

**Minutes of the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County LICC
October 18, 2022**

Virtual TEAMS Meeting

In Attendance

Beverly Bummer, PPS EI; Emily Madigan, PPS EI; Elizabeth Strickland, PPS EI; Regina Wagner, PPS EI, Christina Stephenson, UPMC for You; Tara Korn, OBH/Allegheny County; Shannon McDonald; Kandis Mason, Allegheny County Dept of Health; Carol Averso, parent and co-chair; Kristina Putzlocker, AIU; Stacey Trocheck, AFIT; Nancy Hill, PPS EI; Becky Czekaj-Dengler, Early Learning Resource Center; Erma Conn, UPMC; Nicole Zilli, Parent to Parent; Kelly Fisher, EITA; Brandi Binakonsky, EITA; and Monet Olivis, Allegheny County Dept of Health.

Welcome and Introductions

Emily Madigan welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves. Emily reviewed the LICC Mission Statement.

Tara Korn accepted the minutes for May 24, 2022, and Emily Madigan seconded the motion.

Committee Updates

Child Find Committee

Regina Wagner reported.

The LICC Child Find Committee met on 10/9/2022. We discussed the old business of last year's committee project/presentation with Homeless Housing Providers on 4/25/2022/ We discussed possible outreach projects for the upcoming school year. The frontrunner is looking at doing a presentation in the spring for Refugee/Resettlement Agencies. Committee members will research this option and will also research other possible options to discuss at our next meeting on 1/30/2023.

Family/Professional Involvement

Carol Averso reported.

10/24/2022

New programming in improving communication skills with children with autism, and empathy in autism. The following are sensory-friendly activities:

Sensory-friendly Halloween at the Children's Museum Oct 27 at 5:30-8:30 pm

Phipps Oct 26 at 5:30 pm

Carnegie Museum of Natural History Oct 29 8-30 at 10 am

Carnegie Science Center Nov 6 at 9:00-12:00 noon

All events require pre-reservation. Call the venue for more details.

Inclusion Committee

No report.

Issues and Public Policy

No report.

Training Committee

Emily Madigan reported.

The LICC dates that will be presented by EITA will begin at 9:00 am and then be followed by the business meeting at 9:30. The presenter requested the 9 AM start time.

January 17th they will present family engagement (20 minutes to present and 10 for questions) - during the Q&A they will ask for feedback to build onto the next training in March. 9 AM

March 14th – Home visiting. 9 AM

Transition Committee

Vonna May-Miller submitted.

Transition Sub-Committee was to meet on August 31, 2022, however, due to conflicting schedules, committee agreed to delay meeting until October 24, 2022.

10/24/2022

Vonna met with 5 new providers to complete New Provider Training on September 6, 2022. These 5 will now be part of the Transition Sub-Committee Meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2022 at 9:00 AM via Zoom.

Department Updates

A. Allegheny County Department of Health

Kandis Mason reported.

- Offering in person home visiting for pregnant, postpartum, and parenting families with children under 2
- Looking for some trainings for nursing staff wrapped around children with special healthcare needs
- Looking to connect with organizations that work with families who are working through SUD (pregnant or with children under 2) and/or caring for children under 2 diagnosed with or at risk for NAS
- Open positions

[Public Health Nurse - Nurse Family Partnership \(NFP\)](#)

[Public Health Administrator III - Family & Child Health](#)

[Public Health Program Representative - FCH](#)

B. Allegheny County Department of Human Services

• Office of Behavioral Health

Tara Korn reported.

Denise Macerelli has resigned her position as Deputy Director for the Office of Behavioral Health, on September 9th. There is a current search for a new deputy director and as we initiate that search, Jewel Denne, Assistant Deputy for the Bureau of Mental Health (jewel.denne@alleghenycounty.us), Maisha Howze, Assistant Deputy for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (Maisha.howze@alleghenycounty.us) and Sue Martone, Assistant Deputy for Operations (Suzanne.martone@alleghenycounty.us) will continue to lead the work of their respective bureaus.

• AFIT - Early Intervention Birth to 3

Tara Korn reported.

- We are still trying to recruit families of all diverse backgrounds to participate in a still face project/ filming. We are working in collaboration with the

10/24/2022

Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Robert Gallen from Pitt and Dr. Tronick (the original creator/ co -director of the 1978 still face experiment. We are looking to film caretaker and child. Families will receive a 50 dollar gift card and books. Please contact the Alliance, at 412-885-6000 and ask for Stacey Trocheck if you have any families or yourself if you would be interested in this project.

