

April 2025 SICC Meeting Materials

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Upcoming 2025 SICC Meeting Dates

- July 15 PIE Graduation – July 16 SICC Meeting | Virtual
- Wed., Oct. 15 | Virtual

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Program

Quarterly State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) | Virtual Meeting

[Meeting Link](#) Teams

Meeting ID: 297 825 662 121

Passcode: Ys6Ad79q

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Role & Purpose

In order to carry out its mission, the Council shall advise and assist the State Lead Agency, and the other participating state agencies, on a broad range of policy and coordination issues. The SICC will promote an appreciation for the needs of children that have or are at risk for developmental delays or disabilities and will gain an understanding of the services required to address those needs.

Group Agreements

- State your name each time you speak.
- Speak slowly– this helps our note-taker and interpreters.
- Avoid using acronyms and jargon.
- Be patient with one another as we practice Robert’s Rules of Order.
- Teams’ Do’s and Don’ts (E Renae`)
- For Technical Assistance, please text E Renae` Antalan at 360.280.1743, or email at erenae.antalán@dcyf.wa.gov.

Agenda

Native Land Acknowledgement

Scan the QR code to search an address



9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. | Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions | SICC Chair Danna Summers

Welcome members, confirm quorum status, review and approve previous meeting minutes and today’s agenda.

9:20 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. | Parent Stories: ESIT Services & PIE Introduction (Cohort 7)

Families will share their experience with receiving ESIT services and offer suggestions/recommendations for continuous improvement. Members will have an opportunity to ask reflective questions and gain additional insights.



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9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. | Planning for A Bright Future in Early Support | Judy King, Director of Family & Community Support. Judy will provide an update on themes from community forums and the next steps.

10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. | Transition Break

10: 20a.m.-11:40 a.m.| CHERISH™ | Julie Fisher, Program Director | Terreca DeFehr, Parent Engagement Advisor

CHERISH will give a brief program overview and then share recent updates. Then, a brief video will be shared that demonstrates the amount of people and systems that are part of a family’s life when they are involved in a child welfare dependency. The rest of the presentation will give participants a chance to hear from a panel of five people who have been impacted by the CHERISH model: a parent and the CHERISH-trained infant mental health therapist from Kinderling who worked with him; two child welfare social workers; and a direct service provider from Holly Ridge Center who has experienced all levels of CHERISH training and technical support.

BIOs

Terreca DeFehr, CHERISH™ Parent Engagement Advisor—

As a parent who has navigated the child welfare system, Terreca DeFehr focuses attention on the complexities of the historically marginalized parent experience. In her position on the CHERISH team at Kinderling, Terreca shares her personal and professional experience--offering insight for providers who want to improve their work with parents and families. She challenges the cultural norms and often-overlooked biases and stigma that limit parent engagement. Terreca holds in mind “whenever we share or hear another humans' suffering, our feelings and thoughts can be evoked,” and therefore centers the importance of reflection and self-compassion. Terreca is invested in building community and connections and in guiding early support providers toward authentic and empathetic relationships with the families they serve.

Julie Fisher, CHERISH™ Program Director—

Julie has been a part of the CHERISH Program for almost 19 years. She is a licensed clinical social worker and is endorsed as an IECMH Clinical Mentor. She has spoken about the CHERISH model at SICC meetings in the past and is excited to bring updates and to connect with everyone on 4/16. She has immense passion for the power of relationships as vehicles for healing and is dedicated to breaking down barriers and fully centering children and families in early support work. She trains others on early relational health and in working alongside the child welfare system.

11:40 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Transition Break

11:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. | SICC Member Spotlight Mustapha Kebbeh, Chief Program Officer, Kinderling
Mustapha serves as the Chief Programs Officer for Kinderling. He will share highlights of his career, and his passions and aspirations. Council members may ask reflective questions.

11:55 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Public Comment



Chair to Read Aloud:

All regular meetings of the Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council are open to the public. The public is encouraged to attend and may give comment only during the designated public comment time frame on the agenda. The Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) can be addressed on any matter relating to provision of services under Part C of IDEA, but only during the public comment portion of the meeting. Please be aware that SICC will not engage in an open discussion but may have a clarifying question related to the public comment shared.

Public comment should not contain confidential or personally identifiable information unless it belongs to the speaker. When it is time for Public Comment, the Chair will ask who is interested in participating in Public Comment. At that time, please let the Chair know of your desire to make comment. You will be called on when it is your turn. Each participant will have three (3) to five (5) minutes for remarks. If the comment is longer than five minutes, the Chair has the responsibility to stop the speaker, and move forward with the next person.

If the individual providing comment would like their comment to be included in the meeting minutes, they must provide a written summary to the Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae` Antalan erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov. If there is no one interested in giving public comment, the agenda will move forward to the next item on the agenda.

12 00p.m. -12:30 p.m. | Lunch**12:30 p.m. -12:50 p.m. | ESIT Caseload Forecast Council Update | Paula Moore or Designee**

The Washington State Caseload Forecast Council is responsible for forecasting the number of children on the ESIT Caseload. The forecast included in the formula used by the legislative and OFM fiscal staff to determine the program's appropriation.

12:50 p.m. -1:40 p.m. | Agency Updates | Committee Updates

This is an opportunity for SICC State Agency Representatives to share agency information and insights, request advice/assistance from the Council, and make announcements of upcoming events/activities.

- State Education Agency (OSPI) Representative
- Department of Social & Health Services Representative
- Department of Services for the Blind Representative
- Department of Health Representative
- Health Care Authority Representative
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner Representative
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Representative
- State Lead Agency (DCYF) Representative
- Military Representative



Next, SICC Sub-Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs share highlights from written Quarterly Sub-Committee Reports and move motions, if applicable.

