

Dept. of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers (ESIT) Program

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) | Virtual Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. – 2:44 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

9 - 9:22 a.m. | Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Introductions | SICC Chair, Danna Summers

- ✚ The first 3 minutes were reserved to let members and attendees join the meeting.
- ✚ **Meeting Role & Purpose** statement and meeting agreements reviewed by SICC Chair, Danna Summers.
- ✚ SICC Chair, Danna Summers, gave her visual description and welcomed meeting attendees.
- ✚ Will Moncrease, Jr., ESIT Partnership & Collaboration Manager, shared his visual description and the *Zoom Meeting Dos and Don'ts and Keyboard Shortcuts*.
- ✚ Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Administrator, welcomed everyone and gave her physical description.
- ✚ Brian Frisina, Tribal Program Consultant, held a moment of respect leading a meaningful Land Acknowledgment.
 - [Native Land](#) is an app to help map Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages.
 - [The Office of Native Education \(ONE\)](#) aids school districts in meeting the educational needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) students.
- ✚ **Motion:** Mary Cline Stively moved to approve the *February 21 agenda*, the previous *October 2023* and *January 2024 meeting minutes*, Shellea Quillen seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ✚ SICC Chair, Danna Summers, conducted SICC member roll call. SICC members each gave land acknowledgements, physical descriptions and brief introductions.

9:22 - 9:44 a.m. | Parent Stories: ESIT Services & PIE Cohort 6 Introduction

Vanessa Allen, ESIT Family Engagement Coordinator, introduced parent and PIE member, LoAn Nguyen. LoAn highlighted an important perspective that many Vietnamese families in the United States have a history of mistrust toward the US government, and then shared her journey of how that trust was built as she and her family were introduced to services for her son. LoAnn detailed their experience with Birth to Three early support services, occupational therapy, drop-in services, and the home visit program.

- ✚ **Question:** Thoughts and suggestions about improving services?
- ✚ **Recommendations:** Upon reflecting, LoAn was unsure how she got referred. She does remember that the *drop-in play time program* was helpful; there were stories and snacks, and her son benefited from learning routines. More spaces like this can help promote Birth to Three programs exist. A flyer is not enough. It's important to communicate with providers to share the play sessions as a resource for families. When realizing your child needs services, it's not that easy for families to access those services, even with *Child Find*. It's even more difficult for families with who may not speak English as a first language, and those with limited language skills. Verbally sharing about play group resources with community spaces, religious, community centers, for example, where Somalian and Spanish-speaking families spend time, is more effective to spread the word, versus a flyer that will get overlooked.



9:44 – 10:03 a.m. | Early Childhood Transition Parental Opt-Out Policy | Tammy McCauley, ESIT Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager

Tammy McCauley, ESIT Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager, gave a brief introduction, physical description, and updated the SICC council on the status of the development of the new Parental Opt-Out Policy. The policy was created in response to requests made by families. Over the last several years, many families have asked to have the option to decline having their child's name, birthday, parent name, and contact information shared with the public school district, when their child may be potentially eligible for special education preschool services under Part B of IDEA. Family Resources Coordinators shared these requests, and the ESIT State Leadership Office responded. Members had the opportunity to ask questions and share input on key elements of the Communication Plan.

Questions

- ✚ If a parent opts out, it may not happen in a timely manner. Would that supersede the state's timeline for referral and evaluation?
- ✚ Any insight why families are opting out?

[Parental Opt-Out Policy: For Those Children Potentially Eligible for Part B Special Education Preschool Services Presentation](#)

Send thoughts and comments to Tammy McCauley, at tammy.mccauley@dcyf.wa.gov or jessica.baffoe@dcyf.wa.gov.

10:03 – 10:13 a.m. | Break

10:13 a.m. – 11:32 a.m. | Listen and Talk: Tara Ellis, Birth to Three Program Director | Maura Berndsen, Executive Director | Spokane HOPE: Danette Driscoll, Executive Director Understanding the Listening and Spoken Language Approach

Tara Ellis, Danette Driscoll, and Maura Berndsen, from Listen and Talk, gave brief introductions before their presentation: A Listening and Spoken Language Approach for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children.

The purpose of this presentation was to equip Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) professionals and families in Washington State with a better understanding of the Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) approach, a set of strategies and principles designed to help children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH.) This presentation explored the effects of diminished hearing sensitivity and discussed how the LSL approach can empower children and families to establish a robust language base, using the primary language spoken in their household. This presentation also offered a broad overview of Part C processes, pertinent for families who have newly discovered their child's differing hearing levels. A key point that was emphasized was the crucial role that family participation plays in cultivating a child's listening and spoken language abilities. Additionally, the presentation provided insights into two Listening and Spoken Language programs that are available within Washington State.

Council members had the opportunity to share their insights, express their gratitude for the presentation and ask additional questions:

- ✚ Acknowledging that there are also other ways for families to explore than the listen and spoken approach.

- Other options are available to families who choose ASL.
- Listen and Talk, Spokane HOPE *educators* and FRC *educators* have the same title and very different roles. Listen and Talk, Spokane HOPE “educators” are more of “therapists” for deaf and hard of hearing kids and have more specialized training.
- Access and finding deaf mentors is a challenging issue across the state.

