Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Tallahassee, FL

Member Attendance			
Member Name	**Member Seat**	**Present In-Person (P) or Virtually (V)**	**Absent**
Katrina Michel	Parent of child with a disability age 12 or younger		X
Britt Riner	Parent of child with disability age six or younger	V	
Jordan Gibson	Parent of child with disability age six or younger	V	
Kim Carr	Public/private provider of early intervention services	P	
Rob Porcaro	Public/private provider of early intervention services	V	
Misty Porter	Public/private provider of early intervention services	P	
Lindsey Prato	Public/private provider of early intervention services	P	
Annette Eberhart	Public/private provider of early intervention services	P	
Dr. Patricia Snyder	Member involved in personnel preparation	V	
Anna Simmons	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	P	
LeNita Winkler	Member of the state education agency responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities	P	
Caitlin Mullins	Member from the agency responsible for the State Medicaid and CHIP program	P	

Carly Wagoner	Member from the agency responsible for the State regulation of private health insurance	P	
Member Name	**Member Seat**	**Present**	**Absent**
Vacant	Parent of child with a disability age 12 or younger	--	
Vacant	Parent of child with a disability age 12 or younger	--	
Vacant	Member from a Head Start or Early Head Start agency or program in the State	--	
Vacant	Member of the state welfare agency responsible for children's mental health and foster care	--	
Vacant	Member of the Office of the Coordination of Education of Homeless Children and Youth	--	
Vacant	Member of the state legislature	--	
Vacant	Member from the state agency responsible for childcare	--	

Guest Attendance			
Guest Name	**Affiliation**	**Present In-Person**	**Present Virtually**
Dusty Stern	Florida Department of Health	X	
Jessica Meyer	Florida Department of Health	X	
Emily Keeney	Florida Department of Health	X	
Ken McCain	Florida Department of Health	X	
Jennifer Canfield	Florida Department of Health	X	
Celica Coleman	Florida Department of Health		X
Robert French	Florida Department of Health		X
Liz Gonzalez	Florida Department of Health		X
Tiffany Harris	Florida Department of Health		X
Sue Herbert	Florida Department of Health		X
Charity Jones	Florida Department of Health		X
Daisy King	Florida Department of Health		X
Angela Marcus	Florida Department of Health		X
Haylie Mistrot	Florida Department of Health		X
Sandy Noel	Florida Department of Health		X

Christina Reed	Florida Department of Health		X
Luc Toussaint	Florida Department of Health		X
Jessica Wilmer	Florida Department of Health		X
Natalie Fitzgerald	Ascension Sacred Heart		X
Erin Lee	Ascension Sacred Heart		X
Jane Stearns	Ascension Sacred Heart		X
Kathy Carroll	Broward Health		X
Ellie Schrot	Broward Health		X
Kim Werner	Broward Health		X
Arleen Chilton	Children's Home Society		X
Juliana Melara	Children's Home Society		X
Marissa Barrera	Easter Seals Florida		X
Olabisi Baruwa-Castro	Easter Seals Florida		X
Stephanie Ellis Clark	Easter Seals Florida		X
Brenna Giblock	Easter Seals Florida		X
Jana Khoury	Easter Seals Florida		X
Maria Cadigan	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Mokina Castro	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Tina Cordell	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Kelly Lowe	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Anna Pedraza	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Trina Puddefoot	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Karol Verdone	Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida		X
Paula Burns	Johns Hopkins University		X
E Renae Antalan	Self		X
Tiffany Johnson	Self		X
Justin Wimberly	Self		X
Shelli Buckley	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Brittany Henley	Space Coast Early Steps		X

Susan McCain	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Nicki Phillips-Wright	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Kendy Piper	Space Coast Early Steps		X
Debbi Nicolosi	University of Central Florida		X
Crystal Bishop	University of Florida		X
Cinda Clark	University of Florida		X
April Leopold	University of Florida		X
Kimberly Reed	University of Florida		X
Michelle Berkovitz	University of Miami		X
Ray Rodriguez	University of Miami		X
Erica Amerson	University of South Florida		X
Annalise Campisi	University of South Florida		X
Emily Shaffer-Hudkins	University of South Florida		X

Minutes

Call to Order — *Misty Porter, FICCIT Chair*
Misty Porter called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. EDT and completed FICCIT member roll call. An agenda overview was provided. The FICCIT members reviewed the May meeting minutes. Rob Porcaro motioned to approve the minutes; Pat Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objection.

Department of Health Updates — *Jessica Meyer, Part C Program Coordinator, Florida Department of Health*
Jessica Meyer shared status updates of current and upcoming Early Steps State Office projects, including the Early Steps Extended Option, the completed Early Steps Website language updates made based on council feedback, and the Public Consulting Group evaluation project.

Early Steps Data Review — *Jessica Meyer, Part C Program Coordinator, Florida Department of Health*
Jessica Meyer presented a data review in response to the FICCIT members' requests at the May meeting. The data review included referral and provider network trends going back 8 years.

Lunch on Your Own
Since the meeting was ahead of schedule, the council elected to skip lunch and continue with the agenda.

Early Steps State Plan Update— *Jessica Meyer, Part C Program Coordinator, Florida Department of Health*
Jessica Meyer presented on the changes to the upcoming Early Steps State Plan. She stated that the new focus is based on council priorities identified at the February 2026 meeting, which are Child Find, Funding, Quality and Accountability, and Provider Network Adequacy. Jessica Meyer shared that Early Steps recently applied for a federal grant to implement an apprenticeship program supporting a stronger provider pipeline. Early Steps hopes to provide an update on this outcome at the next meeting.

Council Discussion Time — *Misty Porter, FICCIT Chair*
Council members engaged in open discussion time. Britt Riner described her experience with her school district trying to learn about the transition process from Early Steps to school based services or the family choice scholarship as her child approaches his third birthday. Jordan Gibson shared her experience accessing services for her child after three and expressed interest in learning more about the Step Up for Students. Early Steps agreed to invite Step Up for Students to a future meeting.

Britt Riner highlighted the effectiveness of her child's music therapist and requested Early Steps consider statewide music therapy trainings. Britt Riner also requested the Early Steps State Office look into providing informational videos about transition out of Early Steps.

Public Comment — *Misty Porter, FICCIT Chair*
Trina Puddefoot made a public comment.

Closing Announcements — *Misty Porter, FICCIT Chair*
Misty Porter shared closing announcements, including a reminder that FICCIT business operates under Government in the Sunshine and upcoming meeting dates.

Adjourn
Following the closing announcements, the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. EDT.