

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)
Quarterly Meeting
July 29, 2020

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	--	--	--
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger	--	--	--

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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	--	--	--
Guests	Affiliation	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	
Sharika Farlin	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dawn Lynch	Early Steps State Office		X	
Lakera Reddick	Early Steps State Office		X	
Sierra Robinson	Early Steps State Office		X	
Allison Rudd	Early Steps State Office		X	
Angela Marcus	Early Steps State Office		X	
Risa Davis	Early Steps State Office		X	
Kelly Rogers	Early Steps State Office		X	
Marcy Hajdukiewicz	Early Steps State Office		X	
Ken McCain	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dr. Robert Karch	Early Steps State Office		X	
Mary Hilton	Early Steps State Office		X	
Laurie Colon			X	
Jana Khoury			X	

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Annalise Campisi			X
Dina Snider			X
Ellie Schrot	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Marissa Barrera			X
Cristina Navarrete			X
Althea Puzio			X
Trina Puddefoot			X
Mary K Carroll			X
Kim Barger			X
Kim Werner			X
Susan McCain			X
Nicki Phillips-Wright			X
Javonni Hampton			X

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

Ms. 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 January 29, 2020, Meeting Minutes with no abstentions, or negative votes.

Motion: Approval of the January 29, 2020, Meeting Minutes
Motion Made By: Judith Levin
Seconded Motion: Rob Porcaro
Discussion: None

Early Steps State Office Program Update – *Marcy Hajdukiewicz, Interim Division Director/Bureau Chief of Newborn Screening and Early Steps*

Marcy Hajdukiewicz provided the council with a legislative update related to the FY 20-21 budget and FY 21-22 budget, Allocation Methodology & LES Contracts, COVID-19, SSIP and the data system.

Child Outcome Measurement System – *Kelly Rogers, Special Projects Coordinator/Parent Consultant*

Kelly Rogers provided the council with an update on the new COS implementation and TRAIN modules.



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Early Steps Private Insurance Data – *Lakera Reddick, Quality Assurance and Accountability Unit Supervisor*

Lakera Reddick provided the private insurance data requested at the previous meeting.

Department of Insurance Overview – *James Dunn, Florida Office of Insurance Regulation*

Mr. Dunn explained his role at Office of Insurance Regulation. He discussed the different services provided under different private insurance plans and coverage levels of these private plans. The council explained that insurance companies deny services for early intervention services majority of the time unless it is deemed “medically necessary.” There is frustration with insurance denials regarding early intervention services. Families are having to push for coverage.

Council Discussion –

The council discussed future agenda items. Mr. Rob Porcaro requested Early Steps State Office staffing chart with open vacancies. Ms. Kathy requested ongoing updates of the COS transition. Dr. Ilene Wilkens requested an update on the OSEP audit.

Public Comment –

Ellie Schrot with Gold Coast expressed her appreciation for the insurance presentation and data. She expresses her concern as well for the insurance denials for early intervention services. She provided examples of her methods of communications with insurance companies. Her concern is that she has received no response from insurance companies, and this is contractually required of her. She requests a workgroup to dive into an insurance mandate and to explore what other states have done. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asks her to clarify if she is requesting a FICCIT workgroup or a generic state work group or all of the above. Ellie requests a FICCIT workgroup. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asks how quick Mr. Dunn can provide information regarding research on denials by private insurance companies. The council discusses when they would like to meet next. Ms. Kelly Rogers reminds the council everything has to be done in accordance with the sunshine law. Dr. Ilene Wilkens discusses sending out a doodle poll for dates and times for the workgroup. Dr. Ilene Wilkens requests anyone interested to email Allison Rudd. She requests for Mr. Rob Porcaro to volunteer for the workgroup. Mr. Rob Porcaro asks for clarification on what data Mr. Dunn wants provided. Mr. Dunn says he will be reaching out to AHCA on provider networks and the requirements on insurers and then doing research on speech therapy benefits and if it’s required to be covered as well as the different types of plans and mandated benefits. He asks for more examples of things that are not being covered or are having a hard time getting covered. He wants examples of other popular denials for private insurance. Mr. Rob Porcaro requests a point of order for the request of the denial information from the LES to ESSO and then send it to Mr. Dunn. Misty Porter questions if we should upload denials from private insurance into the new data system to easily identify trends of denial. Dr. Ilene Wilkens talks about limitations of number of treatments on top of denials. Dr. Ilene Wilkens reminds members on the call to send Allison Rudd their interest in being on the workgroup.



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Motion: Adjourn the meeting.
Motion Made By: Mr. Rob Porcaro
Seconded Motion: Dr. Judith Levin
Discussion: None
Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned – *Dr. Ilene Wilkins, Chair*