**Massachusetts Early Intervention ICC General Session**

**January 12, 2023, 11:30am – 1:30pm**

**Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes**

**11:30 – 11:45 Welcome and call to order**

* The ICC Co-Chairs welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. The Membership Co-chairs took attendance to establish a quorum.
* The ICC Co-Chairs invited members to participate in a [land acknowledgment](https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/) to reflect on what native land they are currently residing in, and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
* The Co-Chairs and members of the ICC thanked Eve Wilder for her work with the ICC. Eve will be transitioning to a project focused on transforming early childhood mental health. The award builds on a strong foundation of infant and early childhood integration work in MA, which includes the contributions of some of our ICC partners.
* Janet George will be retiring and moving away from her DDS role with the ICC. The Co-Chairs and members of the ICC thanked Janet for her numerous contributions to the field.

**11:45 – 11:55: Open Items**

* The Co-Chairs reviewed the Open Meeting Law that was presented at the November meeting. The EI bylaws are under review by DPH Legal Counsel and will likely result in changes. Information related to ICC will be posted on Mass.gov. Members should check the website for up-to-date information regarding meeting dates, links, agendas, and meeting minutes. During ICC meetings, participants should raise their hand via Zoom and the Chair will on the individual to speak.
* Members were encouraged to join a subcommittee and be actively involved to contribute to robust conversations to advance the work.

**11:55 – 12:30: Early Intervention Division Director’s Update - Dr. Emily White (DPH)**

Dr. White provided an update on the federal and state EI landscape and emerging priorities:

* Federal updates: Omnibus bill increased funding for early childhood programs and includes IDEA Part C formulas for July 1, 2023. Increase of $4.2B for the Department of Education and $9.9B for HHS. Part C increases of $43.7M over FFY22. Does not include policy changes from House and Senate bills.
* State Updates: Transforming Pediatrics in Early Childhood grant is a 4-year grant awarded to the Division of Pregnancy, Infancy and Early Childhood (DPIE) by the federal Health Resouces and Services Administration. MA was one of 4 states who received this award.
* EI Division: Seeking subject matter experts to review revised policies and procedures within the EI Division Operational Standards. Time commitment is ~2hrs/policy. There are 15-18 policies to review and members can choose how many they would like to review. Contact Mary Dennehy-Colorusso, mary.dennehy-colorusso@mass.gov, or Faith Bombardier, faith.bombardier@mass.gov, for more information.
* DMS 2.0: EI Division is conducting a self-audit of policies and related procedures across integrated monitoring, sustaining compliance and improvement, data quality, and fiscal. An area of concern is monitoring contracted vendors. One of the ways to strengthen this is by adding new resources including hiring a new Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Coordination, and a Quality Assurance Coordinator to the EI team.
* CLAS Grant: $1M for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services. Formula grants are available to contracted vendors with the goal to help providers get funds for tasks that are necessary but not usually reimbursable through insurance to better serve families.
* Statutory Requirements: Dr. White presented EI data from the State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR). The SPP/APR is a requirement from the federal government to evaluate the state’s effort to implement IDEA. Overall, MA Part C indicator data reflect sustained or improved results when compared to prior years. A data entry change in 2020 resulted in missing data for two compliance indicators. Dr. White is asking for help from the EI provider community to update data for transition meeting dates and the reason for service delay for these two indicators so that the SPP/APR data accurately reflects the fantastic work of the EI community during this time. EI database changes have been made to prevent this from happening again.

**12:30 – 12:50: Updates from MA B-3 System Stakeholders**

* Presentation from Kevin Began, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Insurance, on the key functions of his job:
  + Kevin is responsible for monitoring the insurance market to provide appropriate guidance and provide clear information to carriers. Part of his job is to ensure that the 12 predominate health insurance companies in MA continue to provide coverage for EI services for all kiddos. The goal is to make sure that every carrier hears the same information and is aware of their responsibilities under the law. A key part of his job is to make sure that there continues to be good communication and flow, and that contracts are being honored and credentialing is being done. He makes sure insurance companies are appropriately reimbursed for the services they provide. He does not have jurisdiction over Medicaid or Medicaid, out-of-state plans, or self-funded plans. Kevin encouraged ICC members to reach out with any issues they encounter, kevin.beagan@mass.gov.
* Presentation from Andrea Goncalves-Oliveira, Infant and Early Childhood Policy Initiatives Lead, Department of Mental Health, on the key functions of her job:
  + Andrea works with the Department of Mental Health’s policy workgroup to bring together state agencies and private partners to establish the state’s priorities regarding mental health. The workgroup aims to facilitate collaboration across agencies working with kids 0-5 years. A large focus of her work is on workforce development. This fiscal year, her team contracted to train 400+ clinical professionals using the DC:0-5. Her team also offers reflective case consultation on the DC:0-5 to reinforce the skills taught through the training. They also offer reflective supervision practices for non-clinical providers (educators, family partners). They have also financed 5 slots for the Early Relationship Health Fellowship at U Mass Chan (2-year program).

**12:50 – 1:15: Subcommittee Report Out**

* Family Engagement – Dina Tedeschi
  + Working with Division leadership to determine the next steps to leverage the 2021-2022 committee charge work product
  + Working to define the next steps for the current year’s charge
  + Next meeting is 2/1, 10-noon
* Membership – Nicole Constantino and Colleen O’Brien
  + Working to define a formal process for appointing an ICC co-chair
  + Committee will be regularly reviewing the membership on a quarterly basis for updates, including the general body and sub-committee groups
  + Next meeting is 2/13, 12:30-1:30pm
* Racial Equity – Johan deBesche (updated presented by the co-chairs)
  + Working to appoint a second co-chair
  + Working towards defining the next steps for the yearly charge
* Strategic Vision – Chris Hunt
  + Will be integrated within the Steering Committee as well as connected to the other subcommittees
  + Working to develop a vision work plan for the ICC to cohesively lead the future direction of the ICC
* Fiscal – Emily White
  + In the process of identifying new co-chairs and will meet once the chairs are confirmed

**1:30: Closing & Adjourn**

* Next meeting is March 2, 2023