

Dept. of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers (ESIT) Program

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) | Virtual Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. – 2:03 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

9 - 9:30 a.m. | Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Introductions | SICC Chair, E Renae` Antalan

- The first 5 minutes reserved to let members and attendees join the meeting.
- Meeting Role & Purpose statement and meeting agreements reviewed by E Renae` Antalan.
- SICC Chair, E Renae` Antalan welcomed meeting attendees and gave her visual description.
- Will Moncrease, Jr., ESIT Partnership & Collaboration Manager, shared his visual description and the *zoom meeting do's and don'ts and keyboard shortcuts*.
- Val Arnold, ESIT State Administrator, welcomed everyone, gave her physical description, and 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.
- As an inspirational invite to take action, Val offered children's book recommendations to explore personally and share with extended family and friends:
 - [Baby's First Laugh](#) by Jessie Eve Ruffenach
 - [First Laugh--Welcome, Baby!](#) By Rose Ann Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood, illustrations by Jonathan Nelson.
- SICC Chair, E Renae` Antalan, conducted SICC member roll call. SICC members each gave land acknowledgements and brief introductions and physical descriptions.
- **Motion:** SICC member, Janet George, moved to approve both the October 2023 agenda and previous April 2023 Meeting minutes, seconded (by Mary Cline-Stivley), SICC members voted and approved unanimously.

9:30 a.m. - 9:36 a.m. | Parent Stories: ESIT Services & PIE Cohort 6 Introduction

Families shared their experiences receiving ESIT services during the COVID-19 pandemic with the council. Members had an opportunity to ask questions and gain additional insights.

PIE member and parent advocate, Erin Maher, (Vancouver, WA) has two children and her daughter needed ESIT Services. Erin worked closely with ESIT services through the ESD, as the parent-to-parent coordinator under Arc of WA as a parent. Her daughter wasn't diagnosed until she was 6, since she was getting a lot support and doing so well, it wasn't easy to diagnose her. It's been a great going through the system, getting assistance, and learning the tools.

PIE member and parent advocate, Princess Hicks, (Seattle, WA) has three kids in her life on the autism spectrum. Located in King County there are lot more people available to help who work for the state to reach out to for help. Princess feels fortunate her mother is a social worker and has a great support system to get information and assistance to navigate the early learning system.



9:36 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. | Dept. Services for the Blind (DSB) Update

DSB previously had to move from serving Birth to 13 years-old. Guidelines were updated from Lead Back in WA. DSB strongly believed it was important to find state funding and recently has been more successful to continue the work by hiring someone to serve B-13, but the department has yet to be developed.

9:40 a.m. – 9:47 a.m. | Fun Engagement Question for the SICC members

“Where would you rather be, logging into SICC?” (It can be anywhere in the world!)

9:50 a.m. – 10 a.m. | Break

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. | The Consultant Team: Cathy Kaufman, Kaufman Strategies & Christine Cole, Health Care Authority | Medicaid Policies

The Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) is focusing greater attention on developing and improving Medicaid policies that enhance and support early childhood health and development -- goals which it shares with the Part C Early Intervention (EI) program. An in-depth investigation of the policies underpinning both programs – along with interviews with providers of early intervention services – led to the report, *Washington’s Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) and Apple Health (Medicaid) Programs Policy Review and Comparative Analysis (June 2023)*, posted [here](#). Today’s presentation walks through the key findings and recommendations for improving systems alignment at the state level to reduce burden on providers navigating these programs and ultimately ensuring greater access to services for young children and their families. The audience and member had a chance to ask questions and gain deeper insight.

PowerPoint Presentation: [Early Intervention and Medicaid in Washington](#)

11 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Break

11:15 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. | The Consultant Team: Medicaid Policies, Q&A Continued

Next steps: HCA is working closely with DCYF. This presentation was intended to share results and information before implementing next steps and incorporate any feedback. A second review will be scheduled to give an opportunity for initial responses and action can be taken as a council.

Resource: [Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment](#): This page helps Apple Health providers and partners stay informed about the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

The audience and SICC members had a chance to share comments and ask questions for deeper insight. For questions or follow-up, email christine.cole@hca.wa.gov.

