

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)

Quarterly Meeting

January 20, 2021

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	
Kim Carr	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
James Dunn	Member from the agency responsible for the State regulation of private health insurance		X	
Senator Anitere Flores	Member from the State Legislature			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	
Rob Porcaro	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Misty Porter	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger		X	
Lourdes Quintana	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Kathleen Vergara	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Dr. Ilene Wilkens	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Member Name	Member Seat	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	Absent
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger	--	--	--
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 6 or younger	--	--	--

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Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger	--	--	--
Vacant	Public/private provider of early intervention services	--	--	--
Vacant	Member from the agency responsible for children's mental health	--	--	--
Vacant	Member of the state education agency responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities	--	--	--
Vacant	Member from a Head Start Program	--	--	--
Vacant	Member from the state agency responsible for child care	--	--	--
Vacant	Office of Coordination of Education of Homeless Children & Youth	--	--	--
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Present (In Person)</b>	<b>Present (Via Phone)</b>	
Sharika Farlin	Early Steps State Office		X	
Alicia Blue	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dusty Edwards	Early Steps State Office		X	
Robert French	Early Steps State Office		X	
Allison Rudd	Early Steps State Office		X	
Angela Marcus	Early Steps State Office		X	
Jasmine Wallace	Early Steps State Office		X	
Lily Wells	Early Steps State Office		X	
Risa Davis	Early Steps State Office		X	
Azizi Coleman	Early Steps State Office		X	
Marcy Hajdukiewicz	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dr. Robert Karch	Early Steps State Office		X	

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Liz Gonzalez	Early Steps State Office		X
Robin Masterson	Early Steps State Office		X
LaKera Reddick	Early Steps State Office		X
Jessica Meyer	Early Steps State Office		X
Natasha Ruiz-villar	Early Steps State Office		X
Theresa Schlossman	Early Steps State Office		X
Luc Toussaint	Early Steps State Office		X
Jasmine Wallace	Early Steps State Office		X
John Lee	Northeastern Early Steps		X
April Leopold	Northeastern Early Steps		X
Laurie Colon	Central Florida Early Steps		X
Kathy Riley	Central Florida Early Steps		X
Jana Khoury	Southernmost Coast Early Steps		X
Olabisi Baruwa-Castro	Southernmost Coast Early Steps		X
Annalise Campisi	Bay Area Early Steps		X
Ellie Schrot	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Mary K Carroll	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Kim Werner	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Althea Puzio	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Nicki Phillips-Wright	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Shelli Buckley	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Kim Barger	Gulf Central Early Steps		X
Christine Pawelczyk	Agency for Health Care Administration		X
Juliana Melara	Big Bend Early Steps		X
Dina Snider	Big Bend Early Steps		X
Trina Puddefoot	Southwest & Gulf Central Early Steps		X

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Marisol Rose	Gulf Central Early Steps		X
Tina Cordell	Southwest Early Steps		X
Marissa Barrera	Treasure Coast Early Steps		X
Paula Burns	West Central Early Steps		X
Emily Hurlston	North Central Early Steps		X

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

Allison Rudd called the meeting to order and completed Council member roll call. The presence of a quorum was established with of the members in attendance in person or via phone. The Council voted unanimously to approve the November 5, 2020, Meeting Minutes with no abstentions, or negative votes.

**Motion:** Approval of the November 5, 2020, Meeting Minutes

**Motion Made By:** Lourdes Quintana

**Seconded Motion:** Katherine Vergara

**Discussion:** Lourdes Quintana posed the question as to why the insurance denials issue was not placed on the agenda. Dr. Ilene Wilkens requests that the item is added to the next agenda.

**Sunshine Law Review** – *Allison Rudd, Government Operations Consultant III, Florida Department of Health*

Allison Rudd read a brief reminder of the sunshine law to the council.

**Early Steps State of the State** – *K. Renee Jenkins, IDEA Part C Coordinator/Early Steps Section Administrator, Florida Department of Health*

Renee Jenkins provided a presentation highlighting information from the Early Steps Annual Report submitted to the Governor, a staffing update from the state office, the Early Steps budget, and other projects the Early Steps State Office has been working on over the last year.

