

February 2025 SICC Meeting Materials

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Upcoming 2025 SICC Meeting Dates

- **Wed., April 16 | Virtual**
- **July 15 (PIE Graduation) – 16 (SICC) | Virtual**
- **Wed., Oct. 15 | Virtual**

Department of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Program

Quarterly State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) | Virtual Meeting

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 279 098 113 554

Passcode: Bk7pk9rn

Date: Wednesday, Feb 19, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Role & Purpose

In order to carry out its mission, the Council shall advise and assist the State Lead Agency, and the other participating state agencies, on a broad range of policy and coordination issues. The SICC will promote an appreciation for the needs of children that have or are at risk for developmental delays or disabilities and will gain an understanding of the services required to address those needs.

Group Agreements

- State your name each time you speak.
- Speak slowly– this helps our note-taker and interpreters.
- Avoid using acronyms and jargon.
- Be patient with one another as we practice Robert’s Rules of Order.
- Teams’ Do’s and Don’ts (E Renae`)
- For Technical Assistance, please text E Renae` Antalan at 360.280.1743, or email at erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov.

Agenda

Native Land Acknowledgement

Scan the QR code to search an address



9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. | Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions | SICC Chair Danna Summers

Welcome members, confirm quorum status, review and approve previous meeting minutes and today’s agenda.

9:20 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. | Parent Stories: ESIT Services & PIE Introduction (Cohort 7)

Families will share their experience with receiving ESIT services and offer suggestions/recommendations for continuous improvement. Members will have an opportunity to ask reflective questions and gain additional insights.



9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Community Connections Share—The Investing in Children Coalition | Cindy Carroll, Clinical Director of Children’s Village | MultiCare

BIO. Cindy Carroll is the Director of Clinical Operations at Children’s Village as a MultiCare Memorial employee. She has been working to serve the community of Yakima and its families for 20 years and started as a speech and language pathologist (she was the first SLP hired by the hospital). Cindy came to Yakima from Issaquah and Spokane to continue her passion for children on the autism spectrum. This led to a love for the community and the people of Yakima.

Cindy’s work provides oversight to two home visiting arms, Nurse Family Partnership and Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (zero-3). Together, these home visiting programs alone serve over 640 different families/month in a large geographical region including Yakima and Kittitas County. She also oversees the Parent-to-Parent program, Children with Special Health Care Needs program, and the Pediatric therapy program within a neurodevelopmental center framework.

Cindy was the first SLP to help build the ASD Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Team in Yakima 20 years ago and was the first LEND fellow and LEND supervisor at Children’s Village. (Transdisciplinary care models are always her goal). She has built many programs through grant dollars, such as a collaborative training classroom for children with ASD which she ran for four years and is now sustained by Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic at Children’s Village. Cindy taught at Yakima Community College for three years and has served on the State Interagency Coordinating Council. She currently serves on the board of the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy to support accessibility to local hiking trails and is a member of the SICC Personnel and Training Committee and the Parent-to-Parent board.

Cindy has a 34-year-old son who is an artist in Chicago and lives with her husband, three dogs and a cat in West Valley. Last year she crowdfunded an archeological “dig” in Scotland/England and was able to enjoy her love for travel and history. Cindy loves to share her passion for children with special health care needs and how medical and educational models interlace at Children’s Village.

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. | Stretch Break

10:10 a.m. -11:10 a.m. | The Arc of Snohomish County| Tamara Sharabi, Community Resource Outreach Coordinator

As an Outreach Coordinator with The Arc, I promote and protect the human rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), advocating for their full inclusion and participation in the community. My 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, I will discuss how I bridge the gap between families and resources, providing culturally appropriate support and education. I will highlight 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. I also address misconceptions about The Arc’s mission while striving to educate families on how we can assist within our capacity.

Additionally, I will share stories demonstrating the difficulties families face, such as requesting support for needs beyond our resources, and discuss the ongoing need to expand outreach efforts and increase community involvement. This presentation will provide insight into the importance of culturally sensitive advocacy and how we can better serve the Arabic-speaking community while fostering inclusivity and understanding.

Brief BIO: Tamara Sharabi, a proud mom of two amazing kids, one of whom is on the autism spectrum. My experiences as a parent have inspired me to pursue a degree in psychology, where I'm working toward making a difference in the lives of individuals and families like mine. I currently work for The Arc of Snohomish County, where I'm passionate about supporting families, advocating for inclusion, and building stronger communities. Balancing motherhood, school, and work isn't always easy, but it's gratifying and motivates me daily to keep learning and growing.

11:10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Transition Break

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

Brief BIO. Teresa Skinner has been a dedicated Occupational Therapist and a passionate advocate for adapted sports since 1994. She is the founder and Executive Director of ParaSport Spokane and also 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, and the Futures Program—a pathway for young athletes to build confidence, skills, and lifelong independence through movement, recreation and sports.

Teresa will share insights into the impact of the Futures Program and why it's essential to create similar opportunities in every community.

11:45 a.m. – 11:55 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. She will share highlights of her career, and her passions and aspirations. Council members may ask reflective questions.

11:55 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Public Comment

Chair to Read Aloud:

All regular meetings of the Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council are open to the public. The public is encouraged to attend and may give comment only during the designated public comment time frame on the agenda. The Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) can be addressed on any matter relating to provision of services under Part C of IDEA, but only during the public comment portion of the meeting. Please be aware that SICC will not engage in an open discussion but may have a clarifying question related to the public comment shared.

Public comment should not contain confidential or personally identifiable information unless it belongs to the speaker. When it is time for Public Comment, the Chair will ask who is interested in participating in Public Comment. At that time, please let the Chair know of your desire to make comment. You will be called on when it is your turn. Each participant will have three (3) to five (5) minutes for remarks. If the comment is longer than five minutes, the Chair has the responsibility to stop the speaker, and move forward with the next person.

If the individual providing comment would like their comment to be included in the meeting minutes, they must provide a written summary to the Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae` Antalan erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov. If there is no one interested in giving public comment, the agenda will move forward to the next item on the agenda.

12 00p.m. -12:30 p.m. | Lunch

12:30 p.m. -1:25 p.m. | Agency Updates | Committee Updates

This is an opportunity for SICC State Agency Representatives to share agency information and insights, request advice/assistance from the Council, and make announcements of upcoming events/activities.

- Finance Committee Chair
 - Priority Area Selected: Insurance Billing.
- State Education Agency (OSPI) Representative
- Department of Social & Health Services Representative
- Department of Services for the Blind Representative
- Department of Health Representative
- Health Care Authority Representative
- Office of the Insurance Commissioner Representative
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Representative
- State Lead Agency (DCYF) Representative
 - Resource Allocations Update (Lauren Thompson or Designee)

Next, SICC Sub-Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs share highlights from written Quarterly Sub-Committee Reports and move motions, if applicable.

- Public Policy Chair
 - First Read: Proposed Amendments to SICC Bylaws



- Personnel & Training Committee Chair
- Service Delivery Chair
- Data Committee Chair
- Parent Institute for Engagement Chair

1:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. | ESIT Caseload Forecast Council Update | Paula Moore or Designee

The Washington State Caseload Forecast Council is responsible for forecasting the number of children eligible for early support services for the legislature, which is used to establish the State Special Education 0-3 appropriation.

1:45 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. | Stretch Break

1:55 p.m. – 2: 10 p.m. | DCYF Legislative Update | Courtney Parker/Stephanie Budrus

A member of the Office of Public Affairs will provide an update on early learning and/or human services bills that DCYF is tracking. Council members may ask reflective or clarifying questions.

2:10 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. | Leading Through Federal & State Transitions | Valerie Arnold

Intended to create space for meaningful dialogue, Council members will have the opportunity to identify issues, concerns, or opportunities related to transitional directives or topics that may impact services to children and their families.

2:40 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Public Comments

This time is set aside for the audience to share comments and feedback on the SICC meeting overall. If the individual providing comment would like their comment to be included in the meeting minutes, they must provide a written summary to Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae` Antalan erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov.

2:45 -3:00 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up | SICC Chair Danna Summers

Council Members will have an opportunity to share their input on the day and make recommendations for future meeting topics.