Recommendations:

1. Help ESIT providers and MCOs better understand current requirements and billing codes (consolidated billing guide and training)
2. Simplify and streamline billing codes used most frequently for ESIT Services.
3. Establish the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) as the authorizing document for

billable Medicaid services

4. Clarify existing Apple Health policies -- and develop new ones -- to ensure ESIT providers and MCOs understand how to bill for services covered under the current Medicaid state plan.
5. Assist ESIT providers by contracting for a “third party administrator” (TPA) to manage Medicaid billing for all ESIT services.
6. MCO contract and procurement - emphasize / clarify ESIT and EPSDT
7. Streamline enrollment into Medicaid (as secondary coverage) for children with identified developmental needs who have commercial health insurance coverage. – Cathy Kaufmann

Supporting Comments:

- All the recommendation seem promising. Recommendations 1, 4 and 7 seem like a good place to start. - Beth Krebiel
- It would be helpful for this Medicaid information to be made available to SICC Finance and Public Policy Committee members. - Kathy Fortner
- This work and these recommendations are so helpful! Developing an ESIT modifier and establishing IFSPs as an authorizing document seem like great places to start. - Brayde Wilson

11:40 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Tracie Kenney, DCFY

Tracie Kenney, is the Administrator of the Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five (PDG) at DCYF. In this role she manages a federal grant that funds multiple projects across DCYF, other agencies, and in communities. Today, she'll be sharing with us the newest round of projects funded by the PDG and give us an update on the Early Learning Coordination Plan. The audience and SICC members had a chance to share comments and ask questions. Learn more about the plan at www.ELCPwa.org.

PDF: [Washington State Early Learning Coordination Plan](#)

Inspirational quote shared:

“The world doesn't change one person at a time. It changes as networks of relationships form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible.” - Margaret J. Wheatley and Deborah Frieze

12 p.m. - 12:02 p.m. | No Public Comment.

12:05 p.m. - 12:28 p.m. ACORN, Committee and Agency Updates

This is an opportunity for SICC state agency representatives and committees to share updates, insights, request advice/assistance from the council, and make announcements of upcoming events/activities.

- **Val Arnold, ESIT State Administrator** – ESIT State Leadership Team & ACORN Update
 - **Lisa Greenwald, comment:** Val, thank you for the ACORN update and for hearing from stakeholders and taking that into consideration. From an FRC and provider perspective, the launch is thought to be Oct 25 due to the black out period set that they are madly working toward working around. Thus, providers would appreciate knowing before Monday if it all possible. We are 1 week out from today. Thank you again for your consideration and I am happy to help if that helps :). Lisa

- **COL. Tolson, Military Rep** – preparing for retirement from military service August 2024 and will be replaced on the SICC council by Dr. Michelle Clark or someone she appoints as liaison.

12:28 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. | Lunch Break

1:10 p.m. - 1:33 p.m. | Committee and Agency Updates Continued

- **Brayde Willson, Joint Finance & Public Policy Committee** – addressing equity in SOPAF, orientation to equity framework, watching [HB 1227](#): the Keeping Families Together Act.
 - **Motion:** SICC member, Brayde Willson moved to form a workgroup to address and ensure safety from imminent physical harm in the natural environment for home visitors in all capacities. Seconded by member Val Arnold. SICC members voted and approved unanimously.
 - Moved to assign jointly to Service Delivery and Public Policy committees.
- **Beth Krehbiel, DSHS/DDA** – DDA Waiver Amendments and Public Comment
- **Shellea Quillen, HCA** – watching [SB 5580](#) in the upcoming legislative session: Improving maternal health outcomes.
- **Jean-Marie Dymond, Office of the Insurance Commissioner** – Medicare or Medicare Advantage, ability to switch to different to Advantage plans.

Resources:

- How to navigate the [OIC website to get Medicare information as well as free, unbiased help from SHIBA volunteers.](#)
- Need assistance with Medicare open enrollment? [Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors “SHIBA” can help.](#)
 - The dates open enrollment are Oct. 15 through Dec. 7.
 - During this time, Medicare clients can review their current coverage and decide if there are better options based on changes to their current plan, budget or health needs.
- Specifically - during Open Enrollment people enrolled in Medicare can:
 - Switch from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan and vice versa. (These are the two paths’ folks can take when they have Medicare) Join, drop or switch a Part D prescription drug plan, if you’re on Original Medicare.
 - Switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan.

1:33 p.m. | No Public Comment

This time is set aside for the audience to state comments 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 SICC Chair E Renae` Antalan, at erenae.antalana@dcyf.wa.gov.

1:33 p.m. – 1: 40 | Fun Engagement Question for the SICC members

“What is your Pay-It-Forward Moment?”

1:40 p.m. – 1: 55 | Chair & Vice Chair Selection

E Renae` attended her last meeting as SICC Chair and to transition to new chair, Parent Council Members had an opportunity to present to the council why they should be the new Chair and Vice Chair. Danna Summers and Julie German -Murrey, members on the SICC board, expressed their interest in 3-minute speeches to the council.

Vote: Remaining SICC members voted Danna Summers and Julie German-Murrey as the new SICC Co-Chairs.

1:55 p.m. -2:03 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up

Members had the opportunity to share their input and power word for the day and make recommendations for future meeting topics. E Renae` said her last reflections in the role of SICC Chair and gave heartfelt remarks and settling into her new role as ESIT’s Community Collaboration Coordinator. The council and audience had the opportunity to share their congratulations and gratitude toward E Renae` for her excellence, serving as SICC Chair.

Next SICC Meeting (APR)

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 | Virtual