- Public Policy Chair
 - Second Read: Proposed Amendments to SICC Bylaws
- Finance Committee Chair
 - JOINT MOTION – to form an ad hoc workgroup with representatives from each SICC-Subcommittee, in partnership with the ESIT state leadership team, to engage in contingency planning for sustaining services, should we experience budgetary or policy changes.
 - Alicia Skelly, retiring Vice Chair, will discuss the importance of serving on the SICC Sub-Committees
- Personnel & Training Committee Chair
- Service Delivery Chair
- Data Committee Chair
- Parent Institute for Engagement Chair

1:40 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | **DCYF Family Separation Response Task Force | Task Force Administrator**

An overview of the purpose of the Task Force, scope of work, and update on their next steps.

2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. | **Stretch Break**

2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. | **Leading Through Federal & State Transitions | Valerie Arnold**

Intended to create space for meaningful dialogue, Council members will have the opportunity to identify issues, concerns, or opportunities related to transitional directives or topics that may impact services to children and their families.

2:40 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | **Public Comments**

This time is set aside for the audience to share comments and 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 Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae` Antalan erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov.

2:45 -3:00 p.m. | **Evaluation & Wrap Up | SICC Chair Danna Summers**

Council Members will have an opportunity to share their input on the day and make recommendations for future meeting topics.

Next SICC Meetings:

Wednesday, July 16, 2025, | Virtual 9 a.m-3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, | Virtual 9 a.m. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, | Virtual 9 a.m.-Noon

Wednesday, February 18, 2025, Virtual 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, | Virtual 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Early Support for Infants & Toddlers

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wed., February 19, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. – 2:08 p.m.

9 – 9:22 a.m. | Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions

- ✚ The first few minutes were reserved to let members and attendees join the meeting.
- ✚ SICC Chair, Danna Summers, greeted and chatted with members and attendees, asking everyone to participate in the chat with the question, “What are you drinking this morning?”
- ✚ E Renae` introduced herself and shared the Teams *Dos and Don'ts and Keyboard Shortcuts*.
- ✚ Brian Frisina, ESIT Tribal Program Consultant, led a meaningful Land Acknowledgment.

9:22 – 10 a.m. | Parent Stories: ESIT Services & PIE Introduction, Cohort 7

SICC Chair, Dana Summers, conducted PIE member roll call. PIE member and parent, Michelle, introduced herself and shared her experience receiving ESIT services and their family's challenges transitioning her child out of Birth to Three (B-3) Services. She shared what it's like testing “too close to standard” and being in the “gray area” needing specialized services yet no longer qualifying. PIE member and parent, Ashley, introduced herself and shared her experience finding and getting into B-3 during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the support and individualized care her children were able to access. PIE member and parent, Carly, introduced herself and shared the ongoing challenges: advocating for her child's need for B-3 services, the repeated disregard by medical professionals and advocating and still being unheard. Carly's shared how persistence advocating for her child led to brief access to B-3 services and how the services supported her child. Carly shared a resource: “I'd like to encourage everyone to read *The Spoon Theory* if you never have before. A friend also explained to their teenager that they once had a “full battery” each day but now they start at various “charges,” depending on what they did the day or week before. I thought it very apt and perfect for the current generation.”

SICC Members had an opportunity to share, reflect and thank the PIE parents' willingness to share their personal stories. SICC Chair, Danna Summers and ESIT Program Administrator, Val Arnold, thanked the parents and shared dispute resolution training opportunities.

10 – 10:03 a.m. | SICC Member Roll Call and Motions

- ✚ SICC Chair, Danna Summers, conducted SICC member roll call.
- ✚ **Motion:** SICC Member, Mustapha Kebbeh, moved to approve the February agenda and the previous October 2024 and January 2025 meeting minutes. SICC member, Mary Cline-Stively, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.



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Original Date: February 19, 2025 | Revised Date: March 18, 2025

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers | Approved for distribution by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Program Administrator

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers

10:03 – 10:15 a.m. | Break

10:15 – 10:46 a.m. | The Arc of Snohomish County, Tamara Sharabi, Community Resource Outreach Coordinator

SICC Chair, Danna Summers, gave a heartfelt welcome and introduced Tamara Sharabi, Outreach Coordinator with The Arc. Tamara is a parent and passionately promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), advocating for their full inclusion and participation in the community. Tamara work specifically focuses on supporting the Arabic-speaking community in Snohomish County, including refugees navigating the challenges of caring for family members with special needs.

During this presentation, Tamara discussed how she bridges the gap between families and resources, providing culturally appropriate support and education. The presentation highlights the unique barriers faced by Arabic speaking families, including hesitation to seek help due to stigma, limited knowledge of available services, and challenges in understanding disability-friendly language. Tamara also addressed misconceptions about The Arc's mission, while striving to educate families on how we can assist within our capacity. Additionally, Tamara shared stories demonstrating the difficulties families face, such as requesting support for needs beyond our resources, and discussed the ongoing need to expand outreach efforts and increase community involvement. This presentation provided insight into the importance of culturally sensitive advocacy and how we can better serve the Arabic-speaking community while fostering inclusivity and understanding.

Resource shared: [Rosa's Law](#).

SICC Members had an opportunity to ask questions and gain more insights into Tamara's work providing services and the cultural considerations supporting the Muslim and Arabic speaking community.

10:46 – 11:04 a.m. | Community Connections Share—The Investing in Children Coalition | Cindy Carroll, Clinical Director of Children's Village | MultiCare

Director of Clinical Operations at Children's Village, Cindy Carroll, is a MultiCare Memorial employee. Working to serve the community of Yakima and its families for 20 years, she started as a speech and language pathologist and was the first SLP hired by the hospital. Cindy shared a



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presentation highlighting the innovation and collaborative partnerships at Children's Village.

[Children's Village MultiCare PPT](#)

11:04 – 11:15 a.m. | Stretch Break

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. ParaSport Spokane | Teresa Skinner, Executive Director

Teresa Skinner has been a dedicated Occupational Therapist (OT) and a passionate advocate for adapted sports since 1994. She is the founder and Executive Director of ParaSport Spokane and serves as an OT within a school system. ParaSport Spokane provides free adaptive sports programming for children and adults with physical disabilities and visual impairments, welcoming participants from infancy to age 101. The youngest athlete joined at just 11 months old, while the oldest currently involved is 75. A firm believer in early intervention, Teresa knows that when communities work together, everyone benefits. ParaSport Spokane offers a diverse range of sports, including wheelchair basketball, track and field, swimming, sled hockey, fencing, strength and conditioning.

