



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

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

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 6-8 p.m.

2041 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, Suite 236, Washington, DC 20020

Members in Attendance:

- Elizabeth Groginsky (Agency for Child Care, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE))
- Quiana Mitchem (Provider)
- Cynthia McEwen (Parent)
- Carlene Reid (OSSE)
- Charmene Johnson representing Denise Ballard (Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)),
- Toby Long (Higher Education)
- Amy Cullen (Provider)
- Sharice Lane (Provider)
- Nicole Lee-Mwandha (OSSE Representative on Homeless Populations)
- Judith Curry (Parent)
- Michele Gerstein (Parent)
- Colleen Sonosky (Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), Medicaid Program)

Members not in Attendance:

- Lavdena Orr (Managed Care Organization (MCO) Representative)
- Daniel Reilly (Parent)
- Barbara Parks (Department of Behavioral Health (DBH))
- Howard Liebers (Private Insurance)
- Royace Hagler (United Planning Organization (UPO) – Early Head Start)

OSSE Support Personnel:

Melanie Newkirk (DC ICC Liaison), Allan Phillips (Special Assistant Part C), Andres Alvarado (Director of Strong Start), Sandra Smith (Strong Start Program Manager), Chelsia Latney (Supervisory Early Intervention Specialist), Jasmyn Price (Supervisory Early Intervention Specialist), Selby Ross (Early Intervention Specialist), Ana Rodriguez (Early Intervention Specialist), Neal Riemer (Early Intervention Specialist)

Call to Order:

- A. The Chairperson, Michele Gerstein, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Open Issues:

- A. The Chairperson asked for the ICC board to review the minutes from the Jan. 25, 2019 meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by Michele Gerstein and seconded by Colleen Sonosky.
- B. The Chairperson reviewed DC ICC Coordinating Council 2019 Priorities. Toby Long moved to approve the priorities and the motion was seconded by Sharice Lane.

1. A quarterly Strong Start newsletter was discussed. Allan noted this is a possibility and will meet with Andres Alvarado. The goal is to send out the newsletter to parents in Strong Start.
- C. The Chairperson opened a discussion regarding attendance of ICC members. We discussed reaching out to inactive members. Colleen will be reaching out to the MCO representative and Allan will be reaching out to DBH, Early Stages and Councilmember David Grosso.
- D. Sharice Lane announced that she will be resigning from the ICC as she is transitioning to a new position out of the District. She is currently serving as a provider representative. This now leaves two provider vacancies.
- E. Allan will be the point of contact for Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) and will be working with MOTA to fill vacancies.
- F. Quiana Mitchem brought up easing meeting access for ICC members by setting up a conference line for meetings.
- G. Elizabeth Groginsky discussed how we can work with MOTA on improving the process of filling ICC vacancies.
- H. Toby Long recommended that Michele send out an email to all ICC members regarding new guidelines on attendance.
- I. Co-chair position is open. Cynthia McEwen accepted nomination as co-chair. Motion for nomination was made by Michele Gerstein and seconded by Amy Cullen. All members voted unanimously to approve.
- J. Parent café at UPO was discussed. State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC) Early Intervention and Family Supports (EIFS) committee is willing to partner with ICC. Elizabeth Groginsky offered to connect with Bainum Foundation who has trained facilitators. The ICC identified that the goal is to have four parent cafes over the next year.

Meeting Business:

- A. DC Early Intervention Program (DC EIP) Quarterly Updates
 1. Andres Alvarado (Director of Early Intervention) discussed playgroups and natural learning environment practices (NLEP)
 - a. Provided an update on the Strong Start playgroups.
 - b. August 2018 Strong Start signed a memorandum of agreement with DC Public Library (DCPL) to ease expansion process in making playgroups accessible across all eight wards. A caregiver feedback survey was established in March of 2019. Attendance per location was presented. Andres noted in the previous model that 120 families were served from September 2016 through August 2018. Under the new monthly model, 170 families were served from September 2018 through February 2019. Each playgroup is now led by two early interventionists and a child find specialist. There are two new locations pending. Mt. Pleasant will begin in May and when the SW library closes, the Bellevue location will start.
 - c. NLEP framework
 - i. The NLEP model was presented. Trainings have occurred system wide. Jasmyn Price presented on how the program supports the family and discussed the coaching interaction style.
 - ii. Teaming approach also was presented. Strong Start has set a goal for full implementation by the end of September 2020. July 1, 2020 is goal for contracts to be in place with providers.

- d. Expanded eligibility impact on enrollment in Strong Start
 - i. Information by eligibility criteria and ward specific data was presented.
- B. Allan Phillips (Special Assistant, Part C) covered Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis
 - 1. ICC priorities focus on being a more engaged committee and being a resource to parents.

Partner Agency Updates:

- A. Elizabeth Groginsky (Agency for Child Care, (OSSE) reported on the Preschool Child Development Grant and presented a listening sessions flyer that will be disseminated.
- B. Colleen Sonosky (DHCF, Medicaid Program) reported that Children’s National Medical Center has been awarded Pritzker Children’s initiative. She also provided an update on the SECDCC. She noted that on the CMS 416 form, reported numbers were relatively constant. The birth to 5 population is receiving well child visits around 75 percent. DC at or above national averages on national measures. DHCF is putting in an 1115 waiver which is a waiver to the federal government asking to do things differently. First plan is to help adults get access to institutions for mental health. Years two, three, four and five will include looking at the overall system and how it could be transformed.
- C. Denise Ballard (CFSA) reported on an initiative that they have implemented to better track DC children placed in foster homes in Maryland. Working with Prince George’s County infants and toddlers program, the focus is on tracking, monitoring and ensuring seamless service delivery for children experiencing developmental delays.
- D. Announcements
 - 1. A call was put out for parent members of the ICC to take over the roles and duties of the vice chair or secretary. Cynthia McEwen accepted the nomination to be Vice Chair of the ICC. No parent members expressed interested in assuming the role of secretary.
 - 2. ICC has vacancies needing to be filled for parent, provider and DBH.
 - 3. Next quarterly meeting date and location are to be determined. A survey will be sent out to ICC members by the chairperson to establish the date.

Michele Gerstein motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Chair Signature

Date