

State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Minutes
October 10, 2024 Meeting

Members in Attendance

Dr. Sadia Batool	Family Member
Dr. Kris Bowman	Higher Education
Ms. Lisa Parker	Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports
Ms. Jamie Buchenauer	Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Ms. Tracy Duarte	Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office
Ms. Naomi Galman	Family Member
Representative Liz Hanbidge	Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Dr. Sandhya Iyengar	American Academy of Pediatrics
Ms. Amanda Kurtz	Altoona Area School District
Ms. Anne Lang	Provider/Early Intervention Providers Association
Ms. Ruby Martin	Bureau of Certification Services
Mr. Jason McCrea	Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health
Dr. Michelle Reichard-Huff	Intermediate Unit Representative
Ms. Wenxi Schwab	Parent
Ms. Jane Stadnik	Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center
Ms. Lindsy Swarz	Pennsylvania Insurance Department
Ms. Tia Thompson	Family Member
Ms. Lea Sheffield	Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council
Dr. Michele Walsh	Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth, and Families

Members Absent

Ms. Jameekia Barnett	Department of Human Services, Office of Policy
Mr. Mark Beall	Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
Ms. Carmen Medina	Department of Education, Homelessness Initiative

Guests

Molly Martz	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Mary Anketell	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Gina Federico	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Lauren Stuparitz	Family Member
Nipho Msibi	Family Member
Susan Raiders	Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
Rebecca Kichman	Cumberland/Perry Counties
Essence Allen-Presley	The Education Institute for Early Intervention
Danielle Brumley	Fayette County
Brittany Shoemaker	Luzerne County
Brandi Sieczkowski	Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit 28
Tammy Delahunty	Allegheny County

Brandi Binakonsky	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Toni Miguel	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Kelly Fisher	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Jocelyn Debick	accessAbilities
Amy Reed	Cumberland/Perry Counties
Barb Clark	Crawford County
Tracy Bordelon	Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4
LaShane Johnson	Philadelphia County
Samantha Rosthauser	Elwyn
Theresa Miller	HealthPro Pediatrics
Sherell Robinson	Family Member
Shelley Chapin	Early Intervention Technical Assistance
Tammy Grzelka	Family Member
Victoria Wilmore	Philadelphia County
Heather Kleber	SAM Inc.
Dana Shaffer	Erie/Crawford/Mercer Counties
Andrea Layton	ASERT
Karen Lewis	Georgia State Interagency Coordinating Council
Elizabeth Gosa	Georgia State Interagency Coordinating Council
Deb Noel	Office of Child Development and Early Learning
Christina Harris	Office of Child Development and Early Learning

Welcome and Introductions – Ms. Gina Federico, Early Intervention Technical Assistance, introduced herself and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She asked everyone to put their name and agency in the chat box to be recorded for attendance.

Dr. Sadia Batool welcomed attendees to the October State Interagency Coordinating Council meeting.

Approval of the August Meeting Minutes – Dr. Sadia Batool asked for any concerns or corrections for the August 1, 2024 minutes to be placed in the chat box. None were expressed, and the minutes were approved. The minutes for the August 1, 2024 meeting are posted on the SICC [padlet](#).

Family Story

Ms. Sherell Robinson shared her family story. She is the mother of two girls, including one who is receiving Early Intervention services. Ms. Robinson's youngest daughter, who was born at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, has a complex medical history, including feeding issues, a choking disorder, asthma, and seizures. Through speech therapy, Ms. Robinson's daughter has developed more expressive language and communication skills. Through occupational therapy, Ms. Robinson's daughter has become more sensory tolerant, less clumsy, developed turn taking skills and a longer attention span, and is experiencing far fewer meltdowns.

Ms. Robinson suggested that there should be an alternative to service coordination and group services should be provided while waiting for enrollment in a preschool program. Additionally, Ms. Robinson stressed the importance of diversity. She felt that Early Intervention providers could not relate to her family culturally. This caused her to have to educate providers about her family and sometimes that detracted from her daughter getting services.

