

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)
 Quarterly Meeting
 July 28, 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
Kathleen Vergara	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Dr. Ilene Wilkins	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	--	--	--
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger	--	--	--

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Vacant	Public/private provider of early intervention services	--	--	--
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 childcare	--	--	--
Vacant	Office of Coordination of Education of Homeless Children & Youth	--	--	--
Guests	Affiliation	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	
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	
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	
Jasmine Wallace	Early Steps State Office		X	
Liz Gonzalez	Early Steps State Office		X	
Melissa K Nelms	Early Steps State Office		X	

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Angela Marcus	Early Steps State Office		X
Jessica Meyer	Early Steps State Office		X
Lakera Reddick	Early Steps State Office		X
Mary Hilton	Early Steps State Office		X
Luc Toussaint	Early Steps State Office		X
Marisol Rose	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
Ellen Schrot	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Mary K Carroll	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Althea Puzio	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Nicki Phillips-Wright	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Kim Barger	Gulf Central Early Steps		X
Juliana Melara	Big Bend Early Steps		X
Dina Snider	Big Bend Early Steps		X
Arleen Chilton	Big Bend Early Steps		X
Trina Puddefoot	Southwest & Gulf Central Early Steps		X
Tina Cordell	Southwest & Gulf Central Early Steps		X
Darci Banister	Southwest & Gulf Central Early Steps		X
Justine Hicks	Department of Children and Families		X
Cristina Navarrete	North Dade Early Steps		X
Marissa Barrera	Treasure Coast Early Steps		X

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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 all the members in attendance in person or via phone. The Council voted unanimously to approve the April 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes with no abstentions, or negative votes.

Motion: Approval of the April 21, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion Made By: Dr. Judith Levin

Seconded Motion: Rob Porcaro

Discussion:

State Office Update – *Dusty Edwards, Bureau Chief of Early Steps and Newborn Screening, Florida Department of Health*

Dusty Edwards provided the council with a state office update. All contracts with the Local Early Steps (LES) were executed on time. Florida was allocated \$11.5 million in ARP funds. The program has been determining how and where the money can be spent within the regulations. The state has started the process to gain approval to spend the funds starting this fiscal year as well as next fiscal year. Renee Jenkins is retiring as Part C Administrator, and Jessica Meyer will take over as the new Part C Administrator. Dr. Ilene Wilkins asked where the ARP funds could potentially be spent. Jessica Meyer responded, there are several projects; a technical assistance provider to help with Child Outcome Summaries (COS) implementation, data system projects, a media campaign that will include an updated webpage as well as updated materials and training, quality improvement projects, provider retention projects and a full scale program evaluation to identify what the Early Steps State Office (ESSO) is doing well with and what can be improved upon. Some of the funding has not yet been earmarked. The funds are time limited. Dr. Ilene Wilkins requested that ESSO potentially set up some type of assisted technology where providers could request assessments and testing tools or receive a laptop. Rob Porcaro asked about the written clarification from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the twenty-seven-month window that funds need to be spent and more information regarding this. Jessica Meyer responded that the clock has already started regarding spending the funds. It began on July 1. ESSO has until September 2023 to obligate the funds. Rob Porcaro asked if ESSO has a time frame of when the projects will begin. Jessica Meyer responded that work has already started. ESSO is waiting on official approval from the Legislature to have the authority to spend the funds.

SSIP Update – *Lily Wells, Government Operations Consultant III, Florida Department of Health*

Lily Wells provided the council with an update regarding the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). This is federally mandated. Early Steps is implementing an evidence-based care giver coaching project at our LES sites. The project is intended to reform all Early Steps services to occur in the natural environment and providers coaching parents or other care givers to learn how to embed development interventions into their daily routine. 80% of our LES sites have started initial implementation. Three final sites will begin implementation next year.

Data System Update – *Jessica O. Meyer, MSW, Early Steps Program, Florida Department of Health*

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Jessica Meyer informed the council that ESSO will not continue moving forward with the current vendor of the ESAS project.

Needs Assistance Determination – *Jessica O. Meyer, MSW, Early Steps Program, Florida Department of Health*

Jessica Meyer informed the council that ESSO received the grant determination letter from OSEP and Florida remains in the needs assistance category. ESSO has a renewed focus on improving compliance and child outcome summaries. The data system is critical to assist in monitoring. There are several quality improvement projects ESSO would like to work on. The determination is based on ESSO's indicators.

Public Comment –

There was no public comment.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.

Motion Made By: Kathleen Vergara

Seconded Motion: Rob Porcaro

Discussion: None

Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned –