

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wed., February 19, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. – 2:08 p.m.

9 – 9:22 a.m. | Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions

- ✚ The first few minutes were reserved to let members and attendees join the meeting.
- ✚ SICC Chair, Danna Summers, greeted and chatted with members and attendees, asking everyone to participate in the chat with the question, “What are you drinking this morning?”
- ✚ E Renae` introduced herself and shared the Teams *Dos and Don'ts and Keyboard Shortcuts*.
- ✚ Brian Frisina, ESIT Tribal Program Consultant, led a meaningful Land Acknowledgment.

9:22 – 10 a.m. | Parent Stories: ESIT Services & PIE Introduction, Cohort 7

SICC Chair, Dana Summers, conducted PIE member roll call. PIE member and parent, Michelle, introduced herself and shared her experience receiving ESIT services and their family’s challenges transitioning her child out of Birth to Three (B-3) Services. She shared what it’s like testing “too close to standard” and being in the “gray area” needing specialized services yet no longer qualifying. PIE member and parent, Ashley, introduced herself and shared her experience finding and getting into B-3 during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the support and individualized care her children were able to access. PIE member and parent, Carly, introduced herself and shared the ongoing challenges: advocating for her child’s need for B-3 services, the repeated disregard by medical professionals and advocating and still being unheard. Carly’s shared how persistence advocating for her child led to brief access to B-3 services and how the services supported her child. Carly shared a resource: “I’d like to encourage everyone to read *The Spoon Theory* if you never have before. A friend also explained to their teenager that they once had a “full battery” each day but now they start at various “charges,” depending on what they did the day or week before. I thought it very apt and perfect for the current generation.”

SICC Members had an opportunity to share, reflect and thank the PIE parents’ willingness to share their personal stories. SICC Chair, Danna Summers and ESIT Program Administrator, Val Arnold, thanked the parents and shared dispute resolution training opportunities.

10 – 10:03 a.m. | SICC Member Roll Call and Motions

- ✚ SICC Chair, Danna Summers, conducted SICC member roll call.
- ✚ **Motion:** SICC Member, Mustapha Kebbeh, moved to approve the February agenda and the previous October 2024 and January 2025 meeting minutes. SICC member, Mary Cline-Stively, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.



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Early Support for Infants & Toddlers | Approved for distribution by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Program Administrator

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10:03 – 10:15 a.m. | Break

10:15 – 10:46 a.m. | The Arc of Snohomish County, Tamara Sharabi, Community Resource Outreach Coordinator

SICC Chair, Danna Summers, gave a heartfelt welcome and introduced Tamara Sharabi, Outreach Coordinator with The Arc. Tamara is a parent and passionately promotes and protects the human rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), advocating for their full inclusion and participation in the community. Tamara work specifically focuses on supporting the Arabic-speaking community in Snohomish County, including refugees navigating the challenges of caring for family members with special needs.

During this presentation, Tamara discussed how she bridges the gap between families and resources, providing culturally appropriate support and education. The presentation highlights the unique barriers faced by Arabic speaking families, including hesitation to seek help due to stigma, limited knowledge of available services, and challenges in understanding disability-friendly language. Tamara also addressed misconceptions about The Arc’s mission, while striving to educate families on how we can assist within our capacity. Additionally, Tamara shared stories demonstrating the difficulties families face, such as requesting support for needs beyond our resources, and discussed the ongoing need to expand outreach efforts and increase community involvement. This presentation provided insight into the importance of culturally sensitive advocacy and how we can better serve the Arabic-speaking community while fostering inclusivity and understanding.

Resource shared: [Rosa’s Law](#).

SICC Members had an opportunity to ask questions and gain more insights into Tamara’s work providing services and the cultural considerations supporting the Muslim and Arabic speaking community.

10:46 – 11:04 a.m. | Community Connections Share—The Investing in Children Coalition | Cindy Carroll, Clinical Director of Children’s Village | MultiCare

Director of Clinical Operations at Children’s Village, Cindy Carroll, is a MultiCare Memorial employee. Working to serve the community of Yakima and its families for 20 years, she started as a speech and language pathologist and was the first SLP hired by the hospital. Cindy shared a

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presentation highlighting the innovation and collaborative partnerships at Children’s Village.

[Children’s Village MultiCare PPT](#)

11:04 – 11:15 a.m. | Stretch Break

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Parasport Spokane | Teresa Skinner, Executive Director

Teresa Skinner has been a dedicated Occupational Therapist (OT) and a passionate advocate for adapted sports since 1994. She is the founder and Executive Director of ParaSport Spokane and serves as an OT within a school system. ParaSport Spokane provides free adaptive sports programming for children and adults with physical disabilities and visual impairments, welcoming participants from infancy to age 101. The youngest athlete joined at just 11 months old, while the oldest currently involved is 75. A firm believer in early intervention, Teresa knows that when communities work together, everyone benefits. ParaSport Spokane offers a diverse range of sports, including wheelchair basketball, track and field, swimming, sled hockey, fencing, strength and conditioning.