- We participated in Infant Toddler Policy Forum Early Intervention Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings, held in September. We have heard positive feedback from the therapist.
- Kelly Fisher is our New EITA consultant.

- **CYF**

No report.

C. Pittsburgh Public Schools

- **Early Intervention, EHS, Head Start/EC Programs**

Emily Madigan reported for PPS Early Intervention.

The Policy Forum that was held at Penn State on October 11-12, 2022. The forum provided an in-depth examination of Coaching Across Settings. During the conference, PPS EI was able to network and collaborate with other IUs, programs and cohorts. Cohort 1 (who already started the process in July, 2022, provided feedback about the initial stage of the roll out. Cohort 1 also noted that there has been support from OCDEL every step of the way. Coaching Across Settings will be a "slow" process to ensure the implementation is successful. Implementation Science was also presented.

OCDEL is also providing individuals (EI, Family Support, and Home Visitors) who work with students access to an app called Healthy Minds at Work. The link will be provided by OCDEL through email to appropriate providers.

PPS EI is also receiving many referrals after staff have been screening students and as students enroll in preschool programs.

PPS EI is actively seeking day to day Substitute Teachers. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply through the district portal. <https://www.pghschools.org/careers>

D. AIU

- **DART/Head Start**

AIU/Preschool Early Intervention Program-DART

Kris Putzlocker reported.

Per Lisa LaRue-PEI director:

The AIU has been identified to take part in OCDEL's next training cohort for Coaching across Settings using implementation science, to start in July 2023. Amy Abraham, PEI Supervisor and Lisa LaRue, PEI director, attended and participated in the Policy Forum for Coaching across Settings that OCDEL held last week. Implementation science was explained. They sought input from PA's preschool early childhood community about what is needed for the successful implementation of this service delivery model.

We continue to be short staffed around the county.

AIU/Head Start

No report.

E. COTRAIC

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**

No report.

F. OCD Early Head Start

No report.

G. SICC

No report.

EITA

Brandi Binakonsky reported.

Delivery Coaching Across Settings information from the EITA portal:

<https://www.eita-pa.org/coaching-across-settings/>

- On this page, the web resources mentioned were related to the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence Early Learning Resources shared at the Preschool Policy Forum as well as the coaching corner newsletter (located at the bottom of the page where anyone can sign up as it is released once per month)
- The Oct. 2022 newsletter is on adult learning https://mailchi.mp/pattan/coaching_corner_oct2022 and coincides with the professional development course called “Supporting Adult Learners” <http://www.eita-pa.org/professional-development/>
 - The first step in supporting adult learners is to create a safe environment and establish positive relationships built on respect and trust. Other important steps include engaging caregivers in decision making through problem solving and planning; drawing upon their prior experience and knowledge; and embedding teaching and learning into everyday activities and routines. In this course, participants will have the opportunity to put these steps into practice through scenarios with caregivers and children across a variety of early childhood settings.

Early Learning Resources Center

Becky Czekaj-Dengler reported.

ELRC (Early Learning Resource Center) is a one stop shop for families to apply for child care subsidy and to connect with quality early learning programs and needed resources. We also support licensed and relative child care providers through coaching, Stars designation support and program/payment support. Over \$112 million dollars in stimulus funding has been paid out to providers through the ELRC.

Our Rapid Response Team started in January 2022 to support child care providers and families when a child is at risk of being suspended or expelled. Alicia Sebastian leads the team and makes referrals to The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, AIU Early Intervention & PPS Early Intervention. Asked for EI contact person for PPS so referrals can be made when appropriate. Emily Madigan offered to be the point of contact for PPS

Another point of intersection between the ELRC and early intervention is the recent concern that several child care providers are not permitting EI therapists to provide services in the child care center. If this occurs, the Office of Certification and ELRC Coach Supervisor should be notified. Our coaches can remind providers that there is a regulation that EI therapists be permitted to provide services in a child care setting. However, only Certification can enforce this regulation.

Emily Madigan adjourned the meeting. Carol Averso seconded the motion.

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Minutes submitted by Beverly Bummer, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Early Intervention Program.

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

January 17, 2023

March 14, 2023

May 23, 2023