



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**District of Columbia Interagency Coordinating Council (DC ICC)  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 15, 2020, 12-2 p.m.  
Virtual

**Attendance:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Michele Gerstein (Parent /Chairperson)	Present	Judith Curry (Parent)	Present
Cynthia McEwen (Parent /Co-Chairperson)	Present	Lavdena Orr (MCO Representative)	Absent
Amy Cullen (Provider)	Present	Nicole Lee-Mwandha (OSSE Representative on Homeless Populations)	Present
Denise Ballard (CFSA)	Present	Quiana Mitchem (Provider)	Present
Colleen Sonosky (Department of Healthcare Finance, Medicaid Program)	Present	Royace Hagler (UPO – Early Head Start)	Absent
Dr. Margareth Legaspi – OSSE	Absent	Sharon Dietsche (DBH)	Present
Howard Liebers (Private Insurance)	Present	Toby Long (Higher Education)	Present
Christina Setlow – Representative from DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson’s Office	Present	Dawn Hilton	Present

**OSSE Support Personnel:**

Andres Alvarado (Strong Start), Chelsia Latney (Strong Start), Charmene F. Johnson (CFSA), Tierra Baskerville (DHCF), Barbara Grant (OSSE), Adrienne Rodriguez (OSSE), Elizabeth Rihani (DCPS - Early Stages), David Harper (OSSE), Jasmyn Price (OSSE)

**Call to Order:**

- A. The Chairperson, Michele Gerstein, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

**Open Issues:**

- A. The Chairperson asked for the ICC board to review the January meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved by Michele Gerstein and seconded by Denise Ballard.
- B. The Chairperson, Michele Gerstein, reviewed the action items from the January ICC meeting.
  - Michele Gerstein to follow-up with Dr. Margareth Legaspi for a list of PDG Grant Activities completed in fiscal year 2019 (FY19) that was verbally shared during the January meeting.
  - Michele Gerstein/Cynthia McEwen/Judith Curry drafted a preliminary Committee Structure; this will be reviewed and discussed at the next ICC meeting in October.
  - New Strong Start building was delayed at the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; it is currently underway and estimated to be completed in September 2020.
  - Due to timelines, DBH was unable to spend the monies from the PDG grant for Healthy Futures.

- A parent leader has been identified for Parent Café; these events have been put on hold due to COVID-19.
  - Strong Start Parent Newsletter was put on hold due to COVID-19; Andres Alvarado will work with Allan Phillips on a new rollout date.
- C. Michele Gerstein presented an update on ICC membership vacancies
- Current openings include: One provider openings, two parent vacancies
  - Elizabeth Rihani (DCPS – Early Stages) is awaiting final signoff from MOTA

**Meeting Business:**

A. DC Early Intervention Program (DC EIP)

- Quarterly data reports (Andres Alvarado)
  - Andres Alvarado presented the reports with updated items including new “Strong Start/DC EIP FY20 Data” with a stacked bar graph to better understand the subtotals.
  - COVID-19 has impacted referrals - March (122), April (71), and May (71) from February (219). The numbers rebounded but with lower levels in June (101)
  - There has been a shift in who is referring services: Child Development Centers (14% decrease to 1%) to Parents (17% increase to 23%) and Mary’s Center (6% increase to 15%); Children’s Hospital (36% decrease to 28%).
- Telehealth services (Andres Alvarado)
  - Services were suspended for two weeks from March 16-30 due to COVID-19 to prepare for telehealth services.
  - Telehealth services went live April 1, 2020, offering audio-only and video/audio options for parents.
  - As of May 1, 2020: 74% of children received services; 70% of services were received by children; these number are good compared to the national benchmark from State Coordinators for telehealth service offerings.
  - Eligible services received by children via telehealth: OT (65%), PT (70%), Speech (74%), ABA (59%), Developmental Therapy (73%).
  - Survey of parents who didn’t receive telehealth revealed: 82% (not available/interested), 13% (unknown), 1% (no internet); 2% (no phone); 2% (family staying outside of DC).
  - There is a phased approach planned for rolling out in-person services.
  - Phase 1 is telehealth only (Current state).
  - Phase 2 will be a hybrid model with some in-person services for families who do not want to do telehealth.
  - Evaluation of telehealth services, parent surveys, and input from service providers will assist in determining the plan for Phase 2.
- Natural Learning Environment Practices (Andres Alvarado and Chelsia Latney)
  - Andres Alvarado and Chelsia Latney presented a comprehensive overview of the new Primary Service Provider (PSP) approach.
  - A new contract is needed to implement the new model with updated criteria for service providers including the ability to offer all four core services (Speech, PT, OT and Developmental Therapy); provide required service hours; designate a clinical supervisor and program supervisor; participate in teaming and joint visit requirements; and must be in network with all MCOs.

- ABA, vision, and hearing are exempt from the solicitation. Cynthia McEwen asked if these services will be coordinated since they are not part of the core services requirement. Andres Alvarado said that the services will be coordinated even though they are outside of the core services offered by a contractor.
- First step is to award the contracts and then develop implementation, training, and implementation plan.
- Target plan for onboarding new contracts is Oct. 1, 2020.

B. State Part C (Andres Alvarado)

- OSEP designated Part C as meets requirements.

C. Partner agencies

- CFSA (Denise Ballard)
  - Telehealth is underway due to COVID-19.
  - Centers are up and running for in-person activity for development screening/ ASQ.
  - There has been a decline in screening numbers of school-aged children.
  - There are no in-home nurse screenings as parents are not allowing nurses into their homes.
- DHCF (Colleen Sonosky)
  - Medicaid eligibility has not ended for all beneficiaries through the Public Health Emergency --- coverage will not end.
  - DHCF has worked closely with OSSE on ensuring telehealth coverage of EI services.
  - DHCF has worked closely with DC Health and the MCOs on the importance of well-child visits continuing during this time and ensuring children get immunizations safely at Medicaid provider sites.
- OSSE Representative on Homeless Populations (Nicole Lee-Mwandha)
  - COVID-19 has revealed a lot of challenges in the technology divide.
  - For some emergency sites, there is no Wi-Fi for education access in shelters and hotels for school-aged youth.
  - OSSE is working with DHS and DCPS to ensure hotspots and laptops for educational access but there is a continuing challenge as community-based shelters have high turnover rates (30-60-90 days) and new individuals will enter without access.
- DC Council (Christina Setlow)
  - DC FY21 Budget process with D.C. Council planning to pass a final spending plan by July 28, 2020. The new fiscal year begins October 2020.
- DCPS – Early Stages (Elizabeth Rihani)
  - Elizabeth Rihani will join the ICC as the representative for the provider, DCPS - Early Stages; pending final signoff from MOTA.

- Elizabeth Rihani asked the ICC to consider what the committee would like to know and what reporting would be helpful from Early Stages.
- There has been a seamless continuation of the process between Early Intervention and Early Stages.
- Children continue to go through the eligibility, referral, and Extended Option processes.
- Since COVID-19 began, cancellations have decreased and the virtual engagement with parents has been strong; indicating that virtual meetings may be a better option for parent engagement.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Q4: Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
  - o TBD: Virtual via Microsoft Teams, New Strong Start Office (if open, if in-person meeting), NE Library or Turkey Thicket Recreation Center
- Retreat: Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
  - o TBD: Virtual via Microsoft Teams, Amerihealth in SW, backup OSSE)
- Michele Gerstein and Cynthia McEwen will confirm if an additional meeting for the year has to be added to make up for the canceled meeting in April (due to COVID-19)

Cynthia McEwen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2 p.m.; Judith Curry seconded the motion.

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Chair Signature

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Date