State Interagency Coordinating Council Restructuring

Dr. Kris Bowman and Dr. Sadia Batool shared about next steps for SICC restructuring.

First, they welcomed Ms. Karen Lewis and Ms. Elizabeth Gosa from the Georgia State Interagency Coordinating Council to provide information about how their SICC is structured, and functions. Ms. Lewis shared that the Georgia committee structure helps to ensure that the SICC is constantly hearing from stakeholders and keeping current on research. Ms. Gosa shared that the Georgia committee structure allows the SICC to bring strategic partners to the table while also remaining flexible in the work that they do. The Georgia SICC and committees meet annually for a two-day meeting to stay focused on strategic goals and strategies.

Following the update from the Georgia SICC, Drs. Bowman and Batool shared about the process for recruiting members to the new SICC committees. There will be four committees (Mental Health, Workforce Development, Outreach and Communication, and Access and Inclusion). Non-SICC members will have until October 28th to submit their applications to participate in the committees. SICC members will submit an abbreviated survey to indicate their committees of interest the following week. The application for non-SICC members will be emailed to all participants on the SICC listserv. It will also be posted on the [SICC page of the EITA Portal](#).

Annual Early Intervention Family Survey Results

Ms. Mary Anketell, Project Manager, Early Intervention Technical Assistance, provided a presentation on the results of the Annual Early Intervention Family Survey. The survey measures child demographics and is followed by 20 survey questions. The survey runs from February 1st to June 30th, is available in multiple languages, and local EI programs are responsible for distributing the survey.

Data gathered from the survey indicates that Pennsylvania is extremely successful in communicating with families and engaging families in EI services. The data also indicates that Pennsylvania needs to improve in building family leadership, building family to family connections, and connecting families to non-EI programs and services.

For more information on the EI family survey results, please review the entire slide deck from Ms. Anketell's presentation, which is available on the [SICC padlet](#).

ASERT (Autism Services Education Resources and Training) Collaborative Update

Ms. Andrea Layton, Director, ASERT, shared about ASERT. ASERT helps to educate individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and community members. ASERT also supports the autism community; builds resources and programs; and measures data to identify changing needs. ASERT helps to bring together local, regional, and statewide resources to support existing community efforts and activities.

For more information on the work of ASERT, please visit the [ASERT website](#) or review Ms. Layton's full presentation, which is available on the [SICC padlet](#).

National Autism Conference Update

Ms. Tia Thompson provided an update on the National Autism Conference. The NAC was held at PaTTAN Harrisburg from August 5 through August 8, 2024. The NAC focused on providing comprehensive evidence-based strategies to help educators, professionals, and families create effective educational programs for students with autism spectrum disorder. There were over 500 participants in person, as well as additional virtual participants. Scholarships were available for parents and caregivers, and a family luncheon was hosted by EI family leaders and EITA consultants. Children of all ages were welcome to attend the Children's Institute Camp, which provides a fun and educational experience for the children.

Office of Child Development and Early Learning Update

Ms. Lisa Parker shared updates on behalf of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Ms. Parker shared that Pennsylvania's Early Intervention Program is preparing for monitoring by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The monitoring process will rely heavily on input and feedback from SICC members and the SICC committee participants. OSEP will be reaching out to the SICC and other stakeholders in Pennsylvania to participate in focus groups.

Ms. Parker also shared an update regarding the Success for PA Early Learners (SPEL) grant. The SPEL grant is focused on professional development to provide evidence-based services for

children from birth through second grade.. A family ambassador pilot program is being launched soon for the Preschool Early Intervention Programs as part of the SPEL grant. Additionally, a survey for families on transition experiences and family engagement will be disseminated statewide.

Open Forum

No updates were provided.

SICC Handouts: The materials from this meeting are available on the [padlet](#).

Next Meeting Date and Time: December 5, 2024 at 12:30 pm

Meeting to adjourn: Ms. Anne Lang provided the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tia Thompson provided the second.