Teresa introduced The Futures Program: a pathway for young athletes to build confidence, skills, and lifelong independence through movement, recreation and sports. She shared insights into the impact of the Futures Program and why it's essential to create similar opportunities in every community.

Learn more:

- [ParaSport Spokane](#)
- [We're The Superhumans: Rio Paralympics 2016 Trailer](#)

11:45 – 11:59 a.m. | SICC Member Spotlight Brayde Willson, County Human Services Representative

Brayde serves as the ESIT Program Supervisor for the Pierce County Human Services Department. Brayde introduced herself and shared highlights of her origins, education, career, personal passions, and love for the Deaf community. She shared how that affinity led her to training and work in Deaf Education and later into providing early learning services. Brayde shared her personal connection to ESIT birth to three services, how it changed their life and why she's passionate about serving local families.

Council members had the opportunity to ask reflective questions and share gratitude for sharing.



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11:59 a.m. – 12:04 p.m. | Public Comment

"I ... like that priority should be given to members with disabilities. and I would love (as a parent) to be involved further in the system. Regarding the intent: I'm a firm believer that each role has its place/opinion and that as long as roles were respected in commentary that parents should be able to graduate up if they choose to run with a lifetime limit on term. Perhaps consider involving WSA board members (or parents) or inviting them to SICC/SEAC, a little more formal than public invite." - Carly Randolph, PIE Cohort 7 Parent.

12: 04 – 12:35 p.m. | Lunch

12:35 – 1:30 p.m. | Agency & Committee Updates

SICC State Agency Representatives and shared agency information and insights, announcements of upcoming events and activities. SICC Sub-Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs had the opportunity to verbally share highlights from written Quarterly Sub-Committee Reports and move motions:

- [Finance](#) Committee Chair, Michelle LaMotte
 - Priority Area Selected: Insurance Billing.
 - **Motion:** Finance Chair and SICC Member, Michelle LaMotte, moved *"The Finance Committee would like to submit a motion to the council to assist, inform, guide SICC in gathering relevant information to the state priority for Enhanced Medicaid billing as requested or needed."* SICC Member, Mustapha Kebbeh, seconded the motion. The motion was open for discussion to inquire more clarity. The motion was moved and **approved** unanimously.
- [ESIT State Lead Agency](#), Valerie Arnold, ESIT Program Administrator
 - [Resource Allocations Update](#), ESIT Resource Allocations Manager, Lauren Thompson
- [State Education Agency](#) (OSPI)
- [County Human Services](#)
- [Public Policy](#) Chair, Brayde Wilson
 - First Read of the **Proposed Amendments to SICC Bylaws** (PPT)
- [Personnel & Training](#)
- [Service Delivery](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Parent Institute for Engagement \(PIE\)](#)
- **Update:** No legislative update due to scheduling conflicts.



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1:30 – 1:55 p.m. | Leading Through Federal & State Transitions, Valerie Arnold, ESIT Program Administrator

Intended to create space for meaningful dialogue, Council members had the opportunity to connect, ask for guidance moving forward, share insights, identify concerns, and seek opportunities related to transitional directives or topics that may impact services to children and their families.

Discussion:

- How can the SICC board support constituents currently affected by the current administration's changes on immigration status and Diversity Equity Inclusion?
 - **Resource shared:** [WA Gov. Bob Ferguson signs immigration, refugee executive order | The Olympian](#)
- What stance is DCYF taking to respond to the questions they are receiving?
 - **Idea for upcoming SICC meeting:** have DCYF Secretary, Tana Senn or representative, come to speak and update the SICC board on DCYF's Task Force.
- The majority of ESIT appropriations do not come from federal funding, from state funding.

1:55 – 2 p.m. | Public Comments

The public and SICC members shared their deep gratitude for ESIT Program Administrator, Val Arnold's years of leadership and commitment to the early learning programs and providers.

2:01 -2:08 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up | SICC Chair, Danna Summers

SICC Chair, Danna Summers, gave insightful and meaningful closing remarks and thanked ESIT Program Administrator, Val Arnold. Val Arnold announced her last SICC meeting will be on April 16 and DCYF Director of Family and Community Support, Judy King, will be on the agenda at next April meeting. Council members had an opportunity to share their input on the day and make recommendations for upcoming topics. SICC Chair, Danna Summers, adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Next SICC Meetings

- **Wednesday, April 16** | Virtual
- **Wednesday, July 15 (Pie Graduation) – July 16 (SICC)** | Virtual
- **Wednesday, October 15** | Virtual



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Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council April 2025 Quarterly Meeting State Lead Agency Report

ACORN & Data Management System (DMS) News



State leaders serving on the Data Systems and Analysis Team (D-SAT) are continuing to work towards data migration to our new data management system, ACORN. The team collaborates regularly with the contracted vendor, the Public Consulting Group, during weekly meetings to finalize (a) the development of required state and federal reports, (b) configuration of User Roles and (c) customization of the User Interface.

Examples of recently completed work include minor changes in the therapist panel, removal of obsolete data fields in the insurance section, migration of all progress notes into the ACORN training environment, and the removal of the screening tab. (Note: The screening tab section will be revised and is going to be part of the ACORN Phase 2 release expected in mid-winter quarter).

We are continuing to work on merging duplicative agencies in the current DMS, customizing the County Lead Agency role, and finalizing the sustainability of existing Data Exchanges. We are also partnering with volunteers for a “User Experience Pilot” where a group of users follows instructional scripts to discover and report bugs and glitches. Resolution of all bugs and glitches identified during this process will be achieved prior to Go-Live, as it is one of the seven readiness assessment criteria.

In addition to the ongoing work on ACORN, the D-SAT is engaging in the following activities highlighted below.

