

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wed., April 16, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

9 – 9:25 a.m. | Welcome, Roll Call, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions

- ✚ The first few minutes were reserved to let members and attendees join the meeting.
- ✚ ESIT Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae`, greeted members and participants.
- ✚ E Renae` introduced herself and shared the meeting Role and Purpose and Group Agreements
- ✚ E Renae` shared the *Teams Navigation & Dos and Don'ts*.
- ✚ Sheryl Fryberg, SICC Tulalip Tribal Representative, led a meaningful Land Acknowledgment and introduced herself.
- ✚ E Renae` conducted SICC member roll call and introductions.
- ✚ There was not yet a quorum to approve the meeting minutes and agenda at this time in the meeting.

9:25 – 9:35 a.m. | Val Arnold Appreciation Time

This was an appreciation time for members to share their thanks, memories and well wishes to Valerie Arnold, as she transitions from out of her role as ESIT State Program Administrator role into retirement.

9:35 – 10:01 a.m. | Planning for A Bright Future in Early Support

Judy King, Director of Family & Community Support, introduced herself and shared her deep gratitude to Val Arnold for her years of excellence, support and services. Judy provided an update on themes from community forums and the next steps.

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

10:02 – 10:08 a.m. | SICC Member Spotlight Mustapha Kebbeh, Chief Program Officer, Kinderling

Mustapha Kebbeh, Chief Programs Officer for Kinderling, shared highlights of his career, his passion and interests with data. SICC Members had an opportunity to ask questions.

I currently serve as the Chief Program Officer at Kinderling, where I oversee our Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) programs along with a range of family-centered services across multiple campuses in the Puget Sound region. I bring over 26 years of



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Original Date: April 16, 2025 | Revised Date:

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

experience in program development and nonprofit leadership, much of it focused on supporting young children and families through early childhood development, child protection, education, and health programs in both humanitarian and development settings.

Throughout my career, I've led national strategies, built cross-sector partnerships, secured funding for large-scale initiatives, and championed rights-based, community-driven approaches. I'm multilingual, and the ability to connect across languages and cultures has been central to how I lead and collaborate.

What drives my work is a deep commitment to equity and the belief that every child—regardless of their background or circumstances—deserves the chance to thrive. At Kindering, I'm proud to be part of a team advancing inclusive, high-quality early intervention services that make a real impact in the lives of families. I look forward to learning from all of you and contributing to our shared vision for the ESIT system.

10:08 – 10:10 a.m. | Additional SICC Member Introductions

SICC members that joined later in the meeting had the opportunity to be included in the roll call and give their introductions

10:10 – 10:20 a.m. | Transition Break

10:20 – 11:40 a.m. | CHERISH

Julie Fisher, CHERISH Program Director and Terreca DeFehr, Parent Engagement Advisor of CHERISH gave a program overview, shared recent updates and shared a brief video demonstrating the amount of people and systems that are part of a family's life when they are involved in a child welfare dependency. SICC members and participants had a chance to hear from a panel of five who have been impacted by the CHERISH model. The panel included: a parent, and their supporting CHERISH-trained infant mental health therapist from Kindering; 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. SICC Members had an opportunity to ask questions and gain more insights.

11:40 – 11:45 a.m. | Public Comment

No public comment.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Original Date: April 16, 2025 | Revised Date: April 21, 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

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Lunch

12:15 – 12:30 p.m. | Agency Updates

SICC State Agency Representatives agency verbally shared updates and insights on their work in the community.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sheryl Fryberg, Tulalip Tribal Representative
 - Mainly focus on saving HeadStart, working with WASA and ASHA.
 - Setting up multi-disciplinary meetings to support a health plan for a family receiving services.
- Department of Services for the Blind, Sara Logston
 - Overview of education, support, resources and services available.
 - New outreach program was launched to support and engage families.
- Department of Health, Amanda Simon
 - Recently compiled survey intake and used the analysis to set next year's priorities.

