5.7	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.5	4.9	4.6	5.2	4.8	5.0
Percent compared to CY2019 average (7.3)	74%	78%	68%	71%	68%	70%	75%	67%	63%	71%	66%	68%
Eligible children with an ASD diagnosis who received an EITS in the month	894	898	947	896	936	829	851	847	824	867	866	867
Percent compared to CY2019 average (676)	132%	133%	140%	133%	138%	123%	126%	125%	122%	128%	128%	128%
Average hours per child per month	10.7	11.5	9.6	10.1	9.6	10.1	11.0	9.7	9.1	10.4	9.3	10.1
Percent compared to CY2019 average (24.9)	43%	46%	39%	41%	39%	41%	44%	39%	37%	42%	37%	41%
Eligible children without an ASD diagnosis who received an EITS in the month	6108	6117	6155	6526	6622	6174	6323	6093	5902	6212	6122	6375
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4529)	135%	135%	136%	144%	146%	136%	140%	135%	130%	137%	135%	141%
Average hours per child per month	4.6	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.2	3.9	4.5	4.1	4.3

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Birth to Three System Monthly Enrollment Data - For Meeting 04/28/25*

	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4.7)	98%	102%	89%	96%	91%	94%	100%	89%	83%	96%	87%	91%
Children in families who exited before age 3³	189	245	234	217	257	194	227	167	167	213	159	193
Percent compared to CY2019 average (224)	84%	109%	104%	97%	115%	87%	101%	75%	75%	95%	71%	86%
Children in families who exited at age 3⁴	415	208	171	182	1073	523	466	416	397	389	351	388
Percent compared to CY2019 average (322)	129%	65%	53%	57%	333%	162%	145%	129%	123%	121%	109%	120%
Children in Families who exited at age 3 as eligible for Part B	257	76	59	70	948	351	283	253	267	243	218	243
Percent compared to CY2019 average (225)	114%	34%	26%	31%	421%	156%	126%	112%	119%	108%	97%	108%

*data as of 04/17/25**

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

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:

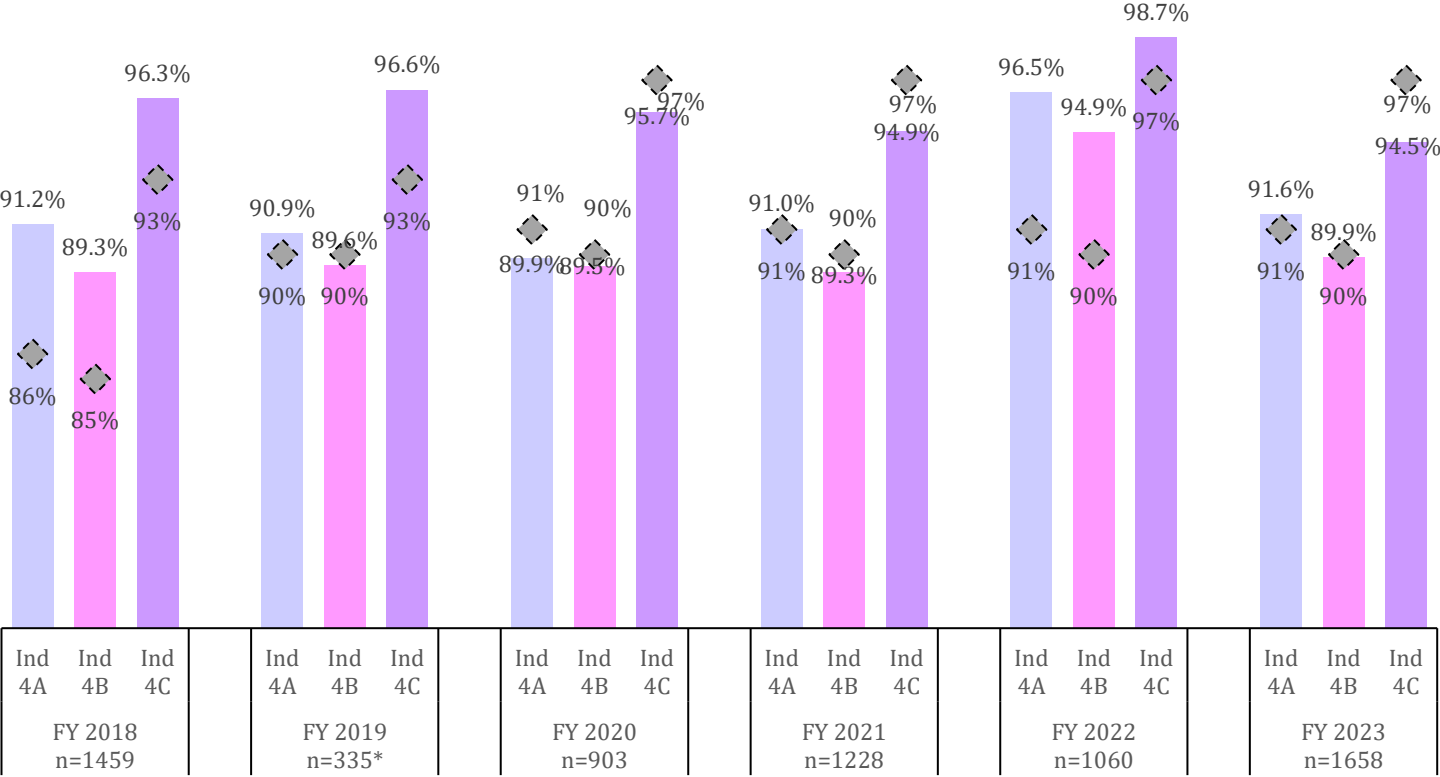
4A Know their rights

4B Effectively communicate their children's needs

4C Help their children develop and learn

For FY 2023 the Birth to Three System in the State of Connecticut met the target for indicator 4A, but did not meet the 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?

Birth to 3 system provide the best services for the special child. All the therapists are doing a great job. Me and my family are very satisfied.

[Our Birth to Three service coordinator] has been an amazing ally and support system for our family. She provides assistance with advice and new ideas regularly, and I feel very seen and heard when I express concerns or issues. The whole team has been wonderful and we will miss them all.

My child's providers were amazing. By the end of our experience with Birth to 3, they felt like family.

All of my child's Birth to 3 providers are great and very helpful. My family are very grateful to have such a great team of people working with our child.

OEC Birth to Three System Direct Service Expenditures¹

Invoice	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-24	Apr-25	May-25
Paid in	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Escrow	1,953,978	1,839,067	1,977,228	1,597,731	1,889,396	1,648,775	1,943,020	2,194,309	1,440,523			
GAP	1,074,400	1,122,600	1,164,400	1,077,400.00	1,093,200.00	1,063,400.00	1,045,800.00	1,082,000	1,086,200			
Interpretation	54,872	105,894	107,569	68,591.60	172,844.68	101,485.23	123,384.50	91,549	128,465			
ATech + Other	23,852	34,041	30,109	33,000.00	39,261	50,952	55,298	51,264	79,996			
Total	3,107,102	3,101,601	3,279,307	2,776,722.40	3,194,701.67	2,864,612.00	3,167,502.14	3,419,122	2,735,184			

Commercial Insurance Payments²

	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Claims Paid	\$ 338,792.40	\$ 365,499.83	\$ 99,404.02	348,756	325,062	331,865	414740	414741				
Amount Billed	\$ 932,328.00	\$ 1,023,042.00	\$ 934,953.00	888,876	940,422	848,820	932,496	932496				
%Paid/Billed	36%	36%	11%	39%	35%	39%	44%	44%				
Billing Fees	-	88,317.43	-	22,849.91	28,671.36	52,887.98	-	50885				

*Note: January will change - incomplete month at the time the data was pulled.

Birth to Three Funding:	
State Appropriation	33,293,626
Part B Evaluations	1,876,660
Part C for Direct Services	1,758,000
Total Funding	36,928,286
Surplus (Deficit)	(746,240)

Direct Service Hours						
FY	20 Act.	21 Act.	22 Act.	23 Act.	24 Act.	25 Est.
Jun	39,459	33,683	34,276	39,605	43,921	41,633
Jul	42,673	34,273	32,815	36,033	39,425	45,006
Aug	41,179	30,114	33,879	40,831	44,786	43,097
Sept	42,384	31,226	33,868	38,246	39,281	41,605
Oct	44,791	31,724	34,088	38,367	43,667	46,427
Nov	38,150	29,208	33,941	38,327	41,876	39,770
Dec	49,433	30,734	30,902	35,619	36,489	37,076
Jan	42,772	30,865	33,140	41,201	45,151	44,467
Feb	41,300	30,888	35,092	34,875	42,400	40,122
Mar	32,283	35,848	41,678	46,094	44,002	44,882
Apr	33,630	31,892	36,031	39,656	44,783	45,678
May	32,416	31,720	37,926	45,356	46,385	47,313
Total	480,470	382,171	417,634	474,209	512,165	517,074
% Chg	357.36%	-20.46%	9.28%	13.55%	8.00%	0.96%

- 1) Based on Budget Tracking system as of March 2025
- 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

Actual
Estimated

CT Parent Advocacy Center

January 1st - March 31st , 2025

Executive Summary:

This quarter, CPAC received 83 referrals to the Family Connections Program, with 72 families accepting services. We were unable to reach five families and are making a third contact attempt with six others. Currently, 19 parents are receiving support from trained parent mentors. We also welcomed Maria Doulas, a new parent mentor completing her practicum with CPAC. Maria Doulas, a Birth to Three parent and graduate of the SEAT® program — a year-long special education advocacy training developed in partnership with COPAA — is now supporting eight families and has been a valuable addition to our team. Technical assistance provided by our Early Childhood Consultants is summarized in the table below. In addition, CPAC has supported Birth to Three professionals with questions about PPT2, referrals for intensive family supports through the PreK Pathfinder Program, and training coordination. Lisa Opert will continue to lead CPAC's involvement in SPDG Goal 3, with Adriana Fontaine participating as needed. SPDG Goal 3, which main focus is to strengthen the transition process for children and their parents transitioning from Birth to Three to Preschool Special Education. CPAC's related objectives to this work is to help parents better understand how IFSP relates to IEP, Provide interpreters/transition facilitators for non-English speaking families during the Birth to Three to PreK transition with parents who are knowledgeable of the special education process.

Birth to Three Reporting- Quarterly Oct 15, Jan 15, April 15, July 15 FAMILY CONNECTIONS	Q2 10/01/2024-12/31/2024	Q3 01/01/2025-03/31/2025
1) Number of families who called for technical assistance by the content of request:	Birth to Three Support 19 Family Connections Intake 15 Sparkler 3 Birth to Three Transition 8 IEP/IFSP 4 Evaluation 3 Communication 2 Eligibility 2 Pre-K Pathfinder 2 Complaint Process 1 Educational Benefit 2 PPT 4 Dispute Resolution 1	Birth to Three Support 10 Family Connections Intake 31 Sparkler 15 Birth to Three Transition 10 IEP/IFSP 3 Evaluation 6 Communication 1 Eligibility 6 Legal Rights IDEA 4 Child Find 3 Disability/Development 1 IEE 1 Info about CPAC 3

CT Parent Advocacy Center
January 1st - March 31st , 2025

	Total	66	Local Resources	4
			Related Services	1
			Behavior	2
			Total	101
2) Number of parents referred to Family Connections	65 referrals, 56 families contacted/66 contacts from them		83 referrals, 72 families contacted/101 contacts from them	
3) Number of parents who received supportive services were referred at this time and chose to participate.	56 families reached and accepted services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 families unable to contact • 5 families we are trying to reach • *one family declined services 		72 families reached and accepted services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 families unable to contact • 6 families we are trying to reach 	
4) Number and type of information or supportive services to providers through outreach, early childhood events, staff meetings, or other	Date	Support Type	Staff	
	See event table for outreach events		See event table for outreach events	
5) Number of calls from B23 Providers by the content of request	10/11	Carly Wysocanski B23 transition	AF	01/06 Megan Erazo PPT2 Questions RG
	10/11	Nicole Neylon (playgroups)	AF	01/13 Liz Arroyo Advocacy info RT
	12/19	Beth Mistrel (Pre-K Path info)	AF	2/6 Kaitlin Dutkowsky fam intensive support RT
				2/14 Beth Mistrel FC info, referral PK Path AF
				3/04 Vicki Daigle Planning training MF
6) Training - #s provided in all modalities and audiences.	6 events were held for professionals and families. See the topic and attendance information below in the Training table.		6 events were held for professionals and families. See the topic and attendance information below in the Training table.	
7) Committee Works or Workgroups	Date	Workgroup	Staff	
	10/08	aRPy/ECTA Meeting	AF	01/06 Early Care Connections AF
	10/18	SPDG Goal 3	LO	01/08 aRPy/ECTA AF

CT Parent Advocacy Center
January 1st - March 31st , 2025

	11/01 CT Developmental Workgroup AF 11/08 SPDG Goal 3 Planning LO 11/26 SPDG Goal 3 Planning LO	01/09 Inclusion Taskforce LO 01/15 Help Me Grow VP 1/20 Early Care Connections AF 1/30 HMG Workgroup AF 2/10 Early Care Connections AF 2/11 HMG Child Health Workgroup AF 2/12 aRPy/ECTA Meeting AF 2/19 Help Me Grow VP 2/20 Inclusion Taskforce LO 2/24 Building the Bridge CT Childrens KS 3/12 aRPy/ECTA Meeting AF 3/13 HMG Child Health Workgroup AF 3/14 SPDG Goal 3 LO 3/19 Help Me Grow VP 3/25 Inclusion Taskforce LO 3/31 Early Care Connections KS
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 -	LA presented CPAC Data 10/07 LO presented CPAC Data 12/12	LO presented CPAC Data 2/10