- ✚ FFY 2023 State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report (submitted February 2, 2025) Clarification Window (April 8th – 22nd, 2025)
 - This is an opportunity to clarify and/or edit narrative, or correct data based on preliminary written responses from the federal Office of Special Education Programs
- ✚ FFY 2024 Annual Review and Analysis of SPP Compliance Indicators
 - These are braided tasks conducted as part of the Desktop Compliance Reviews in partnership with the Accountability & Quality Improvement Team.
- ✚ DMS Help Desk Support & Monthly State and Federal Reporting
- ✚ Preparation for the federal Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0 Activities

Please continue to reach out to Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems & Analysis Manager at kim.hopkins@dcyf.wa.gov with questions or reflections.



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Early Support for Infants and Toddlers State Leadership Team News

There are three existing positions currently open for recruitment. Both the Partnership, Collaboration, and Family Engagement Manager and the Resource Allocations Manager positions are being opened for recruitment internally for 14 days with the option to extend for 21 days for external recruitment, as may be necessary. The hiring of a Strategic Innovations Administrator is also under development to meet unmet administrative gaps with the change in leadership structure made in July 2023. The ESIT State Administrator position is currently in open public recruitment status and closes Monday, April 21, 2025.

Diverse Interview Panels that include parents, external partners, and internal peers, are in the process of being formed for all three of the current openings. Members of the Interview Panel work together with support from the designated Hiring Manager, to make recommendations for advancing candidates in the process and ultimately hiring recommendations. All panel members receive an in-depth orientation that includes Anti-Bias Interviewing & Hiring Strategies and sign a Confidentiality Agreement prior to serving on an Interview Panel.

Federal Update Shared by National Infant Toddler Coordinators Association



The National Infant Toddler Coordinators (ITCA) Association shared their most recent [ITCA Federal Update on April 14, 2025](#). The ESIT State Leadership Office has been posting these weekly federal updates on the ESIT Website. The ITCA Association has continued to provide weekly updates on activities taking place in Washington DC that relate directly to our mission and purpose. It was noted that Congress is on a two-week recess until April 27th after passing the budget resolution in both the House and the Senate. The Administration has already issued over one hundred executive orders in the first three months of the administration and one of these will be highlighted in this update.

Highlights from this week's publication include:

Budget Resolution: Before Congress adjourned for the two-week spring recess, the House passed a new budget resolution by a vote of 216-214. This budget resolution now serves as the framework for a reconciliation bill later this year designed to implement the administration's plans for tax cuts, about \$1.5 trillion spending cuts, increased military spending, as well as energy policy and border security provisions. The House Energy and Commerce Committee has been tasked with finding \$880 billion in overall budget cuts over 10 years. The challenge is to pass the necessary cuts to fund this plan. Based on the savings needed and the total size of programs under that committee's jurisdiction, the most obvious place to make the cuts is Medicaid. Medicaid provides health care coverage to more than seventy million people, including 40% of all children.

Right before the recess, the Senate also passed the budget resolution by a close vote of 51-48 after an all-night marathon. Several bipartisan amendments were considered addressing possible Medicaid cuts. None of these passed but the votes were very close. One amendment from Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Date: April 16, 2025 | Partnership, Prevention & Services Division

Submitted by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Administrator



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and Josh Hawley (R-MO) would have eliminated the House's Energy and Commerce Committee's instructions to save \$880 billion and another amendment from Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) would have prevented Medicaid cuts that could lead to hospital closures or higher uncompensated care. The Speaker of the House and the President have suggested the necessary savings can be achieved through waste, fraud and abuse and cuts to other areas. Many advocates say these savings cannot be achieved without significant cuts to Medicaid benefits. Widespread advocacy efforts are planned throughout the recess to stop cuts to Medicaid. Leadership in the House and Senate plan to focus this committee budget work during May and June. The goal is to finish this work by the end of July.

HELP Committee Hearing Planned: The Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Ranking Member Bernie Sanders (I-VT) have invited HHS Secretary Kennedy to testify before the Committee about the restructuring in the federal agency. The hearing was set for last week, but it has been postponed without a new date being set yet.

House Resolution to Get Plan for Education Reorganization: The House Education and Workforce Committee voted along party lines on a resolution, H. Res. 237 sponsored by Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA). The resolution requests the administration's reorganization plans for and documents related to closures, staffing cuts, and downsizing activities within the Department of Education. The resolution also requests information on how the Administration plans to meet its obligations under various education laws, including IDEA, if the Department were to close. The vote on the resolution was not technically a "no," but it sends the resolution to the House floor with a recommendation against passage. The resolution is located at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-resolution/237/text?s=6&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22H.Res.+237%22%7D>

Executive Order on Deregulation: A new executive order, "Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations" has been issued. It can be found at: [Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations – The White House](#). This order, in collaboration with a previous order, requires federal agency heads, in compliance with Supreme Court decisions, to determine unlawful regulations, and finalize new rules without notice and comment, when that process would be "impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." Specifically, the order requires agency heads to:

1. After a 60-day review period ordered in Executive Order 14219, to identify unlawful and potentially unlawful regulations, and take steps to repeal such regulations, or portions of any regulation, that clearly exceed the agency's statutory authority or is otherwise unlawful; and
2. Within 30 days of the conclusion of the review period under Executive Order 14219 to identify unlawful and potentially unlawful regulations, agencies shall submit to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs a one-page summary of each regulation that was initially identified under the Executive Order, but which has not been targeted for repeal, explaining the basis for the decision not to repeal that regulation.



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Leadership in Early Support Update: Continuing to Plan for a Bright Future by Judy King

As you know, we have been engaged in planning for the retirement of our Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) State Administrator, Val Arnold, who is retiring at the end of June 2025.

As promised, we have planned and held several virtual opportunities for stakeholders and community partners to provide input on what is needed for the next era of Early Support/Early Intervention as we continue to shape the recruitment and hiring process for a new ESIT Sr. Administrator. Over the last quarter we have been doing work on planning for the transition/retirement of our cherished ESIT State Administrator.

