

HAWAII EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL
Quarterly Meeting
May 27, 2020

O‘ahu	1010 Richards Street, Honolulu, 96813, EIS Basement Conference Room
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MINUTES

- Members Present:** Bobbie-Jo Moniz-Tadeo (Chair), Kerrie Urosevich (Vice-Chair), Ku‘ulei Arceo, Daintry Bartoldus, Bonyen Colunga, Kehau Golis, Colin Hayashida, Adam Huillet, Nagisa Kimura, Bernadette Lane, Brianna Levy, Dayna Luka, Douglas Mersberg, Leah Muccio, Drew Saranillio, Amy Tamashiro, Sharon Thomas.
- Members Absent:** Kimberly Allen, Senator Jarett Keohokalole, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Lauren Moriguchi, Danette Wong Tomiyasu
- Ex-Officio:** Charlene Robles, Patricia Heu
- Guest:** Brandon Cole, Sarah Hardin, Chris Jackson, Luke Kusumoto
- Staff:** Aya Aoki

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION/ FOLLOW-UP
1. Call to Order	<p>Chair, Dr. Moniz-Tadeo, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.</p> <p><i>a. Introductions</i> Members introduced themselves. Robles shared that Sandra Pak, DOH Children’s Mental Health, passed away in March 2020. A new representative Kimberly Allen will be joining from the next meeting.</p> <p><i>b. Review Agenda</i> Agenda reviewed. No additions or comments.</p> <p><i>c. Review Minutes from August 28, 2019 Quarterly Meeting</i> Minutes were reviewed and approved.</p> <p><i>d. Review Minutes from November 20, 2019 Quarterly Meeting</i> Minutes were reviewed and approved.</p>	

	<p><i>e. Review Minutes from February 26, 2020 Quarterly Meeting</i> Minutes were reviewed and approved.</p>	
<p>2. Early Intervention Section Update</p>	<p><i>a. Part C Update – Charlene Robles</i> <i>[Refer to Early Intervention Section Update]</i></p> <p>Robles shared that Part C application for FFY 20 (July 2020 – June 30, 2021) was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). She shared that OSEP COVID-19 guidance was received on March 12, 2020, which included alternative methods for delivering services.</p> <p><i>b. Budget</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mid-year contract modifications are in process. 2) On April 6, 2020 received instructions from the Governor that Departments should make only critical, high priority expenditures. All current and future position vacancies are frozen until further notice, with some exceptions. EIS submitted requests to fill DOH vacant Care Coordinator and service provider positions. Purchase of Service (POS) EI programs are encouraged to continue recruiting. 3) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education executed to conduct a rate and salary study. This includes a review of 10-15% administrative costs as well as number of direct service hours for full-time staff. <p><i>c. Positions</i></p> <p>Robles shared that the current overall vacancies remain around the same percentage reported in the last quarter. There is an improvement in filling the DOH CC assigned to POS posts (from 17% vacant at the last quarter to 13% vacant).</p> <p><i>d. State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)</i></p> <p>Robles shared updates from workgroups. Refer to the EIS section updates.</p> <p><i>c. Initiatives and Activities</i></p>	

1) Response to COVID-19.

- All in-person visits were suspended effective March 18, 2020 statewide.
- Program encouraged families to continue services through telepractice or phone. Obtained additional Zoom licenses.
- Temporarily modified Billing Refence and Procedural Guidelines documents. Added Family Support Team meetings. Allowed programs to add and bill EI related activities, such as training.
- Met with POS agency executives in March to communicate changes/adjustments.
- Weekly 2-hour meetings with Program Managers to review documents and answer questions.
- Partial Multidisciplinary Evaluations (MDE) are being conducted due to no in-person visit. Children with a medical diagnosis are ‘presumed eligible’ and children with developmental delay may be “presumed eligible” based on information gathered through the partial MDE.

Golis asked if partners are referring children to EI, would be better to provide any assessment or information such as ASQ to supplement. Robles responded that yes, any information that a family is willing to share will be appreciated. Tamashiro asked if EIS is only using the Ages and Stages screening. Robles clarified that the ASQ is only one of the screening tools and EI will accept any screening or test results that the partners are using.

Moniz-Tadeo commentated that even in cases when a family does not provide any screening reports, EI is still providing services based on their concerns, until MDE is fully back in place or a new evaluation process is introduced. Robles added that EIS is also receiving advice and suggestions from national TAs on how to move forward. Thomas asked if children are still referred with medical reports. Robles responded that pediatricians continue to assess and refer children to EI, while Moniz-Tadeo added that referrals from pediatricians declined, perhaps due to families withholding well-baby check-ups due to COVID-19, which is normally a large part of referrals.

Robles shared that program data on service declined by families, i.e. suspended services due to COVID-19. Some elected check-in by CCs only. She commented that although there was a decline in referrals in late March and April, the referral

number is coming back up in May. Urosevich asked if there is a need for outreach/public awareness raising during this COVID-19 period. Robles responded that EIS has updated the website, informing families about continuous service availability. It also publicized EI services in the American Academy of Pediatrics newsletter.

2) Re-opening

- EIS is gathering information to develop a plan for safe in-person visits when restrictions are lifted. EIS participated in webinars provided by National Technical Assistance Centers.

Robles requested HEICC members to share their thoughts and feedback regarding re-opening.

