



Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)  
 Quarterly Meeting  
 November 15, 2018  
 Webinar

Meeting Minutes

Member Name	Member Seat	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	Absent
Matt Bracket	Member from the agency responsible for the State Medicaid and CHIP program		X	
Vacant	Member from the agency responsible for children's mental health			
Kim Carr	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Liz Cayson	At large member		X	
James Dunn	Member from the agency responsible for the State regulation of private health insurance		X	
Dr. Sara Evans	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger			X
Anitere Flores	Member from the State Legislature			X
Skip Forsyth	Office of Coordination of Education of Homeless Children & Youth			X
Nacole Guyton	Member from a Head Start Program		X	
Erin Hough	Member from the state child welfare agency responsible for foster care			X
Renee Jenkins	Member from the state agency involved in the provision of, or payment for, early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families	X		
Dr. Judith Levin	Member from personnel preparation program		X	
Cheryl Miller	Parent of child with disability age 6 or younger		X	
Rob Porcaro	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Misty Porter	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger		X	
Melissa Pyzik	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Lourdes Quintana	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Kathleen Vergara	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	

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Member Name	Member Seat	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	Absent
Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado	Member of the state education agency responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities		X	
Samantha Wass de Czege	Member from the state agency responsible for child care		X	
Dr. Ilene Wilkins	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Guests	Affiliation	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	
Althea Puzio	Space Coast LES		X	
Annalise Campisi	Bay Area LES		X	
Carole West	Department of Education		X	
Caroline Bias	Florida Pediatric Therapy		X	
Dina Snider	Big Bend LES		X	
Ellen Schrot	Gold Coast LES		X	
Jennifer Lloyd	Florida Senate		X	
Kathleen Riley	Central Florida LES		X	
Kim Barger	Gulf Central LES		X	
Kimberly Porter	Early Steps State Office		X	
Laurie Colon	Central Florida LES		X	
Marcy Hajdukiewicz	Florida Department of Health	X		
Martine Charles			X	
Mary Hilton	Florida Department of Health	X		
Nicki Phillips	Space Coast LES		X	
Dr. Trina Puddefoot	Gulf Central and Southwest LES		X	

**Call to Order** – *Dr. Ilene Wilkins, Chair*

- Member roll call: The presence of a quorum was established with sixteen of the twenty-one members in attendance in person or via phone.
- Welcome, introductions, agenda, and lead agency update review.
- Update on appointments and re-appointments to the Council, as well as the recent vacancy of the ‘Member from the agency responsible for children's mental health’ seat.
- Presentation of the July 12, 2018, Meeting Minutes.



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Motion: Approval of the July 12, 2018, Meeting Minutes.  
 Motion Made By: Lourdes Quintana  
 Seconded Motion: Dr. Judith Levin  
 Discussion: None  
 Motion Passed

The Council voted unanimously to approve the July 12, 2018, Meeting Minutes as presented with no abstentions, or negative votes.

**Lead Agency Update** – *Renee Jenkins, Part C Coordinator*

Renee Jenkins presented an overview of the 2018 Office of Special Education Projects (OSEP) Determination for the Part C program in Florida. OSEP evaluated all States using compliance and results data, and Florida received a determination of ‘Needs Assistance’. This determination highlighted Local Early Steps’ (LES) success in meeting the compliance indicators (as we earned 13 of 14 possible points), as well as underscored the need for improvement on the results component. To improve scores, the Early Steps State Office (ESSO) has convened a child outcomes stakeholder workgroup and will continue to work through the Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) with LESs to actively address their child outcomes process and procedures.

Second, Ms. Jenkins shared the background and status of the integration of Early Intervention Services (EIS) and Targeted Case Management (TCM) into Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Plans. LES progress in obtaining contracts and Letters of Agreement, and the role of ESSO and LESs during this transition period, was explained. Discussion ensued on the impacts providers may face related to billing and payments, measures being undertaken to mitigate such impacts and the challenges faced with communication with MMA plans; general concerns with the ability to provide services to the children LESs serve were also voiced. Marcy Hajdukiewicz shared that ESSO is in close collaboration with the Agency for Health Care Administration during the transition period, and that a solution has been found related to billing, that is, using a billing clearinghouse called Change Healthcare. Ms. Hajdukiewicz clarified that utilizing Change Healthcare is unrelated to the data system ITN.

Finally, Ms. Jenkins gave a high-level overview of the Early Steps Stakeholder Workgroups, which include:

- Child Find,
- Child and Family Outcomes,
- Compliance,
- Data, and
- State Systemic Improvement Plan.

ESSO is also involved in the Early Childhood Personnel Center workgroup, whose goals are to inventory cross-sector resources in early childhood and develop a written plan for implementation of a cross-sector professional development system.

A summary of the purpose of the 2018 Legislative Annual Report was also provided.



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**Public Comment**

1. Caroline Bias shared her concerns on the integration of EIS and TCM into the MMA Plans.
2. Ellen Schrot shared similar concerns, specifically over the payment timelines for providers and the cost to the Part C program. Ms. Schrot also recommended to postpone the change in allocation methodology until the impact of the transition of EIS and TCM into MMA plans can be determined.
3. Kathleen Riley shared her previous experience with continuity of care provisions with MMA plans, noting that there was payment delay.

These public comments spurred further discussion amongst council members, including whether the rollout can be delayed, how the council may assist in mitigating any negative effects of the transition, and the challenges stakeholders face that are associated with the transition. Further, it was noted that Early Steps does not have the authority to delay the rollout, and that the rollout scheduled was determined by AHCA.

**Mercer Allocation Methodology** – *Mary Hilton, Contract Management Unit Administrator*

Mary Hilton provided an overview of the Early Steps Allocation Project, which entails Mercer Government Human Services Consulting (Mercer) reviewing the allocation methodology used for the LES programs, evaluating the strengths and challenges of the current and past methodologies and recommending a new methodology for the 2019-2020 state fiscal year. This project will occur in three phases, outlined below.

- Phase 1: Review previous and current allocation methodologies and analyze several factors that may affect the new allocation methodology, such as child referrals and historical expenditure information.
- Phase 2: Gather feedback from stakeholders.
- Phase 3: Develop a proposed allocation methodology framework and a new data reporting tool.

After the presentation, there was discussion on whether LES and other stakeholders can comment on the methodology before it is finalized; this was confirmed by Ms. Hilton.

**Action Items**

The council reached a consensus that the further exploration of the ‘It’ of FICCIT and elevator pitch ought to be delayed until the January 16, 2019, council meeting, when council members meet in-person.

The Chair led a brief discussion on council members’ agency successes since the third quarter meeting, including:

- UCP of Central Florida was awarded a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant
- The Department of Education highlighted an increase in high school graduation rates
- Central Florida Local Early Steps hosted a successful fall festival

The following action items are organized by the responsible party.



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Early Steps State Office

1. Explore creating a shared space for the Council

FICCIT Liaison

1. Send council members the link to the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care website and the My Florida Marketplace link to the results of the data system ITN
2. Share 2018 OSEP Determination documents

FICCIT Council Members

1. Continue to explore the Council's 'It' and elevator pitch at the January 16, 2019, meeting

The Council proposed that the April meeting be held in West Palm Beach, FL. Dates for the third and fourth quarter meetings will be decided via Doodle poll.

**Meeting Adjourned** – *Dr. Ilene Wilkins, Chair*