Input offerings were held January-April 2025. This has included group gatherings with opportunities for weighing in about important considerations, leadership attributes, and focus areas for the new leader.

Future Planning Conversations Held:

- ESIT State Leadership Team at DCYF (January)
- Public Policy and Advocate Partners (February)
- Parent Institute for Engagement Leadership Academy Cohort 7 (February)
- State Interagency Coordinating Council (February)
- County Lead Agencies (March)

A survey is also open for anyone wanting to provide input. The link is published in the ESIT Weekly titled [Your Voice Matters: Help Strengthen Early Support Services!](#) The survey, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), will close on April 24, 2025.

---- Judy King, Director of Family & Community Support
judy.king@dcyf.wa.gov

Accountability & Quality Improvement Team Highlights

Tammy McCauley, Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager, continues to lead her team as they actively engage in multiple circles of engagement with multi-disciplinary partners across the state. Upcoming culminating activities are highlighted below.

- ✚ Implementation of the newest component for the ESIT-Statewide Integrated Monitoring System: Onsite Systems Analysis Program Review Phase One visits. Six monitoring visits will be conducted between April 1 2025 – June 30 2026.



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- ✚ May 20 & 21 – 2 statewide webinars are planned to introduce the Revised Early Childhood Transition Policy - Parental Opt-out of the notification to Part B for Special Education Preschool Services.
- ✚ June 5 & 10 Open Office hours for the Revised Early Childhood Parental Opt-Out Policy
- ✚ The revised System of Payments and Fees Policy and Procedures have been under federal review following interactive state development and submission. Final wordsmithing and format edit recommendations from the federal funding source are coming to a close. Information about a two-tier approach for notification, training, and technical assistance will be coming out soon.
- ✚ Preparing Fiscal Year 2025-2026 County Lead Agency & ESIT Provider Agency Contracts
- ✚ Wrapping up Desktop Compliance Reviews in Collaboration with D-SAT
 - Results of the compliance reviews are used for the upcoming FFY 2024 SPP/APR.
 - Letters of Findings will be issued to ESIT Provider Agencies by August 30, 2025
- ✚ Annual Determinations will be issued by November 30, 2025

Please feel free to reach out to Tammy McCauley, ESIT Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager at tammy.mccauley@dcyf.wa.gov with questions or reflections.

ESIT State Leader Being Recognized for 30 Years of State Service!



We are very thrilled and pleased to share exciting news! We will soon be celebrating **Debbie Kirby's 30 Years of State Service!** Yes --- a State Service Award is being bestowed on Debbie in recognition of her 30-year work anniversary on May 18, 2025. As part of this momentous State recognition, Debbie will be receiving a 30-year pin, a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Secretary Tana Senn, and a very special Vase. We are so honored to have Debbie in the DCYF family and are looking forward to many more years of engagement!

While these celebratory items are genuinely being gifted to Debbie, they will simply not begin to express the multitude of gratitude we all hold for everything that she has done over the last three decades, and particularly these last eight years with the ESIT State Leadership Team. Debbie currently serves as a Quality Improvement Specialist with the Accountability & Quality Improvement Team. In this leadership role, she is responsible for coordinating and managing complex and multi-dimensional accountability structures and assisting the Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager in development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive ESIT-Statewide Integrated Monitoring System (E-SIMS) with a balanced focus on

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Submitted by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Administrator



compliance, continuous quality improvement, fiscal accountability, and child and family outcomes throughout the state.

Debbie is well-respected among her colleagues across the state and has a reputation for being an exemplary, compassionate, well-organized leader. She is a systems thinker and collaborative problem-solver who values the voices of parents, practitioners, and local leaders and intentionally seeks to create inclusive and engaging environments.

Thank you for your state service, Debbie!

Workforce Development Team Updates

The Workforce Development Team has continued to be collaboratively engaged with diverse community partners on several developments related to the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). Dr. DeEtte Snyder, Workforce Development Manager, is pleased to share new milestones in this important work.

Announcing Changes to the DCYF ESIT Qualified Personnel Guidelines, Including the Newest ESIT Credential

- The existing [Qualified Personnel Guidelines](#) have been revised to reflect the newest ESIT credential and will retire June 30th. The new Qualified Personnel Guidelines are posted on the [DCYF ESIT website](#) and will take effect July 1, 2025. The updates include revised language summarizing each ESIT Service and qualified ESIT Provider, as well as removing references to OSPI as no longer needed.
- Key changes regarding current Special Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals under Supervision:
 - The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C service named Special Instruction will be changed to “Developmental Services” in Washington.
 - Current and future providers known as a Special Education Teacher will be called “Developmental Specialist” and Paraprofessional under Supervision will be called “Developmental Associate”.

The new ESIT Credential for Developmental Specialists and Developmental Associates is now available! Please refer to the [ESIT Credential Guidance](#) for more information.

- The credential will:
 - Provide consistency across our diverse ESIT system and more accurately define how both the ESIT provider and the ESIT service supports overall child development in family friendly language.
 - multiple pathways to current qualifications for Developmental Specialists and establish qualifications for Developmental Associates.

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- Align more accurately to the necessary qualifications of both providers in our ESIT system.
- Allow flexibility for ESIT provider agencies to continue to require additional requirements for agency personnel beyond the DCYF ESIT minimums.

Public Comment Open for IDEA Part C State Application for FFY 2025

DCYF Annual State Application Under Part C of IDEA for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025

Public Comment Now Open

Washington state has adopted policies and procedures to ensure public participation in the annual grant application (including any policies, procedures, descriptions, methods, certifications, assurance, and other information submitted with the application) for the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C funds. The annual grant Application and related documents will be published in a manner to ensure circulation throughout the state for at least a 60-day period, with a 30-day opportunity for public comment and public hearings, as appropriate, during that period per [34 CFR § 303.208\(b\)](#).