CT Parent Advocacy Center
January 1st - March 31st , 2025

Training/Outreach

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Audience</u>	<u>Post Views/attendees</u>
<u>1/06/25</u>	<u>ABC's of Special Education</u>	<u>Parents New Britain</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>2/26/25</u>	<u>Preschool Night</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>3/11/25</u>	<u>Family Resource Expo</u>	<u>Outreach Families</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>3/12/25</u>	<u>Understanding Challenging Behavior</u>	<u>SCOPE Stamford Professionals/families</u>	<u>10 families/3 professionals</u>
<u>03/25/25</u>	<u>CPAC Services/Early Childhood Programs</u>	<u>Building Bridges B23 Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>

SERVICE COORDINATION: 01/07, 03/04 LO

SICC PARENT SUPPORT: N/A

MATERIALS DEVELOPED:

Developed CPAC General Newsletter, including information about Family Connections Program sent to 14,402 families on January 6th 2025, 6,235 open rate 44%

Newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3E1P0Py>

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

CT Parent Advocacy Center January 1st - March 31st , 2025

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.
11. Developed Early Childhood Newsletter, sent to 1,480 families on December 4th 2024
Newsletter: <https://conta.cc/3Vme3T7>

Executive Summaries Previous Quarters

Executive Summary Q2:

We received 65 referrals to the Family Connections Program during this quarter, 59 families accepted services. We were unable to contact four families, we are on our third attempt to contact five families, and one family declined services. After our third attempt, our intake coordinator sends out an email to the families highlighting the program's benefits and how to access services. Eleven families are currently receiving support from a parent mentor. One of our bilingual parent consultants established a collaboration with Fairhaven Community Health Center, pediatric Development and Pediatric Autism Clinic and she has been receiving referrals to CPAC for families of young children 0-5, she is referring those families under 3 to Family Connections and for B23 transition support. We expect that this partnership will also increase the number of referrals to Family Connections Program and TA support from our Early Childhood Consultants for Birth to Three transition related questions. Our Early Childhood Team Leader, Lisa Opert has been participating in CT Inclusion Planning team and our Program Manager has attended relevant professional development sessions such as: "Supporting Families Experiencing House Insecurity and Its Impact on Young Children" and "Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to create Supportive Learning." In the upcoming months, we will be revising our Early Childhood training sessions and discussing next steps to bring these trainings to families of young children.

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

CT Parent Advocacy Center

January 1st - March 31st , 2025

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:

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

CT Parent Advocacy Center January 1st - March 31st , 2025

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 Quarters

Training/Outreach

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Audience</u>	<u>Post Views/attendees</u>
<u>10/10/24</u>	<u>Transition Roadshow</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>10/10/24</u>	<u>Transition Roadshow B23/619/CPAC</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>10/24/24</u>	<u>Transition Roadshow B23/619/CPAC</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>10/25/25</u>	<u>CPAC Services/Early Childhood Programs</u>	<u>DCF/HeadStart</u>	<u>127</u>
<u>10/30/24</u>	<u>Transition Roadshow B23/619/CPAC</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>12/10/24</u>	<u>Transition Roadshow B23/619/CPAC</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>12/17/24</u>	<u>Transition Roadshow B23/619/CPAC</u>	<u>Professionals</u>	<u>N/A</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u># Attended/Audience</u>	<u>Post Views</u>
<u>7/06/22</u>	<u>CPAC Services/211</u>	15 Professionals	Private

CT Parent Advocacy Center
January 1st - March 31st , 2025

<u>7/20/22</u>	Transitioning Your Child with Autism into Preschool Special Education (Spanish)	71 Early Childhood professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Child Care Network Hartford
<u>8/10/22</u>	Take a Break-Backpack Series Presented by Bethanne Vergean UCCEDD	100 Participants registered	81 Views
<u>8/17/22</u>	SIT for Autism (Spanish)	43 Early Childcare Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Child Care Network Hartford
<u>8/19/22</u>	Backpack and School Supply Fair (Outreach Hartford)	100 families	CREC
<u>8/22/22</u>	Intervening Early	25 Early Childhood Professionals	Building Blocks Staff Childcare Conference
<u>8/23/22</u>	Effective Communication	115 Early Childhood Professionals	Building Blocks Staff Childcare Conference
<u>8/26/22</u>	Effective Communication	25 Early Childhood Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Building Blocks
<u>8/26/22</u>	Understanding Challenging Behavior	67 Early Childhood Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Building Blocks
<u>8/26/22</u>	Intervening Early	24 Early Childhood Professionals	Private event for Early Childhood Professionals from Building Blocks
<u>8/29/22</u>	Children with Special Needs	180 Early Childhood Professionals	TVCCA Headstart
<u>8/31/22</u>	Understanding Challenging Behavior	9 professionals	ACES
<u>9/9/22</u>	Back to School (outreach)	495 professionals	CT State Department of Education
<u>9/14/22</u>	Tantrums: What Do They Tell You? Backpack Series Presented by Bethanne Vergean UCCEDD	100 Participants registered	80 views

CT Parent Advocacy Center
January 1st - March 31st , 2025

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