Next SICC Meetings:

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 | Virtual

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 | TBD

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 | Virtual



Department of Children, Youth & Families

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers (ESIT) Program

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting ~ Special Session

Wed., January 15, 2025

FFY 2023 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (APR)

9:02 - 9:14 a.m. | Welcome, Introductions & Overview of the Washington State Performance Plan

SICC Chair, Danna Summers, welcomed the meeting attendees, introduced herself and gave a few minutes for attendees to join.

Brian Frisina, ESIT Tribal Program Consultant, gave the Native Land Acknowledgement.

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, introduced herself and shared an overview of the *Washington State Performance Plan*, starting with Indicator 2: Services in Natural Environments.

[View Annual Performance Report \(APR\) presentation.](#)

9:14 - 9:32 a.m. | Indicator 2: Services in the Natural Environment

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, gave a brief overview of Indicator 2, from FFY July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and went over some terminology to explain the current data. Participants were given an opportunity to discuss the questions in smaller groups in breakout rooms:

- ✚ Do you think we can still observe an impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on our service settings data today? If yes, how would you describe this impact?
- ✚ From your perspective, how might the location of services impact child and family outcomes?
- ✚ What strategies might the State Lead Agency offer to help local systems continue to move towards providing all services in a natural environment?

Groups reconvened into the large group and had the opportunity to share feedback from the breakout room discussions.

9:32 – 10:02 a.m. | Indicator 3: Early Childhood Outcomes

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, introduced Indicator 3: Outcomes A, B and C and their Summary Statements 1 and 2, the achievable targets, and the 3-Year Trending Data. Participants were given an opportunity to discuss questions in smaller groups in breakout rooms:

- ✚ Are there specific activities that your local program has implemented that positively influence Indicator C3 Child Outcomes?
- ✚ Are there specific activities that come to mind that your family participated in that supported movement towards the goals in your IFSP?
- ✚ How can the State support you in improving Indicator 3 data? Do you think it is possible to reach 100% for this indicator? If not, what should we consider when setting targets?



Groups reconvened into the large group and had the opportunity to share feedback from the breakout room discussions.

10:02 - 10:32 a.m. | Indicator 4: Family Involvement

Kent Miller, Assistant Director for Operations, for the Social & Economic Sciences Research Center at the Washington State University, shared an overview of the process and results of the fifth year of the Family Outcome Survey, indicator 4 data, the response rates and read some of the comments received by families. Participants were given an opportunity discuss questions surrounding Indicator 4 data in breakout rooms:

- ✚ Family Outcomes Survey
- ✚ Methodology
- ✚ FY23 Survey Results

[View the Family Outcomes Survey presentation \(starts page 12\).](#)

10:32 – 10:45 a.m. | Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:04 a.m. | Indicator 5 and 6: Child Find

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, welcomed everyone back from the break and introduced Indicator 5 and 6 and the data trends. Participants discussed questions surrounding Indicator 5 and 6 data in breakout rooms:

- ✚ What does your program do to identify children who qualify for ESIT services? Or if not a provider representative, what recommendations might you have for strengthening referral systems?
- ✚ What are current challenges faced by local programs?
- ✚ What, if anything, would have made it easier for your family to access ESIT services?

11:04 – 11:27 a.m. | Indicator 1: Timely Provision of Services & Indicator 7: 45-Day Timeline

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, introduced indicators 1 and 7. Participants discussed questions in breakout rooms:

- ✚ What factors could have contributed to the increase in timeliness of IFSPs? Are there specific changes your program has implemented to increase the number of timely IFSPs in FFY23?
- ✚ How could programs further improve the timeliness of IFSPs in the upcoming FFY?
- ✚ How could the State Leadership Team better support providers who are struggling with timely delivery of services and issuance of IFSP?

11:27 – 11:46 a.m. | Indicator 8: Early Childhood Transitions

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, introduced indicators 8 and discussed data trends. To date, we have been reporting Indicator 8a and 8b data at 100% compliance based on assumption that the automated notification process triggered by the DMS is 100% failproof

(for questions or input, contact [Kim Hopkins](#)). Participants had the opportunity to discuss, ask questions and share insights in the smaller groups in breakout rooms.

11:46 a.m. – 11:57 a.m. | Indicator 11: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

DeEtte Snyder, ESIT Workforce Development Manager, introduced Ciara Saalfeld, ESIT Workforce Development Specialist. Ciara Saalfeld shared a brief overview of ESIT's State Systemic Improvement Plan and went over the data and feedback, regarding:

- ✚ Overview of State Systemic Improvement Plan
- ✚ SSIP: Improvement Strategy Areas
- ✚ What ESIT Providers are saying about PFR

[View the State Systemic Improvement Plan \(SSIP\) presentation \(starts page 45\).](#)

11:57 a.m. – 12:01 p.m. | Wrap-up

Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems and Analysis Manager, thanked participants and gave closing remarks. Danna Summers, SICC Chair, sang a verse of an old Russian Military song called *Katusha*, that her parents sung to her as a child, and gave closing remarks to adjourn the meeting.

Next SICC Meeting:

Wed., February 19 | Virtual

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) | Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

9 – 9:25 a.m. | Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Introductions

- ✚ The first few minutes were reserved to let members and attendees join the meeting.
- ✚ Former SICC Chair, E Renae Antalan, gave her visual description, and welcomed meeting attendees. She went over the SICC role & purpose.
- ✚ Will Moncrease, Jr., ESIT Partnership & Collaboration Manager, greeted meeting attendees and shared the Zoom Meeting Dos and Don'ts and Keyboard Shortcuts.
- ✚ SICC members gave brief introductions and descriptions.
- ✚ Sheryl Fryberg, SICC Member and Tulalip Trib Representative, led a meaningful Land Acknowledgment.
- ✚ **Motion:** Former SICC Chair, E Renae Antalan, moved to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes, and SICC member, Brayde Willson, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

9:25 – 9:40 a.m. | Parent Stories | Parent Institute for Engagement (PIE) Overview

Vanessa Allen, ESIT Family Engagement Coordinator, announced they have a full PIE Cohort, and a successful PIE meeting was held on Tues., October 15, as well as a celebratory dinner meeting. Vanessa introduced the members of *PIE Cohort Seven*, and each of the PIE members shared their personal experiences learning and navigating the early learning system, and with their children receiving ESIT services.

9:40 – 9:54 a.m. | Pierce County Update | Brayde Willson, Pierce County

Brayde Willson, SICC Member and Human County Services representative, shared that the Pierce County Interagency Coordinating Council meets four times a year, two of which are community council meetings and two of which are family events. The PCICC steering committee is all volunteer based, and they are always open to more members to represent the community. Two co-facilitators host the community council meetings because they are hybrid. The council welcomes any and all partners to give diversity to the group. Visit the [PCICC website](#) to receive notifications, download or join the meeting series, share resources and more.

9:54– 10:10 a.m. | Break

10:10– 11:20 a.m. | “Our Healing Journey, Past to Present” | SICC Member Spotlight: Sheryl Fryberg, Director of the Tulalip Betty J. Taylor Early Learning Academy

Sheryl Fryberg, SICC Member and Tribal representative, joined the meeting from Wenatchee, WA, and shared the [Treaty at Point Elliott](#) 1855. Sheryl shared about the services offered at the Betty J Taylor Early Learning Academy of the Tulalip Tribes, providing services for 72 birth-to-three children with their Early Head Start grant. The Tribe has funded 80 slots for Montessori for 30 years. They have 80 ECEAP Slot and the school offers traditional celebrations with the children. Through grant funding, they were able to build five playgrounds reflective of their culture, including their longhouse. Staffing has been a challenge and they have been unable to open all their classrooms due to the lack of staff. They are seeing a rise in participation in their Parent Committee and Policy Council.

[Our Healing Journey: From Present to Past](#)

11:05 a.m. -11:15 a.m. | Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network (IPTN) | Ryan Guzman, OSPI

Ryan Guzman, SICC member and OSPI representative, gave an agency update on the [Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network](#) (IPTN). IPTN supports bridging communities, families and schools together. They are working to improve inclusion rates in Washington schools in a general education setting, leading to increased choice and opportunity for students with disabilities. Six school districts are currently under mentorship as they integrate inclusion and bridge communities.