For Public Review

DCYF's ESIT State Leadership Office posted the following materials for public review:

- [Annual State Application Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for Federal Fiscal Year \(FFY\) 2025](#)

Submit Public Comment Online (April 1 – May 1)

DCYF is committed to adopting rules – also known as Washington Administrative Code or WAC – in an open manner. We welcome your input.

[Submit Rules Comments Online](#)

Virtual Public Comment

Opportunities for public comment will begin April 1 and end May 1, including two virtual public hearings.

- **April 17** | 1:05 – 2:05 p.m.
[Join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 224 598 508 668
Passcode: mV2Fi69g

Date: April 16, 2025 | Partnership, Prevention & Services Division
Submitted by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Administrator



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

- **April 22** | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
[Join the meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 267 248 664 822
Passcode: ym2Wb2zS

If you would like to receive this notification in an alternate format or language, or have questions please email dcyf.esit@dcyf.wa.gov.

Service Delivery & Technical Assistance Team Highlight

Laurie Thomas, Service Delivery & Technical Assistance Manager, with the ESIT State Leadership Team, is pleased to highlight a collaborative initiative underway with the King County Lead Agency's ESIT Team.

Representatives from the DCYF-ESIT Service Delivery and Technical Assistance (SDTA) Team have been collaborating with leadership staff from the King County ESIT Team to address concerns expressed by providers related to supporting the families that they serve. Both the ESIT State Leadership Office and King County have received numerous questions related to immigrant rights and how best to respond and provide support. This group has combined these into a Frequently Asked Questions document with statutory and regulatory references that are currently going through the approval process within both the state and county structures, prior to distribution and publication. This group is also working on resources and supports for Spanish speaking staff and providers working with immigrant families and will be exploring various options for statewide supports and resources.

If you have questions or would like more information about this work please reach out to one of the project co-leads: Molly Stryker molly.stryker@dcyf.wa.gov or Norma Renteria-Lobo nrenteri@kingcounty.gov.

Spotlight on 2024 State Interagency Coordinating Council Structure [Retained]

The Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council has a rich history of consulting, advising, and assisting not only the IDEA Part C State Lead Agency, but partner state agencies serving on the council as well. The SICC advises and assists the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, (DCYF) and other participating agencies in implementing a collaborative and comprehensive statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have disabilities and their families, including identifying sources of fiscal and other support for services for the early intervention programs, assigning financial responsibilities to the appropriate agency, promoting interagency agreements and providing appropriate services for children.

Operating under [Executive Order 19-02](#), the SICC responsibilities include assisting DCYF in effective implementation of the statewide early intervention system by establishing a process that

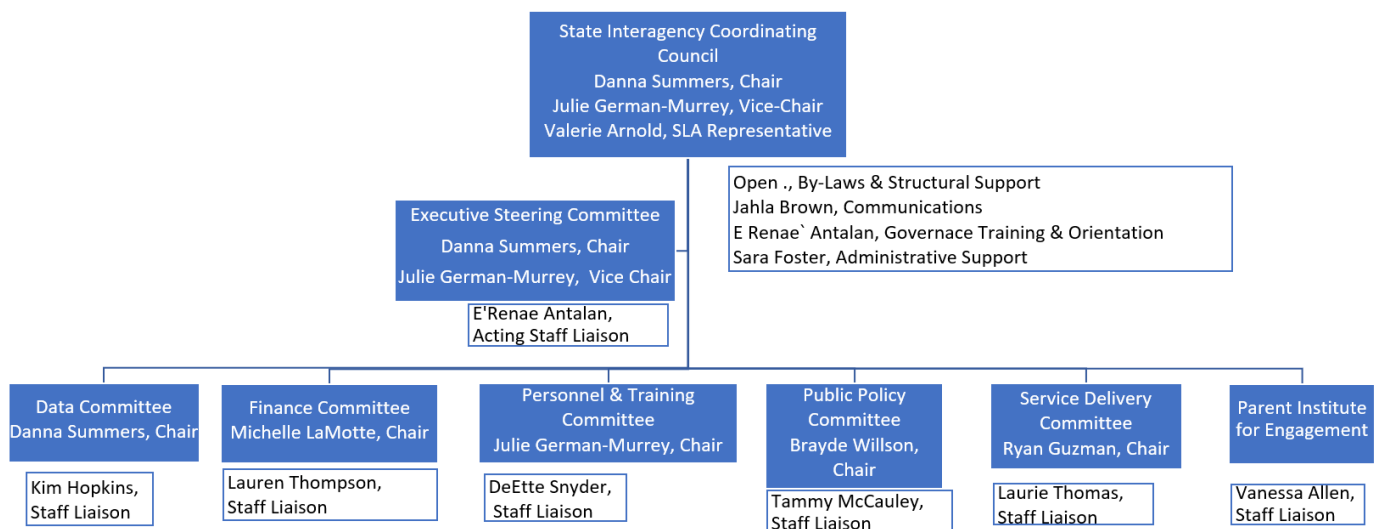
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includes seeking information from service providers, family resources coordinators, parents/caregivers, and others about any federal, state, or local policies that impede timely service delivery; and engaging in planned steps to ensure that any policy problems are resolved. One of the primary strategies for addressing this responsibility is the Council's creation of six sub-committees. The six sub-committees, reflected on the graphic below, operate under the direction and instruction of the full SICC. Diverse sub-committee membership is recruited from across the state and comprised of influencers at all levels of the early support community. The sub-committees engage in work priorities guided by the Council, in between the four quarterly SICC meetings. Chairs of the sub-committees, which must be currently seated Council members, collaborate with a designated ESIT Staff Liaison, to establish an annual work plan, which in turn drives the frequency of meetings, and ultimately committee agendas.

All sub-committee Chairs submit a SICC Quarterly Report to the Council to help ensure strong communication loops and that work plans are aligned with established Council priorities. For more information about the SICC and its sub-committees, please contact E'Renae Antalan, Community Collaboration Coordinator at erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov.



--END REPORT--

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5263

As of February 7, 2025

Title: An act relating to special education funding.

Brief Description: Concerning special education funding.