- Staff and family safety first. What is adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary and social distancing. How to acquire quality PPE? EI is an essential service, therefore may be able to request to remove purchasing limit from commercial providers. Even with the state budget freeze, EI should be able to purchase PPE and ensure its inclusion in the next year budget. (Arceo, Mersberg, Urosevich)
- Acknowledge and work with the comfort level that individual staff may have. Everyone has different perceptions and approaches. How to accommodate? (Moniz-Tadeo)
- Ask 3-4 CDC recommended questions to family, such as out-of-state travel, any exposure to COVID-19, not feeling well, etc. (Lane)
- Be mindful of children not used to seeing providers with PPE. (Luka)
- How to strengthen telehealth and phone service delivery? How to use this as an opportunity to expand telehealth and billing options? How to ensure services to families who do not have access to necessary equipment for telehealth? (Urosevich)

- Ensuring that EI is meeting the needs of families who chose to suspend services and outreach. (Urosevich)
- Look into the possibility of having services outdoors or in community spaces. (Arceo, Golis)
- Limit in-person contact to 15 min or shorter. DHS in-home and center appointments are limited to 15 min. Combine with follow-up telepractice/phone conversation. Keep social distance. Limit the number of people in closed spaces (e.g. one child and one care-giver, no additional family members). (Huillet, Luka, Tamashiro)
- DOE has also suspended the in-person portion of assessments and services and is exploring how to safely resume. (Saranillio)
- DOE Homeless section is going to conduct a pilot outreach to homeless children to assess the situation and needs, given so much unknown at the moment (Levy)
- Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disability is working on outreach to individuals, including distribution of masks and lunches. (Bartoldus)

3) Data System

Continue to build the system during weekly meetings with Harris. Selected three test sites statewide. To be rolled out this year.

d. Program Measures Dashboard with Complaint Summary

[Refer to HEICC Program Measures at A Glance Dashboard and Early Intervention Section handouts]

Robles shared that there is a decrease in referrals this quarter (Jan-Mar 2020) and we will be reporting the April and beyond data at the next meeting when data becomes available. Measure #5a and 5b: late MDE due to both family cancellations and not being able to go into homes. Robles shared that EIS added COVID-19 as one of the reasons for the late start in April '20.

	<p>Robles explained the infographics Early Intervention Data, including number of children referred, evaluated, eligible, referral sources, EI funding, number of children served and family outcomes. Urosevich commentated that Child Outcomes information will be useful to also be included.</p>	
<p>3. Council Business</p>	<p>a. <i>Legislative Update</i> – <i>Kerrie Urosevich, Patricia Heu</i></p> <p>Legislative sessions will re-open on June 15, 2020. DOH is still waiting for information on the next FY budget, including if any of the vacant positions have been deleted by the legislature. Urosevich inquired if HEICC has any role in securing the EI budget for the coming FY. Thomas speculated that at this time, Department heads may be requested to prioritize budget items, given the situation. Urosevich requested DOH support in identifying HEICC’s role in the budget/legislative process.</p> <p>b. <i>Early Learning Board</i> – <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i></p> <p>As part of the Pre-school Development Grant to support early learning 0-5, a thorough community needs assessment has been taking place. This report is posted on the EOEL website. Another big question is how to sustain the childcare industry so that people can go back to work.</p> <p>c. <i>HEICC Priorities Update</i> – <i>Charlene Robles and Bobbie-Jo Moniz-Tadeo</i> <i>[Refer to HEICC Priorities handout]</i></p> <p>Urosevich shared that she and Moniz-Tadeo are reviewing HEICC priorities, incorporating critical issues such as how to ensure and support family participation in HEICC, and will share with the Council in August.</p> <p>d. <i>HEICC/Exec Committee Appointment and Vacancies</i></p> <p>Aoki appreciated everyone joining the Council meeting today as well as to those who have completed the membership renewal applications. She reported that Luka is going to hold-over for DHS Child Care. Saranillio will be a designee until Patti Dong’s successor is identified for DOE SPED pre-school. From DOH Children’s Mental Health, Kimberly Allen will be a new representative. She reported that the rest of the vacancy situation remains the same.</p>	<p>Moniz-Tadeo and Urosevich to draft a revised HEICC priority document and discuss with Robles, Aoki and Executive Committee members.</p> <p>HEICC members to communicate any recommendations on HEICC parent participation and engagement with the Chairs and EIS.</p>

	<p>The Council thanked Huillet for his contribution to date and bringing in his successor to the meeting today. Moniz-Tadeo offered to send him a letter of appreciation. Urosevich suggested the Council to consider exit interviews with outgoing members to obtain feedback and offered support on this.</p>	
5. Public Comment	<p>Jackson discussed the possibility of purchasing equipment or phone cards to assist families in need for EI telehealth support. Hawaii Resilience Fund by Hawaii Community Foundation could be one such resource. Other items which could be purchased through this fund include diapers for infants and toddlers. Jackson also suggested supporting social interactions between families to help connect and individual follow-ups.</p> <p>Kusumoto added that for families who suspended services, the reasons being not so much of not having access to technology, but more due to being unfamiliar or not comfortable with technology. How to reconnect with these families is the question and EI may need to look into center-based options to allow for a more controlled and familiar environment.</p> <p>Thomas shared that there is a federal service to make discounted phone equipment/services available to those in need. https://cca.hawaii.gov/dca/telecommunications/lifeline/ https://www.entouchwireless.com/states/hawaii-lifeline-free-phone -service</p>	
6. Announcements	<p>Urosevich shared that Family Support Hawaii in Kona is providing support to families of infants and toddlers statewide to connect through the ‘Nest-hui’ project.</p> <p>Within Action Strategy partners, they asked what work is a priority at the moment. There are four areas identified, including sustaining the childcare industry, mitigating domestic violence, safe access to pre-natal and post-natal care, and supporting hard-to-reach families.</p>	
7. Future Meeting	<p>The next Quarterly Meeting will be on August 26, 2020, 9am – 12pm.</p>	
8. Adjourn	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.</p>	