

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)
 Quarterly Meeting
 November 5, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Member Name	Member Seat	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	Absent
Matt Bracket	Member from the agency responsible for the State Medicaid and CHIP program		X	
Kim Carr	Public/private provider of early intervention services			X
James Dunn	Member from the agency responsible for the State regulation of private health insurance			X
Senator Anitere Flores	Member from the State Legislature			X
Erin Hough	Member from the state child welfare agency responsible for foster care		X	
Renee Jenkins	Member from the state agency involved in the provision of, or payment for, early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families		X	
Dr. Judith Levin	Member from personnel preparation program			X
Rob Porcaro	Public/private provider of early intervention services			X
Misty Porter	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger		X	
Lourdes Quintana	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Kathleen Vergara	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Dr. Ilene Wilkens	Public/private provider of early intervention services		X	
Member Name	Member Seat	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	Absent
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger	--	--	--
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 6 or younger	--	--	--
Vacant	Parent of child with disability age 12 or younger	--	--	--



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Vacant	Public/private provider of early intervention services	--	--	--
Vacant	Member from the agency responsible for children's mental health	--	--	--
Vacant	Member of the state education agency responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities	--	--	--
Vacant	Member from a Head Start Program	--	--	--
Vacant	Member from the state agency responsible for child care	--	--	--
Vacant	Office of Coordination of Education of Homeless Children & Youth	--	--	--
Guests	Affiliation	Present (In Person)	Present (Via Phone)	
Sharika Farlin	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dawn Lynch	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dusty Edwards	Early Steps State Office		X	
Robert French	Early Steps State Office		X	
Allison Rudd	Early Steps State Office		X	
Angela Marcus	Early Steps State Office		X	
Jasmine Wallace	Early Steps State Office		X	
Lily Wells	Early Steps State Office		X	
Risa Davis	Early Steps State Office		X	
Azizi Coleman	Early Steps State Office		X	
Marcy Hajdukiewicz	Early Steps State Office		X	
Dr. Robert Karch	Early Steps State Office		X	
Mary Hilton	Early Steps State Office		X	
Robin Masterson	Early Steps State Office		X	



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Terry OwenSaucier	Early Steps State Office		X
Debbie J.			X
Laurie Colon			X
Arleen Chilton			X
Jana Khoury	Southernmost Coast		X
Paola Hatton-Negron	Southernmost Coast		X
Olabisi Baruwa-Castro	Southernmost Coast		X
Annalise Campisi			X
Kathy Riley			X
Emily Shaffer			X
Ellie Schrot	Gold Coast Early Steps		X
Cristina Navarrete			X
Althea Puzio			X
Mary K Carroll			X
Kim Barger			X
Kim Werner			X
Stephanie Ellis			X
Lisa Gemmill			X
Tamelia Malcolm			X
Christine Pawelczyk			X
April Leopold			X
Juliana Melara			X
Nicki Phillips-Wright			X
Trina Puddefoot			X
Marlen Martinez			X
Marissa Barrera			X



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Call to Order – *Dr. Ilene Wilkins, Chair*

Ms. Allison Rudd called the meeting to order and completed Council member roll call. The presence of a quorum was established with of the members in attendance in person or via phone. The Council voted unanimously to approve the July 29, 2020, Meeting Minutes with no abstentions, or negative votes.

Motion: Approval of the July 29, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Motion Made By: Kathleen Vergara

Seconded Motion: Misty Porter

Discussion: None

Early Steps State Office Program Update (Legislative Update) – *Marcy Hajdukiewicz, Director, Division of Children's Medical Services, Florida Department of Health*

Marcy Hajdukiewicz informed the council on the staffing update that Dusty Edwards will now be the Bureau Chief for Early Steps and Newborn Screening. Dusty Edwards introduced herself to the council. Marcy Hajdukiewicz updated the council there was one legislative proposal for authority to spend non reoccurring dollars for the Early Steps Administrative Data system. This was also requested this for SSIP phase three dollars. Marcy Hajdukiewicz informed the council on the budgetary issues due to COVID-19 and that there is an unknown deficit that could likely impact DOH and some of the contracts.

Child Outcome Measurement System – *K. Renee Jenkins, IDEA Part C Coordinator/Early Steps Section Administrator, Florida Department of Health*

Renee Jenkins talked about Early Steps tracking the decline in services due to COVID-19, the Early Steps Functional Directory and who is the lead for each topical area. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked for Allison Rudd to share the Functional Directory with the council. Renee Jenkins also provided the council with an update on the new COS implementation and TRAIN modules and informed the council there is a Q&A document on the ESSO website and that ESSO is working with federal TA team regarding the implementation of the COS.

COVID-19 Data System Codes – *Robert French, Early Steps Data Manager, Florida Department of Health*

Robert French provided an overview and summary of the ESSO response to COVID-19, provided the council with information regarding the new barrier codes introduced in August. There were three new detailed barrier codes introduced to replace the generic COVID-19 barrier code. The first one is family child issues meaning the family is not wanting to participate in services due to COVID-19. The second is the provider issue meaning the provider is unable to administer services due to COVID-19. The third one is LES capacity meaning and LES is heavily impacted due to COVID-19. There were 2,000 generic codes in August. ESSO asked the LES's to clean up the data and replace it with the new barrier codes. As of November there are 400 original codes left. 3,000 files are impacted out of the 54,000 children in the system overall. Some LES's are impacted more than others. There has been a decline in enrollment and referrals. Things have started to stabilized and are increasing.



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Council Discussion – Allison Rudd explained to the council that James Dunn was requested to present a follow-up from the previous meeting on the insurance denials that were provided but not respond. Lourdes Quintana asked what James Dunn was supposed to speak to the council about. James Dunn was not available to attend this meeting to provide an update.

Local Early Steps Highlight: Southernmost Coast– *Olabisi Baruwa-Castro, Southernmost Coast Local Early Steps Program Director*

The Southernmost Coast team presented an overview on how the Epic Program has been so successful at Southernmost Coast Early Steps .

Public Comment – Ellie Schrot informed the council about reaching out to Katie McCullough with Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center out of University of North Carolina and that ECTA Center would be working with six states on building a case for increasing access to both Medicaid and insurance. Ellie Schrot continues to request to move forward with the FICCIT workgroup. Lourdes Quintana followed up with what Ellie Schrot shared and stated they need all the help and support with the insurance denial issues.

Allison Rudd informed the council the next meeting will be in January 2021. Lourdes Quintana and Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked that the insurance denial be put on the agenda. Dr. Ilene Wilkens asked that all agenda items be sent to Allison Rudd by December 1st.

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.
Motion Made By: Lourdes Quintana
Seconded Motion: Matt Brackett
Discussion: None
 Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned – *Dr. Ilene Wilkins, Chair*