

# State Interagency Coordinating Council

October 4, 2021 Minutes  
9:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Remote Zoom Meeting

**Cynthia Jackson**  
*ICC Chair/Provider*  
**Leona Adamczyk**  
*ICC Vice*  
**Ann Gionet**  
*Dept. of Public Health*  
**Tiffanie Allain**  
*Parent Representative*  
**Kim Nilson**  
*Dept. for Children and Families*  
**Maris Pelkey**  
*Creative Interventions*  
**Elaine Balsley**  
*ReachOut*  
**Nicole Cossette**  
*Office of Early Childhood*  
**Senator Mary Abrams**  
*State Senator*  
**Shanda Easley**  
*Parent representative*  
**Sharon Marie**  
*Dept. of Aging & Disabilities Services*  
**Ginny, Mahoney**  
*Dept. of Social Services*  
**Anne Giordano**  
*Education Connection*  
**Carol Peltier**  
*American School for the Deaf*  
**Louis Tallarita**  
*SDE-Homeless Children*  
**Andrea Brinnell**  
*SDE-619*  
**Karen Pascale**  
*Early Head Start*  
**Myra Watnick**  
*Rehabilitation Associates, Inc.*  
**Ann Milanese, M.D.**  
*American Academy of Pediatrics*  
**Representative Liz Linehan**  
*House of Representatives*  
**Tammy Venenga**  
*Dept. Of Developmental Services*  
**Mary Beth Bruder**  
*UCEDD*  
**Lisa Opert**  
*Parent Representative*  
**Robb Dunn**  
*Parent Representative*  
**David Gonzalez-Rice**  
*Parent representative*  
**Lauren Black**  
*Parent Representative*  
**Melissa Roberts**  
*Department of Insurance*

ICC Members Present: Andrea Brinnel, Anne Giordano, Cindy Jackson, Tiffany Allain, Shanda Easley, Carol Peltier, Elaine Balsley, Ginny Mahoney, Myra Watnick, Nicole Cossette, Robb Dunn, Lisa Opert, Karen Pascale, Dr. Ann Milanese, Louis Tallarita, Tammy Venenga, Maris Pelkey

ICC Members Absent: Leona Adamczyk, Representative Linehan, Senator Abrams, Melissa Roberts (Gerald O'Sullivan, attending for Dept of Insurance), Mary Beth Bruder (Jill Isenburg, attending for UCEDD), Kim Nilson, Ann Gionet, Lauren Black, Sharon Marie, David Gonzalez-Rice

CPAC represented by Adriana Fontaine

CDI represented by Kareena DuPlessis

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

**Introductions:** ICC members in attendance introduced.

New ICC members, Nicole Cossette and Maris Pelkey, were introduced and welcomed.

ICC members honored Alice Ridgway for her over 25 years of service and support for the Birth to Three system with various roles and responsibilities. ICC members wished her a wonderful retirement. Cindy Jackson read Citation from the General Assembly in recognition of Alice's contributions. Cindy shared a donation has been made to "Little Britches Riding Program" in Alice's name from members of the ICC. Alice Ridgway thanked the ICC for her well wishes and their continued support for CT Birth to Three system.

## **Public Comment:**

First comment from Jill Isenburg, representing UConn UCEDD, shared information for application to Interdisciplinary Training for EI Professionals Specialist program. New year for the participants would begin in January 2022. For more information, visit <https://uconnucedd.org/education-courses/eisp/>. Email address for Jill Isenburg provided: jisenberg@uchc.edu.

Second comment from Cindy Nichols, a PhD student at UConn School of Social Work. She is working with Dr. Lloyd Sieger on a project assessing Connecticut's implementation of the 2019 CAPTA policy changes pertaining to newborns with prenatal substance exposure. They are reaching out to people in the larger CT system of care who interact with this population and who may be able to distribute flyers recruiting women to participate in the study. Ms. Nichols asked if flyer could be shared with Birth to Three providers to give to families. Nicole Cossette responded this could be attached to weekly provider update which is sent to all program directors. Email address for Cindy Nichols provided: cynthia.nichols@uconn.edu.

**Old Business:**

Approval of the June, 2021 ICC Minutes: motion to accept and motion seconded, none opposed.

**New Business:**

Committee updates shared regarding work completed since June 14, 2021 ICC meeting:

**Legislative/Fiscal Committee** Public Act No. 21-46 (formerly known as SB02) was signed by governor, eliminating family cost participation fees and allowing for EIS over 3 years of age from May 1<sup>st</sup> through the start of the school year. Positive feedback from providers around these changes. Andrea Brinnel shared she has also received good feedback from the school districts (Part B). The guiding message of “parent choice”, not Part B versus Part C, has been beneficial.

**Education and Outreach Committee** No update at this time.

**System Support/Personnel Development Committee** Training survey was completed and responses are being collated at this time.

Adriana Fontaine, CPAC/Family Connections: reported 81 new referrals, 107 support calls around vaccination exemption guidance, IFSP development, Early Intervention, transition, and understanding evaluation reports as well as difficulty in obtaining evaluation reports. CPAC is the process of training two new mentors. Continued workshops over the summer around challenging behaviors and inclusion. Webinar being offered October 6 on ABA foundations. Backpack trainings from UConn UCEDD shared as a series of trainings offered every second Wednesday of the month around the topics of Social Emotional development. Adriana shared the CPAC newsletter is now reaching 325 people/families. Virtual support groups to start in November.

Cindy Jackson shared a demographics survey was sent out twice from Sabrina Crowe to all ICC members. The ICC is required by state statute to report demographics on its members to the governor. Cindy requested that those who had not responded to complete the survey by today, October 4, 2021.

Next meetings will be December 13<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will continue to be held remotely. Cindy shared the difficulty in finding a public space that would accommodate an outside group during Covid while also supporting a remote option through technology. Meetings can be held at OEC in Hartford but the ICC was attempting to find a more centralized location if possible. Hopeful for in person meeting in February 2022.

Cindy Jackson shared that each committee should be chaired by at least one parent. Asked parents joining committees today to consider taking on that role and letting the other chair know and/or Cindy and Sabrina Crowe.

Leadership Academy presentations shared with the ICC. Stephanie McClellan from ASD shared her project on supporting hearing children of deaf parents in their ASD program that specializes in hearing supports. Jen Buffington from Chesire Birth to Three shared her project on Circle of Security being offered to all B23 families and providers to build stronger and more secure attachment. Tina Gilberti from Rehab Assoc shared her project on group based ESDM in collaboration with an Early Head Start classroom. Nicole Cocce from Benchmark shared her project on improved training opportunities for new staff, knowing what’s needed and how to share resources. Marissa Novello from Theracare shared her project on supporting coaching practices and addressing barriers in implementation. Second year of Leadership Academy application is open now.

Andrea Brinnel shared information on CT Aspiring Educators program.

Lead Agency report by Nicole Cossette. See attached. Request for volunteers to review the Annual Report. Steve Hunt, Cindy Jackson, and Myra Watnick volunteered.

Committee reports out:

**Legislative/fiscal** topics: Reviewed first draft of Annual Data Report. Suggested adding data point around equity during Covid. Suggestion of long term goal to show number of children served by legislative district versus by town. Challenge discussed with how some towns are split into more than one legislative district.

**Education and Outreach** topics: Discussion around magnet for parents that will list their B23 program's name and Service Coordinator's name. Questioned if this is something OEC could purchase. Discussion around redesign of family handbooks into one-sheet type designs with pertinent topic points for printing and accessing from website.

**System Support/Personnel Development** topics: Collated results of training survey discussed. Shared there is funding available through ARPA funds. Training swap discussion with possible shared calendar for trainings that programs could see. Discussion around recruitment and retention.

**Next Meeting: scheduled for December 13, 2021**



### **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

- Review Logic Model; see attached form.
- Review Target Setting; see attached form.

#### Current SPP / APR / SSIP

- Review of the upcoming reporting.

#### *Education and Outreach*

- The Birth to Three and Early Head Start workgroup has continued to meet regarding updating the MOU to focus on coordinating supports for dually-supported families, reducing systems barriers, and increasing referral to both programs. The UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) facilitated this workgroup. The MOU is in the final stages before signatures from all parties involved.
- The Lead Agency will begin working with the Department of Public Health (DPH) in reviewing the MOU between the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and DPH, which focuses on data sharing.

#### *Personnel Development*

- A third member of the Lead Agency, Sabrina Crowe, has been accepted and is in the process of being certified nationally in best practices in early intervention with national leaders, Dathan Rush and M'Lisa Shelden.
- Lead agency has reviewed the PD survey done by the ICC subcommittee and is looking to address some of the identified needs through training and/or module development.

#### *Fiscal Enhancements*

- 1915(b)(4) Medicaid Waiver was approved and extended another two years.
- The PCG Contract was approved by both parties and Connecticut's Attorney General's (AG) office. The contract expires in 2024.
- There was an MOA continuation that was approved and signed between SDE and OEC. This MOA indicates that the OEC will continue to receive 1 million from SDE for child find efforts.

#### Leadership Grant

- The first cohort completed projects focused on systematic changes to the Part C and Part B systems.
- The second cohort recruitment is now underway!

#### Personnel Development Grant

- Year two applications have been received and approved. 18 of 19 programs participating in Mentor Coach support for staff.
- Year two will also focus on updating and solidifying Birth to Three's professional development/career pathway. The goal being – well-qualified staff and staff retention.

#### General Supervision

- The Lead Agency will be going out to one program to perform fiscal monitoring during October.
- The Lead Agency received a written complaint, and the results were reported to the program and family.

- Programs submitted their FY20 expense reports. The Lead Agency met with the Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting Technical Assistance (CIFR TA) Center to provide information to analyze the results and what TA the Lead Agency should provide to programs.

#### Other

- The Annual Data Report writing is underway. Are there any volunteers to review the report?
- Reliable Accountable Integrated Network (RAIN) Development continues, and the Lead Agency began conversations with PCG to manage the data migration from Service Provider Individual Data Entry Resources (SPIDER) to RAIN.

#### Data

The enrollment and fiscal data requested by the ICC regularly are attached.

# Connecticut Birth to Three System – Part C State Systemic Improvement Plan Logic Model

SiMR: Parents will be able to describe their child’s abilities and challenges more effectively as a result of their participation in Early Intervention.

Inputs	Activities	ST Outcome	Int Outcome	LT Outcome
<p>Families / CPAC, Inc</p> <p>PHCPs / referral sources</p> <p>MOU’s/MOA’s</p> <p>211 CD single point of entry</p> <p>ABT leaders, webpages and materials</p> <p>OEC Fidelity Coaches</p> <p>FIPP modules</p> <p>B23 procedure/guidance review</p> <p>CANVAS LMS at OEC</p> <p>84.325P and 84.325L grants</p> <p>EIS contract language supports ABT and other quality activities</p> <p>Next RFP due Fall 2024</p> <p>New expense reports and fiscal monitoring provide data</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> party review without FCP</p> <p>CGA changed system quickly</p>	<p>Expand “Bridging the Gap” model to share uniform message about B23 including key principles of ABT practices.</p> <p>Develop and disperse materials in communities.</p> <p>Determine what data is needed to gather feedback about the message of B23.</p> <p>Adding messaging about outreach in current MOA’s/MOU’s/Contracts</p> <p>Fidelity checks to prevent “drift”</p> <p>Develop a model visit note and update related procedures to increase use of ABT</p> <p>Update all modules for use on CANVAS</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> person to complete Fidelity Coach training</p> <p>Market analysis of EI staffing rates and shortages</p> <p>Evaluate impact of RFP every 5 years on families Include impact on 1915(b)(4) waiver</p> <p>Analysis and reporting of aggregate fiscal data</p> <p>Online training to maximize commercial insurance and Medicaid revenue</p> <p>RAIN launched</p>	<p>PHCPs, providers, and community partners will understand ABT practices.</p> <p>Programs having products to share with community and families to support ABT practices.</p> <p>OEC links data from CANVAS and RAIN to evaluate which practitioners are completing standardized training with materials, activities and progression through ABT</p> <p>Mentor Coaches are focused on NLEP</p> <p>Train the trainer for Mentor Coaches</p> <p>Determine whether RFP in 2024 for 2025 is inevitable</p> <p>Determine if a rate review is needed.</p> <p>Commercial ins and Medicaid revenue increases</p> <p>Programs have access to their data through new reporting tools</p>	<p>PHCPs, providers, and community partners accurately describe ABT practices for families.</p> <p>Programs are able to complete the same analysis and do all their own training (without national experts).</p> <p>Further implementation of PSP to fidelity</p> <p>Systems in place to train and maintain fidelity of Mentor Coaches</p> <p>Contract language and funding supports ABT activities</p> <p>Extend RFP to 2026</p> <p>Fiscal data to support competitive state rate</p> <p>EIS costs covered after ARPA</p> <p>Reports about B23 to CGA by legislative district for equity and broader stakeholder engagement</p>	<p>While being referred, families understanding about what the CT Birth to Three System looks like including the ABT practices aligns with what they were told by PCHPS, provides and community partners.</p> <p>Parents accurately describe Birth to Three and with regard to the ABT practices to their PCHPs, community partners and LEAs.</p> <p>Continuity of delivery of supports for families based on ABT from initial contact through to transition.</p> <p>New EIS rate for Teaming</p> <p>A consistent, reliable, dependable, predictable, equitable and fiscally sustainable Part C system that that support ABT practices for families.</p>

**Connecticut Part C SPP/APR – Setting Baseline and Targets for FFY20-25**

Indicator	Previous Baseline	Year Set
2) Families receiving services in the child's Natural Environment	99.98%	2005
3) Infants and toddlers demonstrate improved:		
A) positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)	1) 72.77%	1) 2013
	2) 59.60%	2) 2013
B) acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication)	1) 82.75%	1) 2013
	2) 50.95%	2) 2013
C) use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.	1) 83.65%	1) 2014
	2) 72.05%	2) 2014
4) Families participating in Part C report that early intervention services have helped the family...		
A) know their rights	79.00%	2006
B) effectively communicate their children's needs	75.00%	2006
C) help their children develop and learn	87.00%	2006
5) The percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1	0.93%	2005
6) The percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3	3.16%	2005

**Connecticut Part C SPP/APR – Setting Baseline and Targets for FFY20-25**

Indicator	17-18 Submitted	18-19 Submitted	19-20 Target	19-20 Submitted	New Baseline	20-21 Targets	21-22 Targets	22-23 Targets	23-24 Targets	24-25 Targets
2) Families receiving services in the child’s Natural Environment	99.98%	100%	95%	99.97%	99.97%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
3) Infants and toddlers demonstrate improved:										
A) positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)	1) 74.83% 2) 60.17%	1) 73.80% 2) 60.21%	1) 73.00% 2) 60.00%	1) 73.6% 2) 56.4%	1) 73.6% 2) 56.4%	1) 74% 2) 57%	1) 74% 2) 57%	1) 74% 2) 57%	1) 74% 2) 57%	1) 75% 2) 58%
B) acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication)	1) 80.87% 2) 51.82%	1) 80.57% 2) 52.90%	1) 83.00% 2) 53.00%	1) 79.0% 2) 47.3%	1) 79.0% 2) 47.3%	1) 80% 2) 48%	1) 80% 2) 49%	1) 80% 2) 49%	1) 80% 2) 50%	1) 81% 2) 51%
C) use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.	1) 84.41% 2) 71.36%	1) 84.84% 2) 72.01%	1) 84.00% 2) 72.00%	1) 81.0% 2) 67.3%	1) 81.0% 2) 67.3%	1) 82% 2) 68%	1) 82% 2) 68%	1) 82% 2) 69%	1) 83% 2) 70%	1) 84% 2) 71%
4) Families participating in Part C report that early intervention services have helped the family...										
A) know their rights	90.93%	91.22%	90.00%	90.9%	90.9%	91%	91%	91%	91%	91%
B) effectively communicate their children's needs	88.67%	89.28%	91.00%	89.6%	89.6%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
C) help their children develop and learn	96.13%	96.27%	93.00%	96.6%	96.6%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%
5) The percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1	1.36%	1.19%	1.21%	1.48%	1.19%	1.20%	1.30%	1.40%	1.40%	1.50%
6) The percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3	4.56%	4.94%	4.00%	5.39%	4.94%	4.90%	5.00%	5.10%	5.20%	5.3%