Sponsors: Senators Pedersen, Braun, Bateman, Chapman, Conway, Dhingra, Frame, Krishnadasan, Lias, Nobles, Orwall, Salomon, Shewmake, Stanford, Valdez and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/22/25, 1/30/25 [DPS-WM].
Ways & Means: 2/11/25.

Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill

- Increases the special education funding multipliers to 1.6381 for Pre-K students and 1.32 for K-12 students.
- Eliminates multiplier tiers that provide different levels of funding based on time spent in a general education setting.
- Removes the 16 percent special education enrollment funding cap.
- Decreases the special education safety net eligibility threshold for all school districts to 1.5 times the average per-pupil expenditure.
- Allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction to reserve up to 0.005 of excess cost allocations to use for certain statewide special education activities.
- Directs the creation of a statewide online system for individualized education programs.
- Aligns the funding multiplier for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers Program to the multiplier for Pre-K students, increasing the multiplier from 1.15 to 1.6381.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5263 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair, K-12; Wilson, C., Vice Chair, Early Learning; Harris, Ranking Member; Cortes, Dozier, Hansen, Krishnadasan and McCune.

Staff: Alex Fairfortune (786-7416)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Kayla Hammer (786-7305)

Background: Special Education Funding Multipliers. The state allocates funding for a program of special education for students with disabilities. Special education is funded on an excess cost formula for up to 16 percent of a district's students. This formula multiplies the district's base allocation for students enrolled in K-12 special education by an excess cost multiplier of either:

- 1.12 for students receiving special education and reported to be in the general education setting for 80 percent or more of the school day; or
- 1.06 for students receiving special education and reported to be in the general education setting for less than 80 percent of the school day.

Pre-K students receiving special education services, including three-, four-, and five-year-olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten, are funded based on a multiplier of 1.2. These students are excluded from the 16 percent enrollment funding cap.

Safety Net Funding. Beyond these allocations, the Safety Net Oversight Committee (Committee), appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, may award safety net funding if a district can convincingly demonstrate that all legitimate expenditures for special education exceed all available revenues from state funding formulas, and it is maximizing its eligibility for all related state and federal revenues. The Committee may award safety net funding to applicants for high-need individuals and for community characteristics that draw a large number of students eligible for special education. A high-need individual is eligible for a safety net award if the student's individualized education program costs exceed 2.2 times the average per-pupil expenditure. If the school district has fewer than 1000 students this threshold is reduced to two times the average per-pupil expenditure.

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families administers the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Program to provide early intervention services to all eligible children with disabilities from zero to three years of age. Funding for ESIT is appropriated based on the annual average headcount of children ages zero to three who are eligible for and receiving early intervention services, multiplied by the

statewide basic education allocation, multiplied by 1.15.

Summary of Bill (First Substitute): Special Education Funding Multipliers. The special education multipliers set in statute are increased and the tiered structure based on education setting is removed. The new multipliers are as follows:

- 1.6381 for Pre-K students receiving special education services, including three-, four-, and five-year-olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten; and
- 1.32 for K-12 students receiving special education.

The ESIT funding multiplier is changed to align with the multiplier for Pre-K students, increasing from 1.15 to 1.6381.

The 16 percent enrollment funding cap is removed.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) may reserve up to 0.005 of the excess cost allocations to use for statewide special education activities.

Safety Net Funding. The safety net eligibility threshold is reduced for all school districts to 1.5 times the average per-pupil expenditure.

The Committee may no longer award safety net funding to applicant districts for community characteristics that draw a large number of students eligible for special education.

OSPI must distribute safety net awards to school districts on a quarterly basis if the following criteria are met:

- the safety net award is provided for a high-cost student that receives special education services from an authorized entity located outside of Washington;
- the school district successfully applied for and received a safety net award for the high-cost student in a prior school year, and the student's placement has not changed since that safety net award was granted;
- the school district meets all other safety net award eligibility requirements as determined by the Committee;
- the school district develops and maintains an online system for individualized education programs (IEPs); and
- the school district provides professional development in inclusionary practices to local education agencies, schools, and community partners.

Statewide Online System for Individualized Education Programs. OSPI must develop and maintain a statewide online system for individualized education programs, in consultation with a nonprofit information processing cooperative, and ensure statewide professional development opportunities are available to support its use.

The purposes of the online system is to:

- provide a uniform, centralized platform for creating and managing individualized education programs;
- ensure compliance with federal and state special education requirements;
- improve the efficiency and effectiveness of individualized education program development and oversight; and
- improve educator collaboration and serve as an instructional tool to improve educational outcomes.

The online system must be a statewide model that is made available at no cost to school districts and public schools, and meet the following requirements:

- incorporate safeguards to protect confidential student information;
- allow for role-based access so only authorized users may view or modify IEPs;
- be able to integrate emerging technologies to continually enhance its functionality and effectiveness;
- ensure IEPs can show evidence of access to grade level standards, reasonable progress, improved student outcomes, and students' strengths and needs;
- include integrated language support and translation services;
- allow for robust family engagement, including access to information about student progress and how IEP goals connect to grade level standards; and
- comply with state and federal accessibility standards.