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. | Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. | PBC Orientation & Initiative Update for the State Interagency Coordinating Council | Elizabeth Myer, Implementation Specialist, DCYF

Elizabeth Myer, DCYF Implementation Specialist, shared about the Performance Based Contracting (PBC). PBC is made up of Government, Contractors, Data and Performance Improvements. DCYF is rolling it out in a 3-phase process: phase 1 focuses on *Services*, phase 2 focus on *Quality and Outcomes*, phase 3 is ongoing *PBC Management*. Services will be reported when ACORN is fully established. Quality will have the capacity to accurately complete the Child Outcome Survey (indicator C-3). Outcomes show the percentage of infants and toddlers demonstrating improved social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of skills and knowledge, use

of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs. Next Steps and Federal Reporting Requirements, PBC work culminates in the production of a data dashboard. The data dashboard displays data pertaining to service, quality and outcome measures. ESIT quality and outcome measures are aligned with existing indicators. ESIT Dashboard work will begin after the launch of ACORN. The goal is for the PBC dashboard to replace static data profiles and determination reports.

[ESIT SICC Performance-Based Contracting Overview](#)

12:05 p.m. – 12:06 p.m. | No Public Comment

12:06 p.m. -12:37 p.m. | Lunch

12:37 p.m. – 12:46 p.m. | Family Interagency Coordinating Council (FICC) Share-out | Alicia Skelly, Infant Toddler Program Director | Holly Ridge Center, Bremerton

Alicia Skelly, Holly Ridge Center Infant Toddler Program Director, shared Family Interagency Coordinating Council overview and updates. Holly Ridge has a [Family Interagency Council](#) (FICC) that meets every other month, on the third Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The meeting is hybrid and allows members to be able to attend via zoom or in person, at the Holly Ridge location, on Kitsap Way in Bremerton. The mission of the FICC of Kitsap and North Mason Counties is to collaborate for the benefit of infants and young children with disabilities. Each meeting has a set agenda reporting out from Holly Ridge, regarding referrals, intakes, enrollment numbers and any program happenings. Information from the most recent SICC meeting is always shared. Agencies that participate share current information about their agency and any upcoming events. At each meeting, agencies are highlighted in the community by having a "Spotlight", whether it is a new agency or an agency that has changed some of their services. Participants from local school districts, local Tribes, the Public Health District, OESD #114, Naval Base Kitsap and several community agencies attend, typically 20-25 participants.

12:46 p.m. – 12:48 p.m. | E Renae', ESIT Community Collaboration Coordinator

ESIT Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae', shared an update the council on the meetings and conferences she has recently attended. She shared her experience of virtually attending the Georgia Interagency Coordinating Council and happened to win an award for *logging in from the furthest away*.

12:48 p.m. – 1:34 p.m. | ESIT Resource Allocation Report | Lauren Thompson, Resource Allocation Manager | Valerie Arnold, DCYF ESIT State Administrator

Lauren Thompson, ESIT Resource Allocation Manager, gave the land acknowledgement and shared the ESIT SICC Fiscal Review.

ESIT SICC Fiscal Review

1:30 – 1:56 p.m. | Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) | DeEtte Snyder, Workforce Development Manager | DCYF

DeEtte introduced herself and shared an overview of ESIT’s Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). ESIT System Framework consists of building high quality systems, including Governance, Finance, Personnel Workforce, Data System, Accountability & Quality Improvement, Quality Standards. CSPD ensures that infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and their families are provided with services by knowledgeable, skilled, competent, and highly qualified personnel, and that enough of these personnel are available in the state to meet service needs. Some of the ongoing critical partner engagements include Regional Prover Meetings, Statewide Collaboration Meetings, and Ongoing Personnel and monthly Training Committee meetings. The five characteristics of values that CSPD is based on: Diversity and Equity; Knowledge and Expertise; Continuous Learning Growth Mindset; Early Relational Health; and Community Partnerships. The CSPD Vision is to attract, prepare, and retain a high quality and diverse workforce that upholds the unique value and dignity of each child and family through trusting relationships. The Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) is made up of five components: Leadership, Coordination & Sustainability, Recruitment & Retention, Personnel Standards, Pre-Service Training, and In-Service Training.

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development-CSPD

1:56 – 2:15 p.m. | Committee & Agency Updates

This was a time for SICC state agency and committee representatives to share updates.

- **The Finance Committee.** Alicia Skelly, Vice Chair, shared that they have had a meeting in July, separate from the Public Policy Committee, to focus on the Finance Committee’s needs. They reviewed their goal as a finance committee and discussed choices for future meeting topics, which included grant budget, funding and spending, policy and procedure changes, fiscal forecasting and legislative initiatives. The Finance Committee is currently seeking guidance from the SICC to figure out the annual goals and workplans for ESIT.
 - [Finance](#)
- **Public Policy Committee.** Brayde Willson, Chair, shared the committee has reviewed the SICC Bi-Laws and will submit their recommendations to the council for discussion at the next SICC. The committee will be coming up with a separate vision from the Finance Committee.
 - [Public Policy](#)
- **ESIT State Lead Agency.** Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Lead Agency Administrator, shared a brief overview of State Lead Agency report:



- [ESIT State Lead Agency Report](#)
 - [Executive Order 19-02](#)
 - [2025 Infant and Early Childhood Conference: Call for Proposals](#)
- [Personnel and Training](#)

2:15 – 2:16 p.m. No Public Comment

2:16 – 2:20 p.m. | Evaluation & Wrap Up | ESIT Community Collaboration Coordinator, E Renae` Antalan

E Renae` took roll call and asked each SICC member to share a power word to close out the meeting and gave last, closing remarks.

2025 SICC Meetings

- Wed., January 15 | Virtual | ESIT Annual Performance Report (APR)
- Wed., February 19 | Virtual
- Wed., April 16 | Virtual
- Wed., July 16 | In person, SeaTac Area (location TBD)
- Wed., October 15 | TBD



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council
February 2025 Quarterly Meeting
State Lead Agency Report

ACORN Readiness Assessment Team Formed



An 8-member, statewide ACORN Readiness Assessment Team (A-RAT) has been formed to (a) advise the ESIT State Administrator on all aspects of systemic and human “readiness” for the Go-Live Launch, (b) strengthen a sense of shared accountability and responsibility for ACORN readiness across state, regional, county, and local leadership and (c) ensure successful data migration and cut-over to the new ACORN statewide Data Management System before Silverlight encounters a security breach requiring an emergency shut-down. The team includes 4 State Lead Agency (SLA) and 4 County Lead Agency (CLA) representatives (one from each of the four county systems).

Objective:

This 8-member statewide team has met six times and continues to advise and consult on the final phase of key ACORN components leading up to the Go-Live launch including:

- ✚ Readiness Criteria
- ✚ Readiness Engagement/Preparation Tasks
- ✚ Status of Local Readiness Verification Self-Assessments
- ✚ Training Environment & Self-Guided User Testing Status
- ✚ User Acceptance Testing¹ Plans (Pre-Launch)
- ✚ Identification of locked in Go-Live Launch Date.

Intended Impact:

- ✚ The intended impact is the successful data migration and cut-over to the new ACORN statewide Data Management System before Silverlight encounters a security breach requiring an emergency shut-down.

The team is messaging and continues to reinforce that ACORN is both an IT Project and Program (Workforce and Service Delivery) Project that requires collaboration from IT Technical Experts and Subject Matter Experts working together in unison.

I appreciate and hold in gratitude the work local ESIT Provider Agencies continue to engage in to complete and submit their respective **ACORN Readiness Verification Checklist**. This pre-populated checklist is a tool that helps the local provider agencies understand how to prepare their local systems for the new data management system and will help DCYF confirm overall user/agency readiness. The checklist also serves as a training tool for agency managers, county

¹ User Acceptance Testing (UAT) is the final stage of software development or customization request lifecycle before Go-live; to verify the software does what it was designed to do in real-world environments.



lead agency managers, and Lead Family Resources Coordinators. The ACORN Readiness Verification Checklist includes step-by-step instructions to verify training completion, access to ACORN, agency information and user accounts.

Please continue to reach out to Kim Hopkins, ESIT Data Systems & Analysis Manager at kim.hopkins@dcyf.wa.gov with questions or reflections.