\*Key – Indicator 3

Summary Statement 1 = Reduced the Gap,

Summary Statement 2 = Caught Up / Maintained Age Level Skills



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

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept*
<b>Calls to 211CD</b>	902	919	1059	1012	1193	1281	1007	1300	1109	1115	1206
Percent compared to CY2019 average (1113)	81%	83%	95%	91%	107%	115%	90%	117%	100%	100%	108%
<i>Families declining the referral to B23 <sup>1</sup></i>	179	171	163	174	230	187	185	255	182	125	30
Percent compared to CY2019 average (199)	90%	86%	82%	87%	116%	94%	93%	128%	91%	63%	15%
Percent of calls to 211CD (CY2019 average was 17%)	20%	19%	15%	17%	19%	15%	18%	20%	16%	11%	2%
<b>Referrals to Birth to Three</b>	723	748	894	837	963	1035	822	1045	927	924	879
Percent compared to CY2019 average (913)	79%	82%	98%	92%	105%	113%	90%	114%	102%	101%	96%
<i>Families declining eligibility evaluations <sup>2</sup></i>	97	88	80	102	77	93	78	97	99	77	71
Percent compared to CY2019 average (67)	145%	131%	119%	152%	115%	139%	116%	145%	148%	115%	106%
Percent of B23 referrals (CY2019 average was 7%)	13%	12%	9%	12%	8%	9%	9%	9%	11%	8%	8%
<b>Initial Eligibility Determinations</b>	655	668	678	708	870	773	802	874	817	921	682
Percent compared to CY2019 average (843)	77%	78%	79%	83%	102%	90%	94%	102%	96%	108%	80%
<b>Determined to be Eligible</b>	491	496	523	534	669	557	613	630	559	632	475
Percent compared to CY2019 average (570)	86%	87%	92%	94%	117%	98%	108%	111%	98%	111%	83%
Percent Eligible	75%	74%	77%	75%	77%	72%	76%	72%	68%	69%	70%
Percent compared to CY2019 average (68%)	7%	6%	9%	7%	9%	4%	8%	4%	0%	1%	2%
<i>Families leaving Part C in the month before an initial IFSP meeting <sup>3</sup></i>	33	46	36	35	33	26	37	39	32	25	23
Percent compared to CY2019 average (55)	60%	84%	65%	64%	60%	47%	67%	71%	58%	45%	42%
Percent of B23 those eligible (CY2019 average was 10%)	7%	9%	7%	7%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	4%	5%
<b>Initial IFSP meeting held during the month</b>	455	472	482	465	599	546	524	555	567	579	401
Percent compared to CY2019 average (516)	88%	91%	93%	90%	116%	106%	102%	108%	110%	112%	78%
<i>Families leaving Part C after the initial IFSP meeting but before EITS <sup>3</sup></i>	19	10	16	14	11	13	12	14	11	8	7
Percent compared to CY2019 average (15)	127%	67%	107%	93%	73%	87%	80%	93%	73%	53%	47%
Percent of all Exits	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%	2%

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

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept*
<b>Eligible children who received an EITS in the month</b>	4734	4751	4434	4549	4542	4623	4539	4734	4751	4434	4549
Percent compared to CY2019 average (5177)	91%	92%	86%	88%	88%	89%	88%	91%	92%	86%	88%
Average hours per child per month	6.4	5.6	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.4	6.0	5.5	4.9
Percent compared to CY2019 average (7.3)	87%	76%	83%	83%	75%	78%	76%	74%	82%	75%	67%

<b>Eligible children with an ASD who received an EITS in the month</b>	551	550	528	515	515	532	610	564	530	512	389
Percent compared to CY2019 average (676)	82%	81%	78%	76%	76%	79%	90%	83%	78%	76%	58%
Average hours per child per month	18.3	15.8	17.0	17.2	15.7	16.2	14.5	14.1	15.0	13.9	11.7
Percent compared to CY2019 average (24.9)	73%	63%	68%	69%	63%	65%	58%	56%	60%	56%	47%

<b>Eligible children without an ASD who received an EITS in the month</b>	4202	4217	3938	4059	4062	4121	4203	4276	4483	4501	4343
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4529)	93%	93%	87%	90%	90%	91%	93%	94%	99%	99%	96%
Average hours per child per month	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.3	4.0
Percent compared to CY2019 average (4.7)	102%	91%	98%	98%	89%	94%	93%	90%	100%	92%	85%

<b>Children in families who exited before age 3<sup>3</sup></b>	261	327	249	220	183	196	202	198	218	421	193
Percent compared to CY2019 average (224)	117%	146%	111%	98%	82%	88%	90%	88%	97%	188%	86%

<b>Children in families who exited at age 3<sup>4</sup></b>	358	397	264	316	269	256	242	162	114	226	171
Percent compared to CY2019 average (322)	111%	123%	82%	98%	84%	80%	75%	50%	35%	70%	53%

<b>Children in Families who exited at age 3 as eligible for Part B</b>	196	235	160	202	177	171	178	81	49	154	103
Percent compared to CY2019 average (225)	87%	104%	71%	90%	79%	76%	79%	36%	22%	68%	46%

\*September data preliminary as of 10/03/2021

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