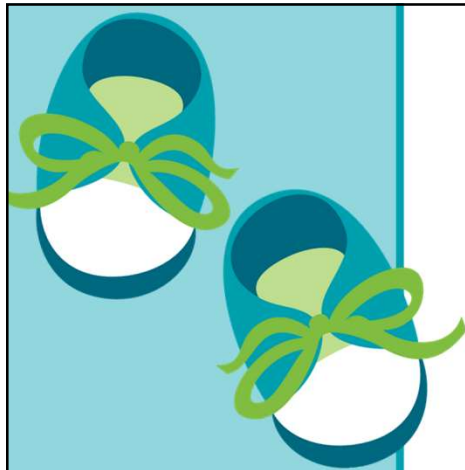


# Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) Meeting

## Early Steps Program

Division of Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
August 28, 2025



## Council Roll Call



## AGENDA: AUGUST 28, 2025

Call to Order and Standing Items

Voices from the Field

State Updates

Medicaid and Early Steps

Public Comment

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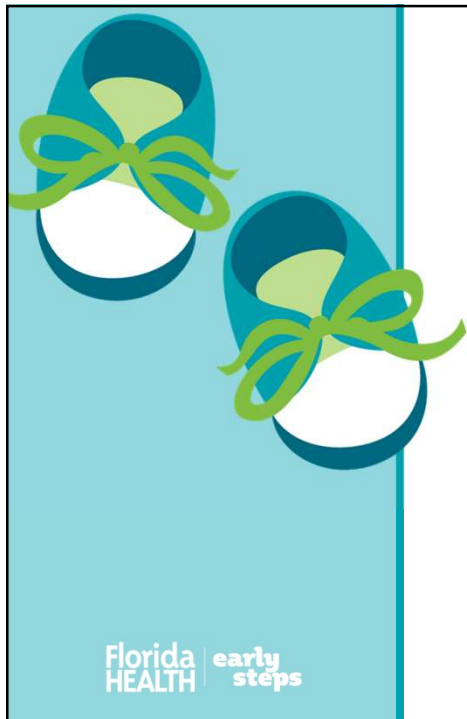
## MEETING MINUTES



**Review and Approve  
Meeting Minutes**

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## Voices from the Field

### **PRESUME COMPETENCE: EMPOWERING UNIQUE ABILITIES**

#### **Insights from a Family Resource Specialist and Special Needs Mom**



**Natalie Eno**

Family Resource Specialist Supervisor  
Treasure Coast Early Steps  
Easterseals, Inc.  
[nen@FL.EasterSeals.com](mailto:nen@FL.EasterSeals.com)

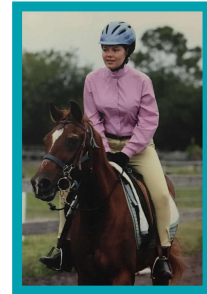
**Joys of being a  
Family Resource  
Specialist**

- Empowering families
- Building relationships
- Seeing progress
- Making a difference
- Flexibility

# LESSONS IN PRESUMING COMPETENCE

## Erika

You can't always see it, but it's there!  
This is my experience with an invisible disability.



7 Photos used with express permission.

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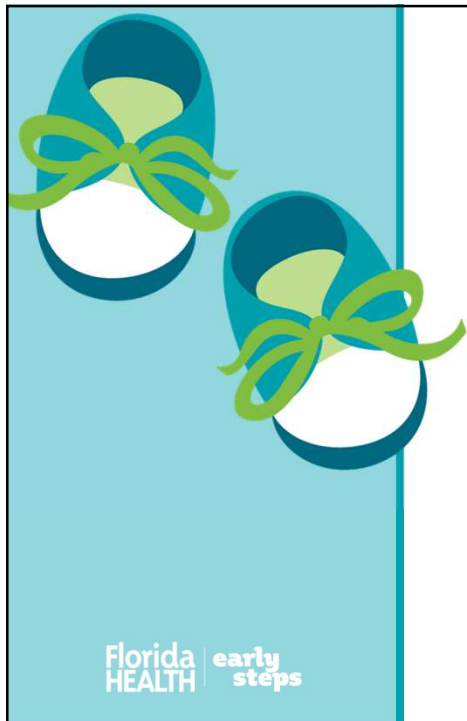
# SUPPORT OTHERS IN PRESUMING COMPETENCE

## PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

### Tips, Insights, and Takeaways

- Do not let a diagnosis define your family or child's identity.
- Model respect for caregivers, siblings, and professionals.
- Shift your focus: celebrate strengths first, then address challenges.
- Listen with kindness and an open heart.
- Every child is unique and full of potential.

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## State Updates

### CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

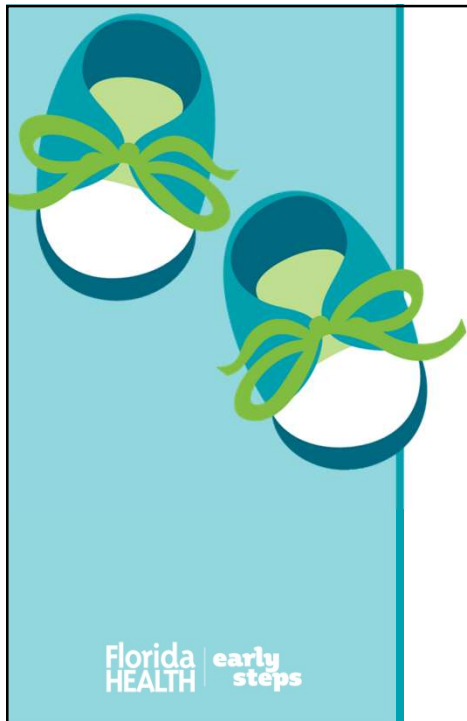
Clearinghouse  
Fiscal Services

Data System  
Progress

Grant  
Application  
and  
Determination  
Status

Part C  
Extended  
Option

Workgroups



## Medicaid and Early Steps

### NUMBER OF HEALTH PLANS PER EARLY STEPS REGION



## MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY PERCENTAGES

### Medicaid-Eligible Children in Early Steps

- Florida Fiscal Year 2024-25 (July-June), there were 66,871 active children (including eligible and ineligible) and 35,829 children enrolled with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Around 55% of children referred to Early Steps have Medicaid coverage (36,782 out of 66,871 active children).
- Nearly 62% of children who are actively enrolled in Early Steps have Medicaid coverage (22,046 out of 35,829 children with an IFSP).

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## MEDICAID REIMBURSABLE SERVICES

### Part C/Early Steps Compared to Medicaid-Covered Services

- Early Steps Part C: Fee Schedule
- Medicaid uses the IFSP as the documentation of medical necessity.
- Florida Medicaid reimburses for early intervention screening, evaluations, sessions (including occupational therapy/physical therapy/speech-language therapy visits), clinic-based services like audiology, and targeted case management (service coordination).
- Medicaid only reimburses for face-to-face, hands-on treatment services:
  - Part C funds indirect services (e.g., provider consultation and travel).

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## PROGRAMMATIC CHALLENGES

### Credentialing and Networking

- Credentialing process for Medicaid
- Provider Master List (PML)
- Individual SMMC Plan credentialing

### Early Intervention Services Divided Across Medicaid Policies/Handbooks

- Not all services are covered by Medicaid (provider-to-provider consultations, nutrition, etc.).

### Provider Rates

- Reimbursement rates are not set with natural environment costs in mind:
  - Florida's statutory mileage rate is \$0.445/mile, federal mileage rate is \$0.70
  - Travel time to/from each client is not billable time.

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## COLLABORATION WITH AHCA

- Frequent communication and collaboration with partners at Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- Working to implement updated guidance for the Managed Care Plans related to Early Intervention Services (EIS) and Early Steps:
  - Goal is to reduce barriers related to provider enrollment and prevent unnecessary claims denials.
- Updates to the EIS Coverage Policy and associated EIS Fee Schedule.

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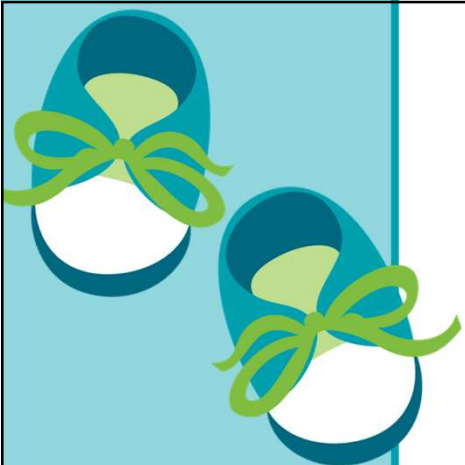




**Questions?**



**Public  
Comment**



## Closing Announcements

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## Adjourn



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