

State Interagency Coordinating Council

February 10, 2025, Minutes

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

American School for the Deaf, West Hartford

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, Sylvia Murray (representing Tammy Venenga), Lisa Opert, Anne Giordano, Robb Dunn (remote), Maris Pelkey, Cynthia Jackson, Kristina Gilbertie, Shakirah Wade, Renee Kleinman (pending appointment); Jill Isenberg (UCEDD; representing Dr. Mary Beth Bruder); Shanda Easley (remote); Ginny Mahoney, Jennifer Dowty, Joshua Vaughn; John Lamb.

ICC Members Absent: Ann Milanese, Ceci Maher, Liz Linehan, Louis Tallarita, Leona Adamczyk, Enrique Pabon, Tiffanie Allen, Elaine Balsley, Nicole Cossette, Caitlin McNamara, Sharon Marie

Guest Present: Jill Rigsby, PCG (remote)

Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM

April minutes were not approved due to a quorum not being present. Will send minutes out to ICC Members to vote to approve the minutes.

Old Business:

Legislative/Fiscal: Shanda Easley, ICC Parent Representative, stated that subcommittee chairs and ICC Chair met with Office of Early Childhood (OEC) with regards to amount awarded by appropriations. The meeting included Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, Maggie Adair, Communication and Legislative Program Manager, and Elena Trueworthy, Deputy Commissioner. Cindy Jackson, ICC Chair, reported that legislative GAP was changed. She stated that it was 200 per child per month and it is now at the discretion of the OEC for what amount it should be. She stated that there was lots of discussion around this during the meeting. Cindy stated that the plan would be as rates increase the GAP would decrease. She stated that there was a discussion about the rate change with the money that would be available. Cindy reported that the budget was overall decreased and had just been released when they met. She stated that nothing will happen in 2026 and there will hopefully some form of an increase in 2027. The subcommittee chairs will be meeting with the OEC again to further discuss.

With regards to Medicaid, Ginny Mahoney, DSS, reported that it doesn't look good. She stated that federally, they are asking to make cuts everywhere to save money. She stated that eligibility for Medicaid may have some changes.

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

Communication/Education & Outreach: Reported that they had no updates since last meeting.

New Business:

Retreat October 2025: Cindy discussed the ICC having a retreat every other year, typically an off-site meeting, to allow the ICC to dive more deeply into our system; this would include the structure of ICC. She and Nicole discussed focusing on Membership and the ICC's mission. Cindy discussed who is important to be at the able to provide a well-rounded viewpoint for supporting our state's system. She stated that she would like to set up a committee to assist with planning the retreat. Have been having conversations Darla Gundler, as well as other national leaders to come to the meeting to moderate the meeting. Cindy stated that the October ICC meeting, scheduled for Monday, October 20th, would be the date of the retreat and it would be 9:00 to 3:00 and held off-site. More information to come.

ICC Membership: Cindy discussed that there is criteria set forth by CT legislator and IDEA with regards to the make up of ICC Members. She discussed that there needs to be particular agencies at the table including DCF, Early Head Start, DSS, and Insurance, but there can always include additional state run agencies. Cindy discussed that there needs to be a minimum 20% families and a minimum of 20% representations from Birth to Three Programs (Directors and/or Staff Members).

Family Support - Family Connection/CPAC Report

Lisa Opert provided an update from CPAC. She stated that the information is for the first quarter of the year. Cindy asked about Parent Centers and funding. Lisa stated that supposedly there is funding through September 2026. There is no federal funding, but state funding. Please see the attached report.

Lead Agency Report: Sophia Lampe, General Supervision, filled in for Nicole Cossette, Part C Coordinator, and reviewed the Lead Agency Report. See below.

Cindy asked a question with regards to the EIS Credential and how long is it taking to successfully complete the credential. PD reported that they are not sure, but it is self-paced so it will vary from one person to the next. PD discussed how it has been going for individuals going through the process. To date, they have had only one professional submit successful observations. They reported that those with a coaching background have done better. Cindy asked if DTAs are having more challenges moving through the credentialing paths as compared to professionals. Koleen Kerski, PD, stated that they are seeing more DTAs take the exam to assist with moving them up. She reported that they have seen some professionals take the exam, but they have not moved passed that. She stated that the biggest challenge they are seeing with DTAs is coordinating learning and putting it into practice for evaluations and assessments.

PCG Billing

Jill Rigsby, PCG, thanked Providers on working with PCG on claims being billed and making sure it is accurate. PCG wants to meet Providers' needs. PCG launched a new web-based ticketing system a few months ago which has allowed Providers and PCG to better track tickets. She stated that right now, PCG is working through the next contract cycle and are excited to continue to support the Connecticut Birth to Three System. Cindy asked if we are getting the return in payments from insurance. Jill stated that it is very important right now to get everything we can for insurance reimbursement. She stated that in terms of reimbursement, it has been very consistent from a historical perspective. It is important for partnership to get the biggest return with insurance. She stated that it is important to make sure Spider is accurate, and getting claims submit over to EI billing as timely as possible. She stated that PCG is always looking for better ways to communicate with Providers as well as ways to continue to enhance their system so that is easy to use. She once again stated that returns have been consistent and at the highest level. Cindy asked if there were any insurance companies that we need to work with more or would be good to work with. Jill stated she is not sure. She stated that she does not work within the data system but would get that information and let us know.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment

Committee Report Out

Legislative/Fiscal:

Chairs: Elaine Balsley, Julie Hall, and Shanda Easley

Julie stated that Sophia provided additional information on timelines with regards to rate and the budget. As a committee they discussed insurance and Medicaid reimbursement. There was discussion as to why we are not getting a higher rate than we have currently. Discussed families that choose not to bill insurance and that there is no way to track that currently. There was discussion around the DCF MOU that is currently being worked on. The committee request that PD be offered around working with children and families within DCF care and any updates with regards to regulations and procedures.

System Support/Professional Development:

Chairs: Anne Giordano and Robb Dunn

Anne discussed that they heard more about the EIS process from someone currently going through it. Talked about learning from one another with staff going through the process. Discussed the fidelity coach logs and observations and do we advance this with the current technology available. Also discussed ideas for new training. PD has asked for people to submit ideas for what trainings they would like to be offered. Some ideas included: feeding – continue training, NPO – Newborn Observation, sleep, DECA, Circle of Security, looking at ways to build our skill set with work with families and making connections, and the play project.

Communication/Education & Outreach:

Chairs: Lisa Opert and Maris Pelkey

Lisa reported that as a committee they discuss about the retreat and what they would like to see there. Discussed about acceptance of Birth to Three and how do we stay on top of it. A breakdown of data on how many families refuse services would assist this and wondering why families refuse services. Discussed looking at themes as to who is not taking services. Donna Maitland-Ward, DCF discussed looking at baseline data such as region or if certain referral sources have more individuals refusing service. Discussed changing advertisements and maybe going more digital. Discussed reaching out to different communities since community is different for everyone. Discussed creating a formal request to look at referrals and those that turn down referrals, evaluations, and services.

Robb Dunn, ICC Parent Representative, shared that he recently met 3 families who declined Birth to Three services. He shared that he asked them why they declined services, and they stated that they had recently moved from other states whose EI Systems look very different from Connecticut's. She stated that they shared that the families shared that they were receiving services from individuals per discipline. The families reported that they did not understand how one person is doing it all. Has asked the families if the provider explained Connecticut's model and he was told that the provider did not explain the model, or at least did not explain the model well. Cindy brought up that it is important for us in Connecticut to be able to explain what Primary Provider means. She discussed that maybe this is something that can be focused on more within Service Coordination training. Cindy shared that her program has had challenges with families who have recently moved from New York who were receiving services where it is a completely different model.

Cindy ended the meeting at 11:55. She shared that more information will be sent out the end of August so that everyone can plan for the retreat.

Next ICC Meeting – ICC Retreat

Date:	Monday, October 20, 2025
Time:	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Location:	TBA

**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.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)20-25 State Performance Plan (SPP) / Annual Performance Report (APR) State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

- The week of clarification has begun and concluded. The Lead Agency has revised Indicators 7 and 8C to clarify noncompliance reporting for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022. Furthermore, the Lead Agency modified the introduction and SSIP.
- The final report is available here: [Annual Performance Reports - Birth23.org](https://www.birth23.org/annual-performance-reports).
- What happens next?
 - The Lead Agency anticipates receiving our federal determination on **June 17, 2025**.
 - The DROPP Report, which contains program determinations, will be distributed to programs over the summer of 2025.
 - In the following year, the Lead Agency will initiate discussions on the next SPP/APR package. This will encompass potential updates to the State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR), the SSIP, and other reporting requirements, including state targets, SSIP, etc.

