

**Early Intervention Advisory Council Meeting
November 5, 2025
Lucas Room, State Library of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio**

I. Call to Order

Taylor Hammond called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM.

II. Roll Call

Trish Barnett, *Jody Beall, Julie Brem, *Maria Bruno, Cindy Davis, Brier Gallihugh, Maggie Gons, *Kathy Greenwalt-Cherry, Erin Hale, *Pam Hamer, Taylor Hammond, Arley Hammons, *Johni Hayes, David Mitchell, Anni Monks, Shelly Palumbo, *Jenni Remeis, Beth Shearing, Jessica Smith, Colleen Tucker, Erica Wallace,

III. Approval of minutes from last month

Motion to approve the minutes from the August Advisory Council meeting by Pam Hamer, second by Kathy Greenwalt-Cherry; Minutes from the August 2025 meeting were approved.

IV. Open Issues

El team at DCY: Hammond announced that a new Monitoring and Policy Consultant was hired and will be assigned to counties in North part of state and Erin will cover the southern counties. She informed the group that Lindsay Morrison recently started as the new EI Funding Specialist. Hammond also provided an overview of the EI team and structure at DCY.

Children and Youth Advisory Council: Sophie Hubbell, Bureau Chief for TA & Practice Advancement, introduced herself and talked about upcoming changes to advisory council. She explained that the Children and Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) was established in the SFY26/SFY27 budget bill. She informed the group that this group is a merge of various councils and will consist of subcommittees. She informed the group that Early Intervention will be part of a subcommittee of this council, along with Home Visiting, and that the federal requirements for the state interagency coordinating council will be met (20 U.S.C. 1441).

Hubbell indicated that details, including schedules and membership, for the council and subcommittees are being finalized and will be communicated upon completion. She informed the group that the CYAC meetings will be held quarterly starting November 6, 2025 and the schedule for the subcommittees is still in progress. She also indicated that membership for the subcommittees is still being finalized, and that the CYAC meetings will be in person but the subcommittee meetings will typically be in person.

Hammond reiterated the importance of continuing to receive input from current EIAC members and how valuable their participation has been.

Federal Updates: Hammond explained that the government has been shut down since October 1 and that OSEP staff were all a part of a reduction in force, so there currently is no one working at OSEP. She indicated that neither of these are impacting our work at the state level and we still have access to funding – essentially, we are operating business as usual at the state and local levels. Hammond informed the group that the state is not yet sure how this will affect our upcoming DMS visit. She reminded the group that we were supposed to receive an update about the DMS process and timelines by October 1, but we have not received any updated information.

EI Monthly Data: Hammond reviewed EI referral data for the first quarter of SFY26. She explained that there generally has been a slight decrease in referral numbers, but there is seasonality and month-to-month variation with those totals. She indicated that EI child counts consistently increased for several years. She informed the group that child count numbers did drop slightly the past couple months, but it is too soon to determine whether this will be a trend/pattern.

2025 EI Family Questionnaire: – Hammond informed the group that the overall response rate to the 2025 EI Family Questionnaire was 29.35%, just slightly lower than 2024 response rate of 29.78%, after several years of substantial increases. She indicated that *quantitative reports were sent to counties on July 31 and the open-ended responses were sent on Oct 8.*

EI Record Review Checklist: Hammond provided brief overview of how the document can be utilized during record reviews; Checklist was recently updated to be consistent with 2024 EI rule and is now complete and posted to the Monitoring tab of the EI website.

SFY25 Annual Data – A one page summary including info on referrals, children served, eligibility reasons, services on initial IFSPs, and length of stay in EI

Developmental Specialist Certification Rule Review – Hammond informed the group that the EI policy team is reviewing stakeholder feedback related to the rule. She explained that feedback was gathered via an activity at the August advisory council meeting, a survey that was distributed to the field, and the October OACB DS calls. She indicated that DCY will finish reviewing feedback and begin drafting rule, with internal and external clearance to follow, including a public comment period. She informed the group that the rule will need to be submitted to JCARR by July 1.

Updating Guidance: Shelly Palumbo informed the group that the EI Program Consultants (PCs) are currently reviewing and updating the IFSP Guidance document and other guidance documents. She indicated that the current focus areas are the IFSP, System of Payment (SOP), Assistive Technology (AT), SOP Forms, and DCP/COG form. Palumbo communicated that feedback from the field is being considered/used to determine what form changes are needed.

Assistive Technology: Palumbo provided an update on the status of AT. She informed the group that the state has posted an RFP for AT providers that closes tomorrow and that only two entities have submitted in Ohio Buys. An attendee reported that some entities are having issues with the system, and that if they call and do not get an answer, that could prevent them from being able to submit within the required timeline.