Teresa introduced The Futures Program: a pathway for young athletes to build confidence, skills, and lifelong independence through movement, recreation and sports. She shared insights into the impact of the Futures Program and why it’s essential to create similar opportunities in every community.

Learn more:

- [ParaSport Spokane](#)
- [We're The Superhumans: Rio Paralympics 2016 Trailer](#)

11:45 – 11:59 a.m. | SICC Member Spotlight Brayde Willson, County Human Services Representative

Brayde serves as the ESIT Program Supervisor for the Pierce County Human Services Department. Brayde introduced herself and shared highlights of her origins, education, career, personal passions, and love for the Deaf community. She shared how that affinity led her to training and work in Deaf Education and later into providing early learning services. Brayde shared her personal connection to ESIT birth to three services, how it changed their life and why she’s passionate about serving local families.

Council members had the opportunity to ask reflective questions and share gratitude for sharing.



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11:59 a.m. – 12:04 p.m. | Public Comment

“I ... like that priority should be given to members with disabilities. and I would love (as a parent) to be involved further in the system. Regarding the intent: I'm a firm believer that each role has its place/opinion and that as long as roles were respected in commentary that parents should be able to graduate up if they choose to run with a lifetime limit on term. Perhaps consider involving WSA board members (or parents) or inviting them to SICC/SEAC, a little more formal than public invite.” - Carly Randolph, PIE Cohort 7 Parent.

12: 04 – 12:35 p.m. | Lunch

12:35 – 1:30 p.m. | Agency & Committee Updates

SICC State Agency Representatives and shared agency information and insights, announcements of upcoming events and activities. SICC Sub-Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs had the opportunity to verbally share highlights from written Quarterly Sub-Committee Reports and move motions:

- **Finance** Committee Chair, Michelle LaMotte
 - Priority Area Selected: Insurance Billing.
 - **Motion:** Finance Chair and SICC Member, Michelle LaMotte, moved *“The Finance Committee would like to submit a motion to the council to assist, inform, guide SICC in gathering relevant information to the state priority for Enhanced Medicaid billing as requested or needed.”* SICC Member, Mustapha Kebbeh, seconded the motion. The motion was open for discussion to inquire more clarity. The motion was moved and **approved** unanimously.
- **ESIT State Lead Agency**, Valerie Arnold, ESIT Program Administrator
 - **Resource Allocations Update**, ESIT Resource Allocations Manager, Lauren Thompson
- **State Education Agency** (OSPI)
- **County Human Services**
- **Public Policy** Chair, Brayde Wilson
 - First Read of the **Proposed Amendments to SICC Bylaws** (PPT)
- **Personnel & Training**
- **Service Delivery**
- **Data**
- **Parent Institute for Engagement (PIE)**
- **Update:** No legislative update due to scheduling conflicts.



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1:30 – 1:55 p.m. | Leading Through Federal & State Transitions, Valerie Arnold, ESIT Program Administrator

Intended to create space for meaningful dialogue, Council members had the opportunity to connect, ask for guidance moving forward, share insights, identify concerns, and seek opportunities related to transitional directives or topics that may impact services to children and their families.

Discussion:

- How can the SICC board support constituents currently affected by the current administration's changes on immigration status and Diversity Equity Inclusion?
 - **Resource shared:** [WA Gov. Bob Ferguson signs immigration, refugee executive order | The Olympian](#)
- What stance is DCYF taking to respond to the questions they are receiving?
 - **Idea for upcoming SICC meeting:** have DCYF Secretary, Tana Senn or representative, come to speak and update the SICC board on DCYF's Task Force.
- The majority of ESIT appropriations do not come from federal funding, from state funding.

1:55 – 2 p.m. | Public Comments

The public and SICC members shared their deep gratitude for ESIT Program Administrator, Val Arnold's years of leadership and commitment to the early learning programs and providers.

2:01 -2:08 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up | SICC Chair, Danna Summers

SICC Chair, Danna Summers, gave insightful and meaningful closing remarks and thanked ESIT Program Administrator, Val Arnold. Val Arnold announced her last SICC meeting will be on April 16 and DCYF Director of Family and Community Support, Judy King, will be on the agenda at next April meeting. Council members had an opportunity to share their input on the day and make recommendations for upcoming topics. SICC Chair, Danna Summers, adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Next SICC Meetings

- [Wednesday, April 16](#) | Virtual
- [Wednesday, July 15 \(Pie Graduation\) – July 16 \(SICC\)](#) | Virtual
- [Wednesday, October 15](#) | Virtual



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