General Apportionment Proration. The proration of general apportionment funding allocated to the Special Education Program may not be based on an individual district's least restrictive environment percentage. A uniform percentage of general apportionment funding for special education students may be adopted by the SPI for proration and allocation.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE (First Substitute):

- Changes the single tier multiplier for K-12 students from 1.5289 to 1.32;
- Aligns the ESIT to the multiplier for Pre-K students, increasing the multiplier from 1.15 to 1.6381;
- Removes language allowing communities with a large number of special education students to apply for safety net funding;
- Requires safety net funds to be distributed quarterly in certain circumstances;
- Allows OSPI to reserve 0.005 of excess special education funding for certain statewide special education activities, and specifies which activities are required and optional.
- Requires OSPI to develop and maintain a statewide IEP system and specifies system requirements.
- Authorizes OSPI to adopt a uniform proration percentage of general apportionment funding for special education students.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available. New fiscal note requested on January 30, 2025.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on September 1, 2025.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill (Early Learning & K-12 Education): *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: State and federal law requires school districts to provide special education services to kids in public schools that have disabilities—in what world can we say that is not basic education? All 295 school districts are saying there is not enough funding to cover actual costs. Under the current funding policy, the state gives more money for kids with lower needs and less money for students that have higher needs. This was well intentioned but some students need to be in a contained classroom outside of the general education setting. The priorities, in order, should be: (1) get rid of the enrollment cap as it is not sensible, (2) lower the safety net threshold, and (3) put whatever we can afford into the multiplier as a step in the right direction. Special education funding gaps are significant and redirecting the resources used to fill those gaps could benefit all students. By removing the cap and replacing the tiered model, the bill will more accurately reflect the reality of serving students. Including components of Senator Wellman's special education funding bill, SB 5307, would be highly beneficial, including quarterly distribution of safety net awards and the inclusion and disproportionality language.

OTHER: The bill language should be amended to include language from HB 1357 which increases the multiplier for ESIT children aged zero to three. Thirty-nine percent of children exiting early support do not require more services, which is a long term savings for the state. Early intervention should be included as an amendment to the bill as parents need help addressing the needs of their children.

Persons Testifying (Early Learning & K-12 Education): PRO: Senator Jamie Pedersen, Prime Sponsor; Dr. Shelley Redinger, Richland School District; Traci Pierce, Kennewick School District; Preston Dwoskin; Samantha Fogg, SCPTSA, Co-President; Lance Goodpaster, Superintendent, Franklin Pierce School District; Krestin Bahr, Superintendent, Peninsula School District; Jeff Chamberlin, Superintendent, University Place School District; Mary Templeton, Lake Stevens School District; Heather Tow-Yick, Issaquah School District; Ben Ferney, Cheney Public Schools; Brianna Rose, Parent of a SpEd student.

OTHER: Mike Stewart, Boyer Children's Clinic; Sunny Luke, Client parent.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Early Learning & K-12 Education): PRO: Dr. Kelly Aramaki, Superintendent, Bellevue Public Schools; Dr. Concie Pedroza, Superintendent, Tukwila School District; Dr. Dani Pfeiffer, Superintendent, Federal Way School District; Dr. Ivan Duran, Superintendent, Highline School District; Dr. Brent Jones,

Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools; Clifford Traisman, Northshore School District (and Seattle, Highline, Bellevue Public Schools); Michelle Whitney, Pasco School District; Tricia Lubach, Executive Director, Washington State School Directors' Association; Joel Aune, Executive Director, Washington Association of School Administrators; Melissa Stone, Secretary, Washington State PTA; Lindsey Yocum, Lake Washington School District; Shane Backlund, ESD 105 Schools Coalition; Larry Delaney, Washington Education Association; Lori Helmy Helmy, Volunteer advocate; Sarah Milici, Parent advocate; Kathryn Salveson, Ed.S., NCSP, WSASP; Holly Wehner; Patrick Murphy, Olympia School District; Ryan Arnold; Rob Bryant, Federal Way Public Schools; Emily Carmichael; Rivkah Thomson; Kayla Lindley.

State Interagency Coordinating Council Committee Report

Personnel & Training Committee Report

Date: 3/20/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Julie German-Murrey and Amy Baker

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: DeEtte Snyder

of Members: 12

Recruiting: ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: Looking for a connection to higher education. We had a parent visit our March Meeting.

of Meetings Since Last SICC: Our recent meetings were on February 10 and March 10. Our April meeting is canceled because of committee members being out of town.

Topics Covered: In February, the majority of our meeting was dedicated to reviewing educator standards and the process used to align them with the ESIT Core Competencies for the purpose of approving clock hours, guided by a conversation facilitated by Adrienne O'Brien. In March, DeEtte gathered feedback on the Developmental Specialist Credential and the associated rollout plan.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2025.

Committee Progress to Date:

The committee has made significant progress in advancing the development of credentials for various ESIT roles and has played a key role in both their creation and rollout plans. At an upcoming meeting, we will discuss potential ideas for our next project.

Committee Challenges or Obstacles:

None currently.

Motion(s):



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Finalized Date: March 23, 2025
ESIT State Interagency Coordinating Council
Approved for submission by: Chair, Julie German-Murrey

Leadership in Early Support Update: Continuing to Plan for a Bright Future

April SICC Meeting

Judy King, Director of Family and Community Support, DCYF

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Input Sessions

- ESIT State Leadership Team (*January*)
- Public Policy and Advocate Partners (*February*)
- Parent Institute for Engagement Leadership Academy (*February*)
- State Interagency Coordinating Council (*February*)
- County Lead Agencies (*March*)

Survey: Open to all (*closes April 24*)

- English
- Spanish



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Listening, Reflecting, Learning

What is most important?



Listening, Reflecting, Learning

What is Most Important?

diversity cultural-competency communication equity participation family-centered inclusion collaboration planning caring peace people advocacy community leadership community connections

flexibility collaboration relationships equity trust adaptability transparency evaluative leadership supportive experience support



Competencies

- Promotes Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Develops and manages internal/external partnerships/relationships
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills
- Encourages active involvement of all staff and stakeholders in decision-making processes
- Supports vision, philosophy and values of the program



Examples: Attributes in Action

- Trust building happening across state and system; talk with families, providers and policy makers
- Curiosity about how things are working-strengths and challenges; create safe place for questions and use feedback loops, especially with parents
- Actions that center on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Having hard conversations
- Thought partnership that engages to support movement and collaboration outside of agency
- Using data from listening session and quantitative data to inform decisions
- Understanding funding, braiding and administrative burden
- Strengthening and supporting teams with systems in place to deal with overwhelm



Next Planned Steps

April: Recruitment closes April 21

Thank you!

May: Interviewing

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

June: Hiring/Initial Orientation &Engagement (team, programs and partners)

judy.king@dcyf.wa.gov

July- September: Initial Listening/Learning