Dr. Ilene Wilkens opened the meeting for questions on Renee Jenkins presentation. Matt Bracket stated, in fiscal year 19-20 there was a decrease in children being served due to COVID-19 and asked if Early Steps has data showing the number of children being served continuing to decrease or if numbers are back to normal. Renee Jenkins stated, Early Steps does have data reflecting that numbers are increasing again but they are not back to pre-pandemic levels. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked if there were any fiscal concerns among the Local Early Steps offices in terms of not having enough children to bill for to keep up with the administration part. Renee Jenkins stated, the Early Steps State office cannot speak to this but the decrease in children being served has affected the Local Early Steps. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked if the Early Steps State

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Office has received any budget cuts from the State Legislature. Renee Jenkins responded stating nothing has been received yet.

**Annual Performance Report** – LaKera Reddick, *Quality Assurance and Accountability Unit Supervisor, Florida Department of Health*

LaKera Reddick provided the council an overview on the Annual Performance data specifically the different targets set for each indicator and if the targets were met or not.

Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked if there were questions or comments regarding what LaKera Reddick presented. Dr. Judith Levin asked why there were decreases and slippage. Dr. Judith Levin questioned if the decrease was due to COVID-19. Renee Jenkins stated, there was COVID-19 impact in the last quarter of FY 19-20 and COVID-19 had a specific impact on child outcomes. The decrease in child outcomes is also related to the measurement tool used but Early Steps has a three-year plan in place for implementation of the new child outcomes measurement system. Dr. Judith Levin asked if Early Steps was on track to meet targets such as for indicator two. Renee Jenkins stated, COVID-19 did not have an effect on the target as far as being on track. Lourdes Quintana stated, the impact of COVID-19 was more significant due to the lock downs in March and providers not being able to go into the home and BDI's not being performed. Dr. Ilene Wilkens requested an update at the next meeting on the indicators that were not where they were supposed to be. Lourdes Quintana asked if there was any information regarding the Part B Programs and the Child Outcomes Summary (COS). Olabisi Baruwa-Castro with Southernmost Coast Early Steps stated, after meeting with Monroe County and Miami-Dade Schools System, those counties will move towards the COS. Renee Jenkins stated, the Florida Department of Education has expressed interest in moving to the COS as well. Dr. Ilene Wilkens requested a status update regarding FICCIT members. Allison Rudd informed Dr. Ilene Wilkens that the DOH employee that works with the Governors Appointment office has left the Department. Marcy Hajdukiewicz stated, the Governor's office did make some DOH appointments but none of them were for FICCIT. Renee Jenkins stated, as of January 1, 2021 that every FICCIT members appointment has expired.

**Public Comment** –

Paula Burns thanked Renee Jenkins for all her years of service to Early Steps, asked for Renee's official retirement date and who replaced Kelly Rogers. Renee Jenkins stated she has no set date for retirement and that Kelly Rogers duties have been spread among the Early Steps staff. Marisol Rose pointed out the decrease in referrals and the impact from COVID-19. Marisol Rose asked if the Early Steps State office anticipated a surge in referrals in the near future and the impact that would have on compliance and Child Outcomes Summary. Renee Jenkins responded that the department will continue to monitor this. Lourdes Quintana stated that Central Florida Early Steps is already experiencing this growth. Ellie Schrot followed up with a discussion on increased access to early intervention insurance coverage for children. Ellie Schrot stated twelve states have insurance mandates and asked how FICCIT can help to educate the Department of Insurance on the value of early intervention. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked if there was any feedback on this. James Dunn from the Office of Insurance Regulation stated that there isn't a lack of education or willingness to not embrace early intervention, it is more so what the Office of Insurance Regulation can actually do. The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation can only enforce statutes that area already on the books. The Office of Insurance Regulation doesn't stand in the way of this. If the legislature asked for input regarding an insurance mandate, the Office of Insurance Regulation would not be opposed. Renee Jenkins added that having a legislative member on the council would be beneficial to helping assist in getting an

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insurance mandate and that state agencies have restrictions on what they can do. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked when the next meeting would occur. Allison Rudd stated there was no proposed date yet.

**Motion:** Adjourn the meeting.

**Motion Made By:** Rob Porcaro

**Seconded Motion:** Dr. Judith Levin

**Discussion:** None

Motion Passed

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

DRAFT