Federal Update Shared by National Infant Toddler Coordinators Association



The National Infant Toddler Coordinators (ITCA) Association shared their most recent [ITCA Federal Update on February 17, 2025](#). The ITCA Association has been providing weekly updates on activities taking place in Washington DC that relate directly to our mission and purpose. It was noted that the House is on recess this week and will return next week. The Senate is in session this week, except for February 17th President's Day.

Highlights from this week's publication include:

U.S. Department of Education

- ✚ On February 13, the Senate Health, Education and Labor (HELP) Committee held a hearing for Linda McMahon, who has been nominated as the cabinet level Secretary of Education. She was asked a number of questions about IDEA and suggested that IDEA may be better administrated under the Department of Health and Human Services where other health and disability programs are located. She also said she did not expect significant budget cuts under IDEA. The committee is expected to approve her nomination this Thursday, February 20th after which the full Senate will consider the appointment.
- ✚ Meanwhile, in the last week, the Department cancelled almost \$900 million in contracts for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the agency responsible for funding education research and maintaining extensive education statistics. These cuts resulted in the termination of 89 contracts. Also canceled were over \$350 million in contracts and grants for ten Regional Education Laboratories (RELs) and four Equity Assistance Centers.

Federal Funding

- ✚ Budget Resolutions were passed by the House and the Senate Budget Committees last week. The significant differences in these bills must be resolved before a final bill can be enacted. The Senate is working toward two separate bills, while the House is planning one larger bill. The final budget resolution cannot require cuts to specific programs but will require specific authorizing committees to select programs for budget cuts.
- ✚ The House bill directs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, to reduce the deficit by \$880 billion over ten years. It directs the House Agriculture Committee to reduce the deficit by \$230 billion

Date: February 19, 2025 | Partnership, Prevention & Services Division

Submitted by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Administrator



over ten years and the Education and the Workforce Committee to make \$330 billion in cuts over a ten-year period.

- ✚ The Senate bill would increase defense and border security funding by more than \$300 billion. This would be paid for by cuts to federal programs. The Senate bill does not include provisions for tax cuts.

FFY 2025 Funding

- ✚ The current Continuing Resolution (CR) keeps the government funded until March 14th with **all** federal programs funded at the FFY 2024 levels. Leadership in both the House and Senate appropriations committees currently are working to reach an agreement on the next steps. At this point, it is not at all clear what will happen between now and March 14th. Without agreement on final funding levels for all programs or on an extension to the CR, the government will shut down. There is discussion about a yearlong CR that would fund **all** programs through September 30, 2025.

Accountability & Quality Improvement Team Highlights

Tammy McCauley, Accountability & Quality Improvement Manager, continues to lead her team as they actively engage in multiple circles of engagement with multi-disciplinary partners across the state. Results of these critically productive partnerships are represented in the three highlights below.

- ✚ **E-SIMS Statewide Roll-out (see ESIT Weekly Announcement)**
 - 90-day Training & Technical Assistance period began 1/2/2025
 - Orientation Webinars
 - Feb 10th 1-2:30
 - Feb 11th 9-10:30
 - Open Office Hours
 - Every Tuesday in March 12-1p
 - Effective April 1, 2025
- ✚ **Revised Early Childhood Transition Policy – Parental Opt-Out Pathway**
 - 90-day Training & Technical Assistance period beginning 4/1/2025
 - Orientation Webinars
 - May 20th 9-10:30
 - May 21st 1-2:30
 - Open Office Hours
 - June 5th 12-1
 - June 10th 9-10
 - Effective July 1, 2025
- ✚ **Revised System of Payment & Fees Policy**
 - Submitted for review and approval from federal Office of Special Education Programs
 - 90-day Training & Technical Assistance period will follow the approval date



Progress In Motion for Data Share Agreement for Enhanced Medicaid Billing Initiative

Co-Project Leads for the Enhanced Medicaid Billing Collaboration Project, Lauren Thompson, ESIT Resource Allocations Manager with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families and Christine Cole, Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Program Manager with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), are excited as they get closer to final authorization and execution of the new Data Share Agreement between the two agencies. This ground-breaking strategy, once approved and signed by both parties, will help assure cooperation in the implementation and funding of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, and interagency system of early support services.

The data shared through this mission-critical agreement will help the two systems, HCA and DCYF, better understand how to support billing and claiming processes for local ESIT Provider Agencies and identify statewide systemic strategies for enhancing and expanding Medicaid billing practices. The implementation of new contract language, identified in partnership with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) has begun. This is a result of increased awareness and understanding of the ESIT program and Apple Health’s role in coverage of medically necessary services.

Starting January 1, 2025, managed care contracts will include:

- Definitions relevant to Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers Program;
- Requirement for MCOs to contract with local ESIT provider agencies; and
- Requirement for MCOs to not impose prior authorization on ESIT services, rather MCOs may use concurrent or retrospective review to assess medical necessity.

We appreciate the continued partnership with HCA and look forward to the next steps involved in the final signatory process and then implementation of the Data Share Agreement. For more information about the Enhanced Medicaid Billing Collaboration Project, please feel free to contact Lauren Thompson, ESIT Resource Allocations Manager with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families at lauren.thompson@dcyf.wa.gov and/or Christine Cole, Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Program Manager with the Washington State Health Care Authority at christine.cole@hca.wa.gov.



Kim Hopkins Bestowed Prestigious 2024 Washington State Employee Recognition Award by Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs



Please join the Early Support for Infants & Toddlers (ESIT) State Leadership Team in recognizing and celebrating Kim Hopkins as the honored recipient of the prestigious **Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) - Spotlight on Success – Washington State Employee Recognition Award!** This distinguished award celebrates Kim’s outstanding contributions and dedication to our military-connected community across the state of Washington!

The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs recognizes Veterans Day as a time to honor and elevate the brave servicemembers who have served in all branches of the United States Armed Forces. Each year there is a special ceremony that serves as an opportunity for everyone to come together as a community to express gratitude and appreciation for people just like Ms. Kim Hopkins, for their dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our military-connected individuals!

Ms. Hopkin’s academic achievements are vast and deep. She earned her Master’s degree in Financial Management and Information Systems (2018) and Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration (2016) from the University of Maryland. **Both degrees were conferred with Summa cum Laude designations signifying degrees earned with the highest educational honor and distinction.** She also holds an Associate of Science degree in Business Operations Management (2014) from Fayetteville Technical Community College in North Carolina.

For the past 15 years Kim’s professional career has focused on serving, supporting, and championing the aspirations and goals of those around her. While serving in the military (October 2010 through April 2015) both abroad and in the United States, she provided executive managerial services that included account management, fiduciary oversight, reconciliations of information technology and validation of system metrics, and preparation of long-range costs estimates for use of funds to advance specific organizational military projects and programs. Kim joined the Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP) in 2015 and successfully advanced into the world of Information Technology with the ESIT Program in 2017. In her current position as the ESIT Data Systems & Analysis Manager, Kim is responsible for direct administrative oversight of the development, implementation, evaluation, and ongoing improvement of the comprehensive state data management and reporting system. **As a result of her leadership, leaders and influencers can make data-informed policy decisions and/or recommendations to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, and their families.**

Ms. Hopkins has also engaged in extensive volunteer work over the past 8 years. Examples include serving the Mom2Mom Bavaria as the Financial Director (2019-2021) and the Washington State



Combined Fund Drive as the Agency Campaign Chair (2017-2018). Ongoing volunteer work includes serving as the Chapter Leader (2019-Present) for the Military Birth Resource Network and Agency Representative with the Washington State Veterans Employee Readiness Group (2017-Present). Kim holds multiple certifications including Six Sigma Black Belt (2014), Certified Birth and Bereavement Doula (2019), and Military Lactation Counselor (2022).

Ms. Hopkins received the 2024 Washington State Employee Recognition Award at the “*A Legacy of Loyalty and Service*” Ceremony held onsite at the **Washington State Capitol Legislative Building on November 6, 2024**. At this special ceremony, Ms. Hopkins was presented with the VERG Challenge Coin and a Certificate of Appreciation. In addition, she had a spotlight featured on the VERG website. Congratulations and accolades abound for Kim from all of us, across the early support landscape in Washington State!

Workforce Development Team Update

The Workforce Development Team has continued to be collaboratively engaged with diverse community partners on several developments related to the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). Dr. DeEtte Snyder, Workforce Development Manager, is pleased to share a major milestone in this important work.