12:30 – 12:45 p.m. | ESIT Caseload Forecast Council Update, Paula Moore

Paula Moore shared the current forecast about the process, progress and posed some questions to the members and providers about current trends in serving families. The new administration and current immigration situation has impacted some ongoing trends. SICC members and providers had a chance to share insights and feedback on their current enrollment and referral trends.

12:45 – 1:13 p.m. | Agency Updates Continued

- Military Representative, Dr. Michelle Clark
 - Shared verbal updates about current services and therapy available: CARE Center, parent training, community resources, bridged care, some screenings, First Start class (autism education class and resources) and shared more in depth about the services and care.
- [ESIT State Lead Agency \(DCYF\)](#), Valerie Arnold, DCYF ESIT State Administrator

Leading Through Federal & State Transitions

ESIT State Program Administrator, Valerie Arnold gave federal updates intended to create space for meaningful dialogue. Council members had the opportunity to identify issues, concerns, or



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers

opportunities related to transitional directives or topics that may impact services to children and their families.

1:13 – 1:44 p.m. | SICC Sub-Committee Updates

This was a time for SICC Sub-Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs in attendance to share highlights from Quarterly Sub Committee Reports:

- Public Policy, Chair, Brayde Willson share verbal updates.
 - **Second Read:** Proposed Amendments and recommendations to Bylaws of WA State ICC.
 - Consideration of [EO 19-02](#).
 - More work to be done before rendering a vote.
- [Personnel & Training](#)

1:44 – 2:06 p.m. | DCYF Family Separation Response Task Force

Lillian Ferraz, DCYF Task Force Administrator, gave an overview of the purpose of the Task Force, scope of work and an update on their next steps. Part of the work is compiling resources and promoting available programs. Current projects include process mapping of family separation, family preparation toolkit drafting, Special Immigrant Juvenile Visa policy review, community partner monthly meeting and report drafting.

2:06 – 2:09 p.m. | Minutes & Agenda Approval

Motion: SICC Member, Mustapha Kebbeh, moved to approve the draft April agenda and the previous draft February 2025 meeting minutes. SICC member, Michelle LaMotte, seconded. The motion was approved.

SICC Sub-Committee Updates | 2:09 – 2:35 p.m.

- Finance Committee Chair, Michelle LaMotte shared verbal updates.
 - **Proposed 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.

Motion: Michelle LaMotte moved to approve: *to form an ad hoc workgroup with representatives from each SICC Subcommittee, in partnership with the ESIT state leadership team, to engage in contingency*



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers

planning for sustaining services, should we experience budgetary or policy changes. SICC Member, Mustapha Kebbeh, seconded. The members voted and the motion was approved.

- **Proposed Joint Motion** – PPC/Finance joint committees request that SICC with DCYF collaborate with WA state governor's office and state partners, including HCA, DSHS, OSPI, and DOH, to share information about potential changes to Medicaid and its impact to their services/clients. We further request that updates on this collaboration be added as a standing SICC agenda item.

Motion: SICC Member Michelle LaMotte moved that the *PPC/Finance joint committees request that SICC with DCYF collaborate with WA state governor's office and state partners, including HCA, DSHS, OSPI, and DOH, to share information about potential changes to Medicaid and its impact to their services/clients. We further request that updates on this collaboration be added as a standing SICC agenda item.* SICC member, Mustapha Kebbeh, seconded motion was seconded. The members voted and the motion was approved.

2:35 – 2:44 p.m. | Public Comment

This was a time for the public to share insights and questions from the day's meeting.

Question: Is the topic of Home Visiting Safety being included in any of the sub committees?

Alicia Skelly with Holly Ridge Center, retiring Vice Chair, shared the importance of serving on the SICC Sub-Committees.

2:44 -2:45 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up

ESIT Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae`, gave closing remarks and adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Next SICC Meetings

- Wed., July 15 (Pie Graduation) – July 16 (SICC) | Virtual
- Wed., October 15 | Virtual
- Wed., January 21, 2026, | Virtual
- Wed., February 18, 2026 | Virtual



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES