**ICC Family and Community Engagement Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 4, 2025**

**Proposed Minutes**

**FACE Committee Charge:** The Family and Community Engagement Subcommittee will work to support approaches for gathering family input about the services their family receives from Early Intervention.

**Appointed ICC members in attendance:**

Dina Tedeschi, Mallorie Brown, Jennifer Clark, Casandra Greeno, Michelle Grewal

**DPH Staff:** Liz Cox, Kris Martone-Levine

**Presenters:** None

**Public Attendees**: Mary Bishop

The meeting was held virtually.

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions, Roll Call
2. Review & Approve Minutes
3. Guest Presentation(s)
4. Review Charge
5. Discussion
6. Questions
7. Action Plan(s)
8. Adjourn

Quorum met at 10:08 am, roll call conducted and meeting called to order. Minutes from April 2, 2025, motion to approve and roll call approval made by Dina. Members in attendance at that meeting voted to approve unanimously.

The name of the committee changed officially to Family and Community Engagement. Acronyms were discussed and the options were FCE or FACE. Decision to use FACE as the official acronym for the committee.

ICC General Session on June 5, 2025, in Marlborough. Dina discussed the FACE report out sheet for tomorrow’s meeting and moving the FACE meeting to the second Wednesday of the month for the next fiscal year.

Continue with supporting DPH with census approach. August 13, 2025, Shirley Fan-Chan will present at the FACE meeting. Discussion about other presentations that FACE would like to see in FY2026. Dina will ask Molly Gilbride to present on timely services and local determinations. Dina would ask her to present in September or October as November would not be an option.

Dina asked Mary Bishop if she might want to update group on NCSEAM Family Impact Survey from a program’s perspective. Mary raised a discussion had in the Family Engagement Community of Practice (CoP) about finding Parent Contacts (PCs) in her program, what their role is now, and how to engage the PCs in the work at programs. Difficulty in recruiting PCs is a common theme amongst programs. Questioned if there is a role or opportunity for EI graduate parents for involvement at their EI programs. Criterion Stoneham hosts trimester family events. Tomorrow they are hosting Little Elephant Yoga at their program and they have received 5 RSVPs, in February they did a sensory activity event that was successful (40 families). Challenges in engaging younger families in the ways that they did pre-Covid. Program-level annual survey distributed and open-ended feedback is less robust than it used to be. Library programs don’t appear to be experiencing a dip in attendance. The libraries have wait lists for their programs. It appears that younger parents are not as involved in community events. Lots of grandparents, nannies, and other caregivers at library events. Generational attachment differences. Time limited in EI, 18 months or less for most unless NICU graduates. Financial impacts of working families and their capacity to engage. People are stretched and, in some cases, protective of their time and how they spend it. Criterion Stoneham is working on a Zoom about sleep for the fall. Raised parenting book/podcast Waking Oz as a resource for parents. Using the NCSEAM survey in informing DPH and raising visibility of the survey. Parent liaison role was raised and Liz shared the difference between Parent Contacts and Parent Liaisons. Parent Liaison is a paid role and there are only a few left. Programs are spread very thin, Parent Liaisons are considered a luxury position. There’s fatigue with all that is coming at parents. Prioritizing time and what is important to their family… “just one more thing!” No one has free time, and this impacts their ability to engage and be involved. PTO work is always the same people, and those not involved, complaining about what’s happening. Examples of family stories shared. DPH EI Operational Standards (EIOS) are from 2012, and things have changed. Mindful of where families are at and their experiences. What they know. How do we create a new normal with new expectations? Parents who knew it before, during (COVID), and after? The expectation that things will go back to the way it was before, isn’t happening and won’t. Shifts in family dynamics, cultures, engagement, and priorities are impacting what we are seeing. Family dynamics/parenting styles impact engagement of parents with their kids – there is no right or wrong, but how does caregiving by grandparents, nannies, and others, impact parents interacting with their children.

Quorum lost at 11:30am.

Next meeting on August 13, 2025, at 10 am.

In-person General Session tomorrow, June 5, 2025, from 11:30 am to 2 pm at the DPH office, 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Martone-Levine