- ✚ DCYF ESIT has been approved by the OSPI to offer and issue clock hours to certificated educators for attending and successfully completing ESIT trainings. Currently clock hours are available for those who complete the Initial Training Framework courses, including all recorded trainings available in the DCYF Learning Portal and Live Seminars. The entire series of the Initial Training Framework has been aligned to both the ESIT Core Competencies and the OSPI Teacher Standards, a requirement for clock hour approval. The SICC Personnel and Training Committee will act as the approval body for courses provided by ESIT for which clock hours will be available.

Service Delivery & Technical Assistance Team News

Through the leadership of Laurie Thomas, Service Delivery & Technical Assistance Manager, several initiatives are underway, led by regionally based Technical Assistance Specialists serving on the team.

- ✚ The Service Delivery and Technical Assistance Team is partnering with the King County Lead Agency in gathering and producing materials to support families who are experiencing stress regarding their immigration status that providers can distribute as well as information to support providers if they are present during a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement interaction.
- ✚ Work continues on [ESIT’s Staff Retention Toolkit](#) which is built around the [Surgeon General’s Framework for Mental Health and Well-Being](#). The first two sections covering *Protection from Harm* and *Mattering at Work* are complete and the third section on *Connection & Community* is very close. A big shout out to the SICC Service Delivery



Sub-Committee for their work on this project. Stay tuned for information about a rollout presentation coming soon!

- ✚ Iris Dunaway has been facilitating the efforts of the Forms Workgroup which has been tasked with streamlining and consolidating ESIT’s approach to paperwork requirements for families. This work may not seem glamorous, but it is critical to ensure that families understand their rights and give consent for various procedures in support of quality services.
- ✚ Michelle Baker is facilitating a *Virtual Winter Walk Across Washington* for the ESIT State Leadership Team that serves the dual purpose of promoting walking and other activities to get the team moving during the winter months, and an opportunity to learn more about ESIT provider agencies as we ‘virtually’ walk from agency to agency across the state.
- ✚ Molly Stryker has been leading the development of a guide designed to assist providers in evaluating tools, methods, and approaches to service delivery in support of identifying quality indicators in service delivery.

Leadership in Early Support: Planning for a Bright Future by Judy King

As some of you may have heard our wonderful Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) State Administrator, Val Arnold, will be retiring at the end of June 2025. For those of you who know her you have likely seen her serving and giving to her community to support children and their families. After many years working in non-profits, she started her state government journey with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction twenty years ago. The ESIT program has been fortunate to have Val working in and among us since 2019, and within her current role as the State Administrator of the IDEA Part C Program since July 2023. Val’s knowledge, strategic partnership work and deep commitment to early childhood and special education have been an incredible asset to the field.

Her influence and contributions as a supporter of “all things family”, living out her values as a supportive supervisor and leader, and engaging with you as her partner and colleague is something that has happened in many places and spaces. We are happy that she will soon have more time with her beautiful family at their Critter Creek homestead in the future!

As a result of this we are doing some key planning in anticipation of this leadership transition. We are interested in learning from our partners across the early support landscape about what is needed for the next era of Early Support/Early Intervention as we are shaping the recruitment process for a new ESIT Sr. Administrator. We will be reaching out to several of our groups to invite virtual participation and dialogue in February, and we will also have a survey available for anyone that would like to weigh in on the bright future with strong leadership in ESIT. Soon we will provide information about the posting of the position at DCYF and the timeline for bringing a leader into this role.

We will have more opportunities in the future to celebrate Val and to support the transition for a new Administrator in the upcoming months. Stay tuned!

Date: February 19, 2025 | Partnership, Prevention & Services Division

Submitted by Valerie Arnold, ESIT State Administrator



---- Judy King, Director of Family & Community Support
judy.king@dcyf.wa.gov

Spotlight on 2024 State Interagency Coordinating Council Structure [Updated]

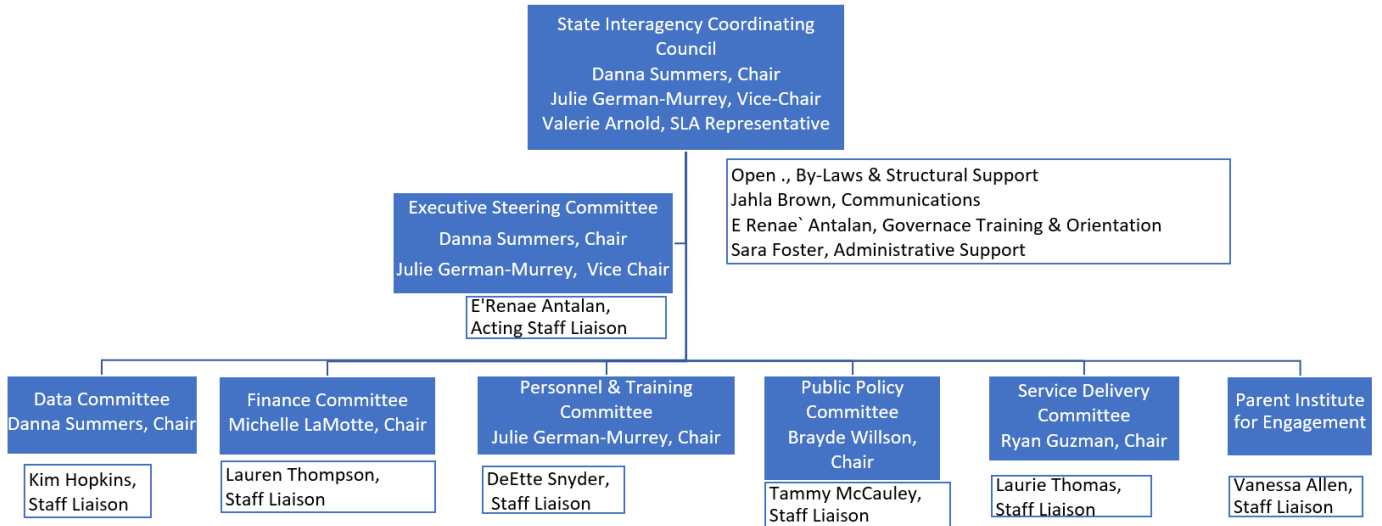
The Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council has a rich history of consulting, advising, and assisting not only the IDEA Part C State Lead Agency, but partner state agencies serving on the council as well. The SICC advises and assists the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families, (DCYF) and other participating agencies in implementing a collaborative and comprehensive statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers who have disabilities and their families, including identifying sources of fiscal and other support for services for the early intervention programs, assigning financial responsibilities to the appropriate agency, promoting interagency agreements and providing appropriate services for children.

Operating under [Executive Order 19-02](#), the SICC responsibilities include assisting DCYF in effective implementation of the statewide early intervention system by establishing a process that includes seeking information from service providers, family resources coordinators, parents/caregivers, and others about any federal, state, or local policies that impede timely service delivery; and engaging in planned steps to ensure that any policy problems are resolved. One of the primary strategies for addressing this responsibility is the Council's creation of six sub-committees. The six sub-committees, reflected on the graphic below, operate under the direction and instruction of the full SICC. Diverse sub-committee membership is recruited from across the state and comprised of influencers at all levels of the early support community. The sub-committees engage in work priorities guided by the Council, in between the four quarterly SICC meetings. Chairs of the sub-committees, which must be currently seated Council members, collaborate with a designated ESIT Staff Liaison, to establish an annual work plan, which in turn drives the frequency of meetings, and ultimately committee agendas.

All sub-committee Chairs submit a SICC Quarterly Report to the Council to help ensure strong communication loops and that work plans are aligned with established Council priorities. For more information about the SICC and its sub-committees, please contact E'Renae Antalan, Community Collaboration Coordinator at erenae.antalan@dcyf.wa.gov.



Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



--END REPORT--



ITCA Update

February 17, 2025

This week's update reports on activities occurring in Washington DC that relate directly to our mission and purpose. The House is on recess this week and will return next week. The Senate is in session this week, except for February 17th President's Day. ITCA will continue to provide updates on Monday of each week.