TA and Training Plans: Palumbo informed the group that the PCs have also been meeting with county programs to complete annual TA and Training Plans, specifically focusing on SOP, teaming, and assessment process. She indicated there are several additional meetings scheduled throughout November.

Ongoing Learning Opportunities: Palumbo discussed the three upcoming Donuts with Di sessions. She indicated that the state has received positive feedback regarding the sessions that have already been presented.

EI Office Hours: Palumbo informed the group that the EI state team recently started holding EI Office Hours, which include both a structured and open format. She indicated that the focus for the September and October calls was on the SOP and the topic for the November call would be announced soon.

System of Payment: Palumbo reminded the group that SOP continues to be a major focus, as resources are increasingly limited statewide. She indicated that the DCY contract/grant agreement staff working on any EI grants attended EI team meeting this week. She acknowledged that we understand that there are staffing issues and gaps in services in areas throughout the state and that both DCY and our local partners are working to ensure the long-term sustainability of EI by stretching available resources as much as possible. She informed the group that several counties have shared concerns that, if their levies do not pass, they may need to reduce programming or potentially eliminate EI altogether. She reiterated that we are actively developing a plan to maintain access to EISC services in situations where the CBDD currently provides EISC. She also acknowledged that we are hoping to get AT resolved and up and running soon.

EISC Credential Updates: Anni Monks presented updates around EISC credentials. She indicated that the state previously issued a series of credential extensions, which will begin to expire in January 2026 and reminded the group that the expiration dates can be found in the “credential” tab of the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR).

Monks explained that EISC-Transition holders must complete a minimum of 50 hours of CPD. She indicated that all components of POSC must be completed, which may be counted toward the 50 hours or that the requirement may be met via test out exams. She informed the group that reminders about EISC credentials will be sent out via Tuesday Times.

El DS Certification Updates: Monks presented an update on the number of DS certifications issued through the OPR from March 3 through October 1, which included 88 five-year and 56 one-year certifications.

DS Application Checklist and Tracking Sheets: Monks also informed the group that DCY is working on a DS application checklist/tracking sheet to assist DSs and OPR reviewers with tracking PD units and totaling hours for certification renewal. She mentioned that something similar may also be incorporated for EISCs and EISC Supervisor five-year credential renewal. An attendee asked if there would be a way to create a report in OPR that would generate an Excel report.

Upcoming Trainings: Monks informed the group about the upcoming training Keeping the Infant in Mind training by Dr. Robert Gallen. She indicated that there will be two dates in SFY26 which will be announced soon, with no maximum number of participants. She also mentioned that the BDI training on October 16 had 24 attendees and the Donuts with Di: Effective Record Review in EI on October 20 had 537 attendees.

V. SFY25 Annual Data Review

Brier Gallihugh presented an overview of SFY25 annual EI data. The EI data review included detailed information about EI referrals, child counts, child age, exit reasons, and length of stay.

VI. FFY24 Annual Performance Report Review

Hammond presented data from the FFY24 APR, which covers the state's results on twelve performance and compliance indicators. Hammond explained how the current year's data compared to past data and relevant targets and took questions from the group. Upon completion of the APR overview, the appointed members of council voted to use the APR as their annual report.

VII. APR Target Setting Info and Activity

Hammond began the conversation about setting targets by providing a refresher on the requirements of target setting. The group then broke out into small groups for discussion, and ultimately reported back out to the larger group. The following questions were discussed for the performance indicators of the APR (Settings/Natural Environments, Child Outcomes, Family Outcomes, Child Counts):

- What factors should we consider?
- What general recommendations do you have around each performance indicator area?

VIII. Partner Updates

Palumbo provided any update on POSC Module 3, indicating that counties have suggested they believe it would be beneficial for DS's and other staff to complete the course. Palumbo informed the group that this module has been approved and CPDUs are available if DSs would like to complete it.

Erica Wallace shared that the OACB annual convention will be held at the Easton Hilton Wednesday, November 19 to Friday, November 21 and the EI track would be on the first day. Wallace and Maggie Gons indicated OCALICON is the same time as the OACB annual convention, running from Tuesday, November 18 to Friday, November 21. Gons informed the group this will be conducted virtually and will be available on demand.

Jenni Remeis shared that the Early Learning Department has grant funding for literacy. She explained that they will be holding a family accessible literacy event in Bexley on November 15 and that this event will focus on meal time routines and visual access, and will also include a sensory component, which will be appropriate for children with varying needs.