Fiscal Enhancements

- The Federal Part C Application for FFY2025 was submitted on May 19, 2025, and the final allocations were sent on May 9, 2025. The final application can be found here: [Annual Part C Application - Birth23.org](https://www.birth23.org/annual-part-c-application)
 - Connecticut has been awarded **\$5,124,208**.
 - This represents an increase of \$243,109 over the last FFY.
 - In its cover letter to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the state expressed its intention to apply for the State Incentive Grant (SIG), which supports Early Intervention Over 3 Services.
- The 1915(b)(4) waiver continues to progress through the application process.
- The deficit was covered by LCO 8700 – the Birth to Three system received \$900,000 for the current State Fiscal year (SFY), which covers the deficit in total.

Education Outreach

- The Family Survey will be distributed to programs in the coming weeks. This year, the survey will be accessible via a QR code for an online questionnaire, with an option for parents to complete the survey on paper if needed
- There was a recording for the CCMC Pediatric Podcast with Bethanne Vergean from UCEDD, which is scheduled to air in September.
- We will continue to support the Community Health Center, the Physician Workgroup (UCEDD-Northwest Corner), and the Early Childhood Mentorship Program (Early Head Start).
- Presentations have been made to the Hartford Healthcare Pediatric Psych Fellows, the Tri-Division Team Meeting (OEC), the REACH Collaborative, and Hartford Area WIC.
- We have also set up tabling events at the Children's Place (Manchester Library), the Community Baby Shower (Hamden), the Stafford Safety Fair, and the Community Baby Shower (Norwalk).

- Additionally, there are 13 upcoming events, including the National Help Me Grow Forum.

Leadership Grant

- The current cohort presented their projects to stakeholders and leaders in Connecticut on May 26, 2025.
- The state submitted an interim report highlighting the work due to a large available balance. The hope is to be awarded a no-cost extension for this grant to complete their work.

Personnel Development

- Early Intervention Specialist Credential: On April 15, 2025, three staff members took the proctored exam. Two staff members passed both sections and can now proceed to the implementation phase, while the third examinee passed one of the two sections. Previous candidates continue to progress at their own pace; one of the earliest candidates has successfully completed three of four implementation observations and plans to finish the fourth soon.
- The first batch of staff reimbursements for supported spring student placements has been submitted to PCG for processing. Feedback from providers is helping to refine and streamline the reimbursement process. A total of 19 students were supported by programs during the spring semester, and summer applications are currently being accepted.
- In May, the LA agency attended the Early Childhood Education Consortium (ECHEC) to receive updates on the #112 and #113 Integrated Early Childhood Endorsements, as well as proposed changes that will expand the program to include children from birth to age 8. The LA agency was invited to present information about the Early Intervention Specialist credential and the ongoing partnership with Charter Oak, aimed at recruiting new staff and equipping existing early intervention staff with evidence-based support for enhanced implementation, mentoring, and supervisory capacity.

General Supervision

- The statewide visit note will no longer be a requirement with a pending implementation date of January 1, 2026. However, we encourage you to utilize this resource, which will be available on the Birth to Three website.
- This year's technical assistance cycle will conclude by the end of June.
- We are committed to improving our determination and technical assistance processes by gathering input from stakeholders and addressing both federal and state priorities.

Other Topics

- The Lead Agency is continuing to enhance the website. The next update will focus on record requests.
- The lead agency is working with the Department of Children and Families to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This will be an agencywide approach to ensure referrals are sent to the appropriate resources and enhance the collaboration.

Data

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

OEC Birth to Three Funding:	
State Appropriation	\$ 32,452,529
Private Provider Payments	\$ 841,097
Part B Evaluations	\$ 1,876,660
Part C for GAP	\$ 1,758,000
Total Funding	\$ 36,928,286
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (790,733)

*NOTE: Deficit is covered.

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	43,800
Apr	33,630	31,892	36,031	39,656	44,783	45,231
May	32,416	31,720	37,926	45,356	46,385	46,849
Total	480,470	382,171	417,634	474,209	512,165	515,080
% Chg	357.36%	-20.46%	9.28%	13.55%	8.00%	0.96%

- 1) Based on Budget Tracking system as of May 2025
- 2) Based on data from PCG using date paid
- 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
- 5) Note: This is based on direct service expenses.