U.S. Department of Education

On February 13, the Senate Health, Education and Labor (HELP) Committee held a hearing for Linda McMahon, who has been nominated as the cabinet level Secretary of Education. She was asked a number of questions about IDEA and suggested that IDEA may be better administrated under the Department of Health and Human Services where other health and disability programs are located. She also said she did not expect significant budget cuts under IDEA. The committee is expected to approve her nomination this Thursday, February 20th after which the full Senate will consider the appointment.

Meanwhile, in the last week, the Department cancelled almost \$900 million in contracts for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the agency responsible for funding education research and maintaining extensive education statistics. These cuts resulted in the termination of 89 contracts. Also canceled were over \$350 million in contracts and grants for ten Regional Education Laboratories (RELs) and four Equity Assistance Centers.

Federal Personnel

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) met with agency leaders across the government last week and directed them to begin firing employees still in their probationary period. Each federal agency determines how long employees remain on probation, anywhere from one to two years after being hired. This directive could impact as many as 200,000 federal employees. Thousands of federal employees across a number of federal agencies have already been released.

Federal Funding

Budget Resolutions were passed by the House and the Senate Budget Committees last week. The significant differences in these bills must be resolved before a final bill can be enacted. The Senate is working toward two separate bills, while the House is planning one larger bill. The final budget resolution cannot require cuts to specific programs but will require specific authorizing committees to select programs for budget cuts.

The House bill directs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, to reduce the deficit by \$880 billion over ten years. It directs the House Agriculture Committee to reduce the deficit by \$230 billion over ten years and the Education and the Workforce Committee to make \$330 billion in cuts over a ten-year period.

The Senate bill would increase defense and border security funding by more than \$300 billion. This would be paid for by cuts to federal programs. The Senate bill does not include provisions for tax cuts.

FFY 2025 Funding

The current Continuing Resolution (CR) keeps the government funded until March 14th with all federal programs funded at the FFY 2024 levels. Leadership in both the House and Senate appropriations committees currently are working to reach an agreement on the next steps. At this point, it is not at all clear what will happen between now and March 14th. Without agreement on final funding levels for all programs or on an extension to the CR, the government will shut down. There is discussion about a yearlong CR that would fund all programs through September 30, 2025.

Department of Health and Human Services

The Senate has confirmed Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the Secretary of Health and Human Services in a 52-48 vote last Thursday morning.

County Human Services Updates

The Association for County Human Services (ACHS) developed the attached [legislative priorities](#) in advance of this year's legislative session and is actively watching developments. So far, ACHS has signed in support of the following bills:

- [SB 5263](#): regarding special education funding, reattaching ESIT funding to the special education multiplier
- [HB 1493](#): lowers age of eligibility for employment and CI services from 21 to 19
- [SB 1344](#): increasing access to respite care for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their caregivers

ACHS is also tracking national trends and working to understand the broader landscape and history that may impact the community and services in our state.



Association of County Human Services

Developmental Disabilities Program Committee

2025 Legislative Priorities

- 1. Protect opportunities for employment and meaningful inclusion in the community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) by:**
 - **Increasing Provider Rates:** Adjust the rates for Employment and Community Inclusion provider rates to align with recommendations from the [October 2022 State Developmental Disabilities Administration \(DDA\) Employment and Day Rate Study](#). Supporting providers to maintain quality staff recruitment, retention, and training directly benefits individuals with I/DD by ensuring the continuity and quality of the services they rely on.
 - **Addressing Personal Care and Transportation Needs:** Explore options to provide personal care and transportation as stand alone waiver services that can meet the needs of participants while they are engaged in all community activities. These elements are essential for ensuring individuals with I/DD can participate fully and safely in all community activities.
 - **Prioritizing Pathways to Employment:** All DDA services should be individualized and focused on inclusion to support individuals' opportunity to access and engage in employment. Protect the coordination of employment with community inclusion services under County oversight. Local coordination allows individuals to benefit from comprehensive support and connect more effectively to other service systems such as behavioral health and school districts.

Employment and community inclusion services support individuals with I/DD in reaching their financial, vocational and social goals. In 2022, the Legislature permitted "Concurrent Services" which allows individuals to have Supported Employment and Community Inclusion services simultaneously. However, provider capacity challenges, compounded by underfunded rates linked to rate caps, have reduced access to these supports and kept budgeted funds from being spent.

It is critical to prioritize increased rates to help individuals with I/DD to receive services without delay or interruption and provide access to employment and meaningful

For more information, please contact:
Brad Banks, Washington State Association of Counties Policy Consultant,
brad@banksconsultinggroup.com or (360) 918-6508

community participation. When access is limited, individuals with I/DD face greater barriers to employment and social engagement, contributing to isolation, reduced health and wellness, and missed opportunities to be included in their communities.

2. Continue high school transition funding for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)

- Ensure that the Basic Plus Medicaid Waiver Program is available to support employment and other essential services for all state Developmental Disabilities Administration eligible students leaving high school.
- Leverage and build upon state investments in High School and Beyond Planning, special education services, and the expansion of School to Work to ensure students with I/DD have access to career pathways, establish independence, and reduce dependency on long-term government supports.

Comprehensive preparation, planning, and resources during the critical high school transition period are necessary for students with I/DD to transition smoothly into adulthood and become active, engaged members of their communities. As the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction continues to improve and expand inclusionary practices in Washington State, it is critical to ensure that individuals with I/DD can access services that support their inclusion in the community after they leave high school.

3. Increase investments in special education funding for infants and toddlers ages 0-3.

Funding for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program that provides vital special education services to children ages 0-3 with developmental delays or disabilities is falling behind funding levels for other special education services. ESIT providers are facing staffing shortages, impacting young children and their families. In the past, the 0-3 special education cost multiplier that determines funding for ESIT increased along with the multiplier for children ages 3-5. However, when ESIT's special education funding moved to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families in 2020, these coordinated adjustments stopped. In 2023, the multiplier for children aged 3-5 increased, while the 0-3 multiplier remained unchanged.

Legislative action is needed to realign the 0-3 and 3-5 special education multipliers and ensure they remain linked in the future. This change is critical to providing equitable support for young children with developmental delays and disabilities during their most critical developmental years. Realigning and linking the multipliers will aid in staff recruitment and retention, improve service availability, and increase access to culturally relevant ESIT services for children and families.

*For more information, please contact:
Brad Banks, Washington State Association of Counties Policy Consultant,
brad@banksconsultinggroup.com or (360) 918-6508*

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) updates

- [OSPI Special Education Update - February 2025](#)
- [OSPI Special Ed & MTSS Legislative Tracking - Google Sheets](#)

Early Childhood Special Education Initiatives Activity Map

This application will serve as a tool for state, regional, and local level teams to assess their progress toward creating access to high quality early learning programs for children with disabilities with an Individual Education Program (IEP). With this application, teams will also have the opportunity to view which districts in Washington state are engaged in early childhood special education initiatives that are intended to improve the quality of instructional and systemic practices with the use of inclusionary practices, coaching supports, and targeted technical assistance, driven by data-based decision making. Users of this application can disaggregate the data by school year, legislative session, and more. [To explore this application](#), visit the WA K-12 GIS Hub Site and select ECSE Application 2024.

State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sub-Committee Report

Data Committee Report

Date: 2/3/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Danna Summers

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: Svenja Kim Hopkins

of Members: 11

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: Vice Chair, Parent Representatives

of Meetings Since Last SICC held on INSERT Date 2

Topics Covered:

APR – Compliance Indicators 1,7,8

Presentation to the SICC

Indicator 12 reporting

Exit Data

Committee Progress to Date:

Committee reviewed and provided input on the APR presentation for the SICC

Committee learned about new Indicator 12 reporting requirements

Committee reviewed and discussed Exit Data

Committee Challenges or Obstacles:

Recruitment for Vice Chair

Parent Representative

Clarity around roles and responsibilities

Motion(s): n/a



WA State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sub-Committee Report

Executive Steering Committee (ESC)

Date: 2/19/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Danna Summers & Julie German-Murrey

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: E Renae` Antalán

of Members: 7

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting:

1) Recruiting for the Data Committee Vice Chair, Finance Committee Vice Chair, and Service Delivery Chair & Vice Chair.

2) All Sub-Committees are seeking new members and would like more parent representation.

of Meetings Since Last SICC held on INSERT Date 1-Jan 15, 2025

Topics Covered: February Guest Speakers and future topics for the 2025 SICC Meetings being held in April, July, and October.

