



## Michigan's Early Childhood Courts

**Meeting summary for State Advisory Group: 05/13/2024 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

### Attendees

Aarica Smith, MDHHS, Legislative Affairs
Alan Oman, ECIC (Think Babies, MI)
Ali Cosgrove, MDHHS, BCCHPS
Amy Zaagman, MI Council for Maternal and Child Health
Anne Kuhnen, MI League for Public Policy
Annie Heit MDHHS-HVU, Substance Use Peer Navigator

Anthony Queen, Parent Leader
Dr. Chris Youngman, Wayne State Pediatrics
Courtney Isanhart, MDHHS, CSA
Elizabeth Hawrylo, MDHHS
Emily Mitchelson-Perez, Parent Leader
Joni Zeildorff, Ex. Dir. MI-AIMH
Kadi Prout, MI Federation for Families
LeeAnn Gasper, SCAO

Marissa Albright, MDHHS CPS & Redesign Analyst
Mary Ludtke, MDHHS, BCCHPS
Michele Hall, Statewide Coordinator, Early Childhood Courts, MDHHS, BCCHPS
Paul Elam, MPH
Nancy Rostoni, MDHHS
Renee Gonzales, MDHHS, CSA
Synthia Britton, ECCS

1:05 pm-Meeting convened by Michele Hall, facilitating today's meeting in lieu of Project Director, Kim Batsche-McKenzie who was unable to join today.

### ECC expansion site updates:

-Saginaw County has hired a community coordinator with an expected start date of 5/20/24.

-Wayne County continues to see families on the docket and continue to move towards fidelity of the Safe Babies Approach.

-St. Clair County continues with site implementation and training. The site is expected to complete the ZERO TO THREE exploration inventory in June.

### Legislative and Sustainability Work Group Update

Amy Zaagman provided updates and discussion surrounding the Problem solving and Family treatment courts in MI that has legislation and sustainability in place. The team also is planning to explore where Early Childhood Courts can move towards codifying and sustainability. They discussed the expansion of Baby Courts in Wayne, St. Clair, and Saginaw counties and the next steps, including creating an outline for a draft bill.

### Group Discussion: ZERO TO THREE State Scan Tool

- Michele led discussions on various initiatives aimed at supporting infants, toddlers, and families in the state and introduced the ZERO TO THREE scan tool initiative. The tool explores the community resources already happening across the state and barriers to families accessing services.

- The State Advisory group was put into breakout rooms to answer questions from the tool focusing on prevention and family strengthening, early intervention and early childhood development, and substance use prevention and treatment.

### **Identifying Programs and Addressing Barriers**

Michele led a discussion on identifying prevention and family strengthening programs in their state, with a focus on early intervention and substance use prevention. The team, including Mary and Courtney, discussed potential barriers to family access and highlighted the need for collaboration to avoid duplicating efforts and encouraged the team to reach out with any questions or concerns. The conversation also included a review of service needs and availability across the state, with an emphasis on peer support, sober living facilities, and Intensive Outpatient programs.

### **Improving Early Intervention Referral Process**

Michele stressed the importance of early intervention and childhood development, particularly for families with a history of substance use. The team discussed the need to improve the referral process for these families to access early intervention services, especially for children aged 0 to 3. They also noted the voluntary nature of the current system and the low rate of referrals that result in evaluations. The team agreed on the necessity of early identification and referral for services, particularly for infants, and confirmed that all counties use a universal screening tool for early intervention. However, there were concerns raised about potential barriers to families accepting referrals, such as trauma, lack of trust, and immediate engagement issues.

### **Next steps**

- Michele will compile an outline of the discussion, including the 3 focus areas (prevention and family strengthening, substance use and prevention, and early intervention and early childhood development) and share it with the team.
- Synthia will send Michele the list of barriers and needs identified by the early intervention and early childhood development workgroup for review and potential inclusion in the legislative proposal.

**2:00 p.m.** Michele Hall adjourned the meeting.

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