Actual
Estimated

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
Actual or Estimate	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Escrow	1,953,978	1,839,067	1,977,228	1,597,731	1,889,396	1,648,775	1,660,358	1,635,874	1,426,176	1,942,804	1,877,646	1,963,282
GAP	1,074,400	1,122,600	1,164,400	1,077,400	1,093,200	1,063,400	1,045,800	1,082,000	1,086,200	1,112,600	1,091,000	1,091,000
Interpretation	54,872	105,894	107,569	68,592	172,845	101,485	123,255	91,549	128,465	97,535	105,000	105,000
ATech + Other	23,852	34,041	30,109	39,261	50,952	55,298	31,750	51,264	79,996	53,556	44,000	44,000
Private Provider Payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	282,662	558,435	-	-	-	-
NET OEC Payments	(3,213,995)	1,229,060	270,191	1,645,906	(2,149,122)	601,756	(617,002)	716,091	(704,484)	(406,253)	2,627,850	-
Net OEC Payments	-106,893	4,431,658	3,549,498	4,469,021	1,102,380	3,565,315	2,526,823	4,224,232	2,073,266	2,845,142	5,790,396	3,248,182

*Note: Private Provider Payment paid out in December and January; NET OEC Payments include billing fees

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
Actual or Estimate	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	(Incomplete Data)	Estimate
Claims Paid	\$ 355,827	\$ 371,884	\$ 348,455	\$ 324,747	\$ 349,853	\$ 328,995	\$ 419,192	\$ 505,758	\$ 313,516	\$ 340,296	\$ 288,892	
Amount Billed	\$ 961,365	\$ 1,024,002	\$ 934,953	\$ 888,867	\$ 940,542	\$ 850,080	\$ 934,506	\$ 1,881,702	\$ 973,194	\$ 1,110,816	\$ 861,561	
%Paid/Billed	37%	36%	37%	37%	37%	39%	45%	27%	32%	31%	34%	
Billing Fees	\$ -	\$ 88,317	\$ -	\$ 22,850	\$ 28,671	\$ 52,888	\$ -	\$ 50,885	\$ 39,482	\$ 25,900	\$ 25,900	\$ 25,900

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

Values in grey are being double checked with PCG.

*Turn Page - Medicaid Payments on Back

Medicaid 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
Actual or Estimate	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	(Incomplete Data)	Estimate
Amount Paid	\$ 2,880,275	\$ 3,870,944	\$ 2,739,636	\$ 3,081,177	\$ 3,590,006	\$ 2,765,748	\$ 2,905,027	\$ 2,969,448	\$ 3,239,824	\$ 3,699,737	\$ 2,934,881	
Amount Billed	\$ 3,042,763	\$ 3,994,945	\$ 2,963,153	\$ 3,168,752	\$ 3,802,076	\$ 3,019,717	\$ 3,040,974	\$ 3,177,739	\$ 3,318,649	\$ 3,945,586	\$ 3,178,913	
%Paid/Billed	95%	97%	92%	97%	94%	92%	96%	93%	98%	94%	92%	
Billing Fees	\$ -	\$ 12,679	\$ -	\$ 17,282	\$ 16,438	\$ 41,713	\$ -	\$ 38,135	\$ 17,430	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	19000

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Birth to Three System Monthly Enrollment Data - For Meeting 06/09/25*

	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	April 2025	May 2025
Calls to 211CDI	1305	1259	1196	1156	1283	1161	1070	1363	1193	1326	1290	1145
Percent compared to CY2019 average (1113)	117%	113%	107%	104%	115%	104%	96%	122%	107%	119%	116%	103%
<i>Families declining the referral to B23 ¹</i>	233	250	187	177	230	188	186	72	65	74	60	46
Percent compared to CY2019 average (199)	117%	126%	94%	89%	116%	94%	93%	36%	33%	37%	30%	23%
Percent of calls to 211CD (CY2019 average was 17%)	18%	20%	16%	15%	18%	16%	17%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%
Referrals to Birth to Three	1072	1009	1009	978	1052	973	884	1290	1127	1252	1230	1032
Percent compared to CY2019 average (913)	117%	111%	111%	107%	115%	107%	97%	141%	123%	137%	135%	113%
<i>Families declining eligibility evaluations ²</i>	79	110	85	87	100	78	94	83	115	148	203	176
Percent compared to CY2019 average (67)	118%	164%	127%	130%	149%	116%	140%	124%	172%	221%	303%	263%
Percent of B23 referrals (CY2019 average was 7%)	7%	11%	8%	9%	10%	8%	11%	6%	10%	12%	17%	17%
Initial Eligibility Determinations	1075	1056	897	926	1027	777	855	963	968	1066	1065	910
Percent compared to CY2019 average (843)	126%	124%	105%	108%	120%	91%	100%	113%	113%	125%	125%	106%
Determined to be Eligible	728	694	627	653	731	526	592	701	696	735	736	617
Percent compared to CY2019 average (570)	128%	122%	110%	115%	128%	92%	104%	123%	122%	129%	129%	108%
Percent Eligible	68%	66%	70%	71%	71%	68%	69%	73%	72%	69%	69%	68%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (68%)	0%	-2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	1%	5%	4%	1%	1%	0%
<i>Families leaving Part C in the month before an initial IFSP meeting ³</i>	23	40	26	21	39	25	15	32	28	35	32	31
Percent compared to CY2019 average (55)	42%	73%	47%	38%	71%	45%	27%	58%	51%	64%	58%	56%
Percent of B23 those eligible (CY2019 average was 10%)	3%	6%	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Initial IFSP meeting held during the month	649	699	620	634	684	558	567	658	591	724	674	587
Percent compared to CY2019 average (516)	126%	135%	120%	123%	133%	108%	110%	128%	115%	140%	131%	114%
<i>Families leaving Part C after the initial IFSP meeting but before EITS ³</i>	7	11	7	13	17	7	9	8	7	8	10	9
Percent compared to CY2019 average (15)	47%	73%	47%	87%	113%	47%	60%	53%	47%	53%	67%	60%
Percent of all Exits	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Eligible children who received an EITS in the month	7066	7375	7522	6949	7105	6890	6681	7026	6942	7204	7268	6314
Percent compared to CY2019 average (5177)	136%	142%	145%	134%	137%	133%	129%	136%	134%	139%	140%	122%
Average hours per child per month	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.5	4.9	4.6	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	3.8
Percent compared to CY2019 average (7.3)	68%	71%	68%	70%	75%	67%	63%	71%	66%	68%	70%	52%
Eligible children with an ASD diagnosis who received an EITS in the month	947	910	954	849	875	871	856	902	903	914	904	809
Percent compared to CY2019 average (676)	140%	135%	141%	126%	129%	129%	127%	133%	134%	135%	134%	120%
Average hours per child per month	9.6	10.1	9.6	10.1	11.1	9.7	9.1	10.4	9.4	10.2	10.1	7.2
Percent compared to CY2019 average (24.9)	39%	41%	39%	41%	45%	39%	37%	42%	38%	41%	41%	29%
Eligible children without an ASD diagnosis who received an EITS in the month	6155	6512	6607	6154	6301	6069	5873	6179	6086	6332	6420	5537
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4529)	136%	144%	146%	136%	139%	134%	130%	136%	134%	140%	142%	122%
Average hours per child per month	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.3	3.3
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4.7)	89%	96%	91%	94%	100%	89%	83%	94%	87%	89%	91%	70%

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood Birth to Three System Monthly Enrollment Data - For Meeting 06/09/25*

	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	April 2025	May 2025
Children in families who exited before age 3³	234	217	257	194	227	170	169	214	161	205	211	165
Percent compared to CY2019 average (224)	104%	97%	115%	87%	101%	76%	75%	96%	72%	92%	94%	74%
Children in families who exited at age 3⁴	171	182	1073	523	466	416	397	392	369	419	370	159
Percent compared to CY2019 average (322)	53%	57%	333%	162%	145%	129%	123%	122%	115%	130%	115%	49%
Children in Families who exited at age 3 as eligible for Part B	59	70	948	351	283	253	267	244	230	264	213	52
Percent compared to CY2019 average (225)	26%	31%	421%	156%	126%	112%	119%	108%	102%	117%	95%	23%

*data as of 06/05/25**

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

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

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	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

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	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

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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

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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 4 th 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

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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

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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

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<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

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