Committee Progress to Date: N/A

Committee Challenges or Obstacles: N/A

Motion(s): N/A



State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sub-Committee Report

Finance Committee

Date: 2/19/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Michelle LaMotte, OTR/L, SSPT; Alicia Skelly, Infant Toddler Program Director Holly Ridge Center

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: Lauren Thompson

17 # of Members: 15

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: Actively recruiting for a co-chair for the Finance Committee effective April 2025.

of Meetings Since Last SICC held on INSERT Date 11/21/2024, 12/19/2024 & 1/16/2025

Topics Covered:

- Discussed role and purpose of Finance Committee in supporting needs of SICC
- Received information on DCYF ESIT Fiscal Priorities for FY25 and reviewed relevance to committee priorities.
- Members discussed and voted on their ability to advise, assist, and consult SICC in gathering relevant information to these priorities.
- Members voted and chose Enhanced Medicaid Billing Project as an area around which they could provide rich information to the SICC for future development.
- Discussed need for PPC committee and Finance Committee to intermittently come together at relevant junctures to address legislative direction/updates impactful for both committees.

Committee Progress to Date:

- Addressing purpose and goals for Finance Committee at SICC meeting scheduled in February
- Agreed to rejoin PPC committee to review and consider impact of legislative updates

Committee Challenges or Obstacles: None

Motion(s): Seek guidance and discuss needs of SICC for further information pertaining to Enhanced Medicaid Billing Project.



WA State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sub-Committee Report

Parent Institute of Engagement Report

Date: 2/6/2025

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: Vanessa Allen

of Members: 12

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: N/A

of Meetings Since Last SICC held on INSERT Date 2

Topics Covered: Topics Covered: PIE had 2 trainings that consisted of:

Racial Equity | Heather Kawamoto and Michelle Morse. Topic: Historical Construction of Race and Whiteness and Its Impact on Present Day:

Participants engaged in discussions about the historical construction of race and the evolution of whiteness. The session aimed to deepen understanding of different types of racism and their continued influence on contemporary society. Participants explored concrete strategies to foster racial equity in their personal and professional lives. One key takeaway was the importance of adopting a PIE (Practices, Institutions, and Environment) framework to advance racial equity.

Advocacy Training with Jeremy Kriedlo. Topic: Refining Your Story for Effective Advocacy

Jeremy Kriedlo led an advocacy training session focused on refining personal narratives for impactful storytelling. Participants learned essential editing techniques to enhance their stories and make them more compelling for their audience. The key editing strategies included:

Adjusting Detail Levels – Ensuring the right balance of detail to maintain engagement while delivering a clear message. Raising the Stakes – Identifying critical moments and emphasizing them to increase emotional impact. Word Choice and Tone – Ensuring consistency in language to align with the intended message. Managing Time Warps – Checking sequencing for clarity and removing unnecessary time shifts. Emotional Resonance – Identifying desired emotional responses from the audience and editing accordingly. Eliminating Redundancy – Removing parts that do not serve the story's core purpose. Surprising the Audience – Introducing unexpected elements to maintain engagement. Character Development – Enhancing the depth of characters to make the narrative more relatable. Seeking Feedback – Gathering insights from trusted sources to refine the final version.

Participants left with actionable techniques to craft compelling advocacy stories that can drive change effectively.



Committee Progress to Date: N/A

Committee Challenges or Obstacles: As in past cohorts, a significant challenge remains the issue of reimbursements for lived experience. Due to conflicts related to work, family, and the inability to attend meetings because of income loss, we have lost five members. Addressing this issue is crucial to ensuring continued engagement and participation.

Motion(s):

State Interagency Coordinating Council Committee Report

Personnel and Training

Date: 2/4/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Julie German-Murrey, (Chair) / Amy Baker, (Vice Chair)

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: DeEtte Snyder

of Members: 12

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: We currently have 3 members who recently left due to moves or other personal reasons, and we are in need of filling these three positions.

of Meetings Since Last SICC held on INSERT Date This sub-committee met on Dec 9, 2024, Jan 13, 2025 and will meet next on Feb 10, 2025.

Topics Covered:

* Reviewed and provided feedback on Developmental Specialist Credential for those providing education services within ESIT.

*ESIT is now an approved clock hour provider for WA state educators; this committee is tasked to review objectives and agendas of courses in order to approve or deny.

Committee Progress to Date:

This committee continues to be actively engaged and invested in the work toward supporting agencies in hiring and retaining a strong, skilled workforce. The focus this quarter has been primarily on providing feedback on the drafted education credential. This credential defines the roles of Developmental Specialist and Developmental Associate, the educational requirements, and the pathways to these credentials. These are the providers who provide education services to families with young children who have developmental differences. Feedback on the rollout of this new credential was also discussed.

Committee Challenges or Obstacles:

A few of the consistent obstacles we encounter in this work include:

*Early Support funding does not allow for agencies to offer competitive salaries, especially in this time of high cost of living.

*Retention is also an ongoing issue, as agencies are finding a high turnover of service providers.

*There is limited training and/or exposure to Early Support at the university level for therapists and educators, which means that many therapists and educators have are not aware of this professional path. Additionally, agencies need to spend additional time and



money on training new staff on the specialized set of knowledge and skills needed to work with families of young children.

*The current requirements for service providers, especially educators, within early support are very high, and there are limited university programs which provide the requisite requirements. This also contributes to the next challenge, which is:

*Our workforce does not generally match the cultural and language makeup of the families who we serve, which impacts the quality of services provided.

Motion(s): None.

State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sub-Committee Report

Public Policy Committee Report

Date: 2/7/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Brayde Willson, chair / Mike Stewart, vice chair

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: Tammy McCauley

of Members: 16

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: Click or tap here to enter text.

of Meetings Since Last SICCC held on October 16, 2024 2 PPC, 1 joint PPC-Finance

Topics Covered:

- SICCC Bylaw review, revision recommendations
- Legislative action and advocacy review, post-election impacts
- Drafting PPC vision statement
- Resources and supports for families with mixed immigration status and agencies that serve them

Committee Progress to Date:

Public Policy Committee has been dedicating its time to staying current with legislative advocacy and implications for ESIT along with reidentifying its purpose and vision. A draft vision statement is in process. PPC also fine-tuned its recommendations on SICCC bylaw revisions and has submitted them to SICCC for discussion. PPC has begun intersecting with Finance Committee once again and will continue to do so during the 2025 legislative session. PPC and Finance Committee have begun discussing the effects of changes rolling out from the federal administration, particularly for Washington State's immigrant families.

Committee Challenges or Obstacles:

- PPC no longer has a representative assigned from DCYF Government Affairs.
- Subject matter expertise is needed for further discussion of work with and resources for immigrant families to offer accurate information and do no harm.

Motion(s):



State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sub-Committee Report

Service Delivery Committee

Date: 2/6/2025

Chair/Vice Chair: Ryan Guzman

DCYF ESIT Staff Liaison: Laurie Thomas

of Members: 8

Recruiting: No Yes

If yes, please describe type of membership recruiting: Click or tap here to enter text.

of Meetings Since Last SICC held on INSERT Date 4 – October 28th, November 18th, December 9th, January 13th

Topics Covered: IFSP Training Materials- Creating Case Studies for upcoming IFSP training modules, Retention Priorities- Surgeon General’s Framework on Workplace Mental Health and Well-Being & review Retention Toolkit, Family First Prevention Services Act – reflect upon concerns for safety of home visiting staff with upcoming legislative changes.

Committee Progress to Date: The Committee has shifted it’s focus from homevisitor safety to the development of the IFSP modules. Committee members, in partnership with ESIT staff, are reviewing and editing the current case studies within a shared document to ensure alignment and accuracy of content. Once completed this information will be shared back with ESIT staff for final edits. Upcoming topics for the Committee members include retention and supporting the development of a Retention Toolkit.

Committee Challenges or Obstacles: Committee members expressed some concern with the processes of engaging with the IFSP editing task. With time and open communication, the team was able to find a path moving forward that allowed the ESIT team and SDC to work in tandem successfully. The collaboration and commitment of the two parties as been evident and the product created is strong tool that will support the field.