[A Listening and Spoken Language Approach for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Presentation](#)

11:32 – 11:42 a.m. | Break

11:42 a.m. – 11:54 a.m. | Overview of Federal IDEA Part C Grant Application Process | Lauren Thompson, ESIT Resource Allocations Manager

Lauren Thompson gave a brief introduction before presenting the Overview of Federal IDEA Part C Grant Application Process.

The federal IDEA Part C grant application is an annual application prepared and submitted by DCYF to the federal Office of Special Education Programs, typically due May 1. The SICC has an important role in the development of the federal grant application, specifically to advise the State Lead Agency (DCYF) in making financial and programmatic decisions that support a coordinated and effective statewide early intervention system. Council members will learn about the overall expected timelines including public posting, public commenting period, and public hearing activities.

[State Considerations for IDEA Part C Subgranting](#)

[SICC Feb 2024 Grant Overview Presentation](#)

Questions? lauren.thompson@dcyf.wa.gov.

11:54 – 11:56 p.m. | No Public Comment


11:57 – 12:28 p.m. | Lunch

12:28 – 1:06 p.m. | Committee Updates & Agency Updates

Council members shared available reports from the State Leadership Agency, Chairs of the six Sub-Committees. Chairs shared motions to recommend for Council consideration and action. Tribal partners and state agency representatives serving on the SICC were invited to share updates.

- Valerie Arnold, Early Support for Infants & Toddlers – [ESIT State Lead Agency report](#)
- Brayde Willson, Chair, Public Policy Committee – [Finance & Public Policy Joint report](#)

Motion: Brayde Wilson, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, moved to approve the distribution of *The COVID Impact Survey*, SICC Member, Michelle La Motte, seconded the motion. Approved unanimously by council members.
- Julie German-Murrey, Chair, Personnel & Training Committee – [Personnel & Training report](#)

 **Ryan Guzman, Chair, OSPI** - Sharing the most recent February monthly updates here: [OSPI Special Education February 2024 Update \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com) and well as the most recent [data-specialeducation-walredatatrends2023.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://live.com).


1:06 – 1:30 p.m. | Introduction & Orientation to the OSEP Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0 | Valerie Arnold, ESIT Administrator


Valerie Arnold introduced the council members to the new federal Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0 conducted by the Office of Special Education Programs. Information included: the purpose of the review, a description of the key stages of the comprehensive process, the role of the SICC, Parent Training & Information Center, and local parents and program leaders, as well as the date recently set and confirmed for the onsite monitoring visit for DCYF.

[Introduction & Orientation to the OSEP Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0 Presentation](#)

[NCSI SAP SICC flyer](#)

1:30 - 1:40 p.m. | Agency Updates continued & Legislative Update | Allison Krutsinger/Stephanie Budrus

 **Sheryl Fryberg, Tulalip Tribes** – No official updated to share currently, it has been a challenging transition from 2023 to 2024 and getting their feet back on the ground. Feeling the impact of lack of staffing and decrease from 14 to 12 facilities.

 **Stephanie Budrus** – An update on [HB 1916 – 2023-24 Concerning funding for the early support for infants and toddlers program](#) (Companion Bill SB 5933) will be provided by leaders from the DCYF Office of Public Affairs. Information about the overall legislative process and annual timelines will be shared and there will be opportunities to ask questions.

[2024 Session Cutoff Calendar](#)


1:40 - 1:50 p.m. | Break

1:50 - 2:23 p.m. | Systems of Payments & Fees (SOPAF) | Tammy McCauley, Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager

Council members learned about the SOPAF Technical Work Group, a joint endeavor through the Public Policy Committee & Finance Committee, sessions held to date, and emerging recommendations for improvements. There was time to ask questions, advise and consult on next steps.

[SOPAF Revised Policy Presentation](#)

Question:

 **How do families from Tribes access services?** Sheryl Fryberg, Tulalip Tribes Representative, shared the critical perspective of the Tribes, of there being a history of mistrust toward the US government, and how important it is that families receive support to build that trust, so families can access the and information and services they need.

2:23 - 2:30 p.m. | Public Comments

This time is set aside for the audience to state comments relevant to the role and purpose of the SICC and provision of early support services and share feedback on the SICC meeting overall. If the individual providing comment would like their comment to be included in the meeting minutes, they must provide a written summary to the ESIT Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae` Antalan, at erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov.

Public Comment #1: Please publish on the DCYF website, and route copies of the agenda and companion materials to those pre-registering for the SICC meetings, as early as possible. This will help local leaders know ahead of time if additional staffers may benefit from and can be encouraged to attend planned presentations.

Public Comment #2: Please consider developing and rolling out training and technical assistance materials to help families access secondary Medicaid coverage.

2:30 p.m. – 2:44 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up | SICC Chair Danna Summers

SICC Members shared their reflections for today’s meeting, and recommendations for the direction of our future work, to wrap up the meeting. Danna Summers, SICC Chair, gave closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

Next SICC Meeting:

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 | Virtual, Teams Meeting