Motion(s): none at this time



[back to TOC](#)

ESIT Part C of IDEA Grant Application 2025

SICC February 19, 2025

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Part C of IDEA for FFY 2025

- Note: FFY25 Allocation Tables will NOT be available BEFORE states must begin public posting. States are instructed to use FFY24 Federal Award Total to build budget.
 - Once Allocation Tables are published, the State will update the public posting (60-day timeline does NOT restart)
- Anticipated Timeline:
 - OSEP Notification + Grant Application Packet & Instructions [est. mid-Feb 2025](#)
 - Public Post of Grant Application (60 days)
 - 30-day public comment period; and
 - Public hearings
 - Submission of grant application by [est. mid-May 2025](#)
 - Funds will become available to states on **July 1st, 2025**



Public Participation Requirements

- Before submitting FFY2025 IDEA Part C application, the State must publish its entire application in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State at least **60 days prior to submission**.
 - Opportunity for public comment for at least **30** days during the 60-day publication period
- Any new or revised policy must be subject to public participation requirements:
 - Provide opportunity for general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddler with disabilities, early intervention service providers, and member of the State Interagency Coordinating Council **to comment on the new or revised policy for at least 30 days; and**
 - **Hold public hearings** on the new or revised policy (with a 30-day prior notice of the hearings)



Grant Application Sections

Section I: Submission Statement

Section II: State Policies, Procedures, Methods, Descriptions and Assurances

Section III: Description of how the State proposes to use Part C funds

Section IV: System of Payments / Use of Insurance / Program Income & Indirect Costs



Section II

Section II: Each State must have on file with OSEP, or submit with its application, policies, procedures, methods and descriptions as well as assurances and a certification. These policies, procedures, methods and descriptions must be consistent with the IDEA Part C requirements in 20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq. and 34 Part 303.

- A. State Policies, Procedures & Descriptions
- B. Assurances
- C. Certifications
- D. Statement



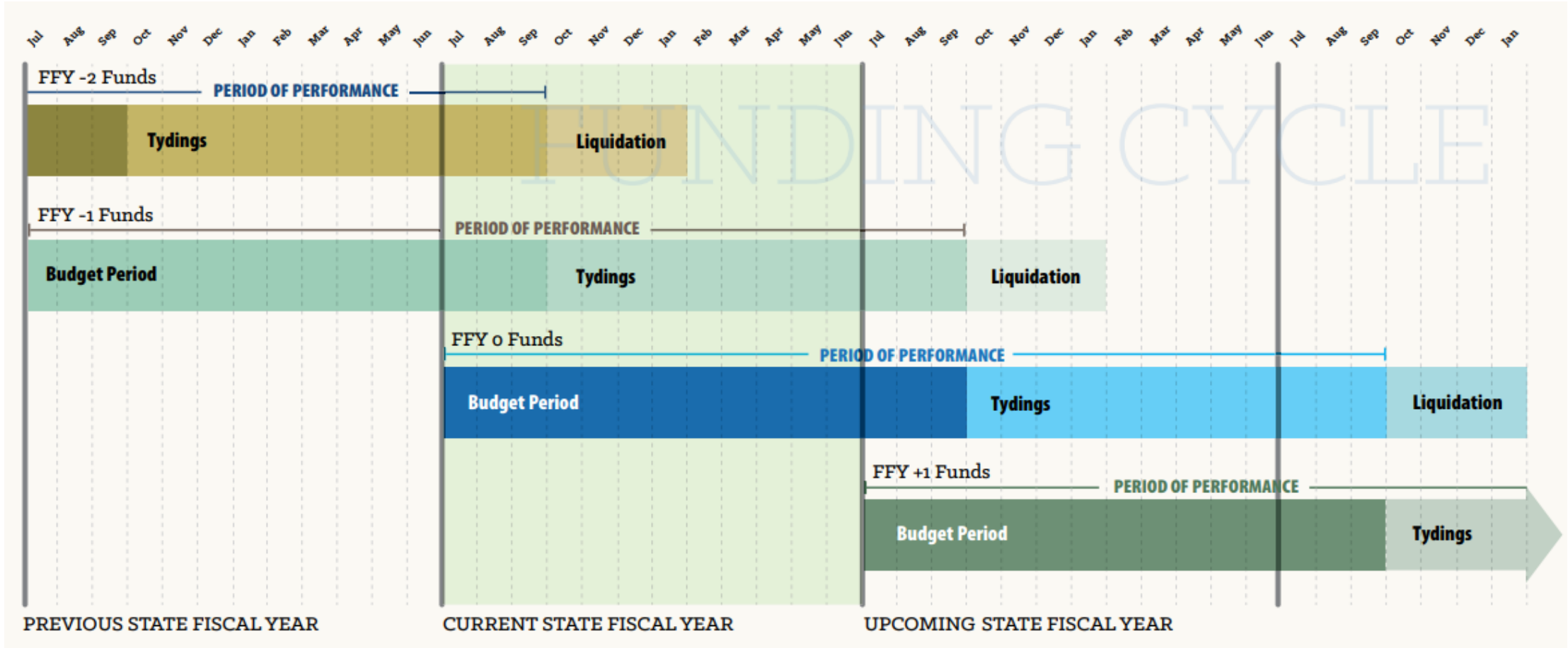
Section III

Section III: Each State must identify in Section III.C the amount of Federal IDEA Part C funds that the State expects to spend on direct costs for the provision of early intervention services.

- A. Description of Use of Federal IDEA Part C Funds for SLA & ICC
- B. Maintenance and Implementation Activities for SLA & ICC
- C. Direct Services (Funded by Federal Part C Funds)
- D. Activities by Other State Agencies
- E. Description of Optional Use of Part C Funds
- F. Totals



Part C Federal Funding Timeline



WA State Historical Federal Award Totals

- FFY20: \$10,584,988 (+4%)
- FFY21 = 7/1/21 – 9/30/23 = \$10,584,988
+ ARPA (\$5,144,730) One-time funds
- FFY22 = 7/1/22 – 9/30/24 = \$10,733,999 (+1.4%)
- FFY23 = 7/1/23 – 9/30/25 = \$11,477,514 (+6.5%)
- FFY24 = 7/1/24 – 9/30/26 = \$11,533,567 (+.05%)

[Fiscal Year 2023-FY 2025 President's Budget State Tables for the U.S. Department of Education](#)

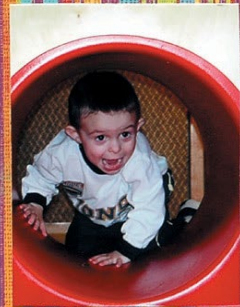




Children's Village – Yakima Washington
Cindy Carroll, M.A., SLP – Clinical Director



Children's Village is a beautifully designed facility created to help children with special needs. Ethan was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) in July, 2004 at Children's Village, by Dr. Lieke. He started therapy before actually receiving the diagnosis, in March, 2004, when he was 19 months old. We were assigned a very knowledgeable and empathetic family resource coordinator, Sharon Laudon; and started seeing Cindy Carroll, speech therapist, extraordinary once a week and eventually 2 times per week. We also started going to a toddler group once a week made up of children with special needs as well as typically developing children. Ironically one of Ethan's peers from our play-group was also a part of the toddler program. (He was however, typically developing). In November, we started seeing Julie Ferguson, an amazing occupational therapist, who takes Ethan into the pool for therapy which he absolutely loves. Four days a week we drove to Children's Village and crossed the bridge in the hopes of helping Edy to learn and develop. I describe going to Children's Village as more than a trip to the therapist and more of an "an event". First we cross the bridge and the boys fight over who gets to push the button to make the door open, then we go the receptionist desk to let them know



Crossing the BRIDGE



complete family involvement - which has proven beneficial for Ethan and us. Now that Ethan is 3, he is going to a developmental preschool in our school district 2 days per week. But we still cross the bridge to Children's Village to see Julie and Cindy once a week each. Children's Village is now working on putting together an Autism program and we are very hopeful that it will be up and running by the beginning of the next school year. We've been very blessed to have Children's Village and several very special therapists in our lives. Every time we cross that bridge I am truly thankful for Children's Village.
Photos 2/05 - Journaling 2/06



Laura Crooks – CEO



Children's Village- Our Mission

- Crossing the bridge together, we connect children with special needs and their families to supportive Services



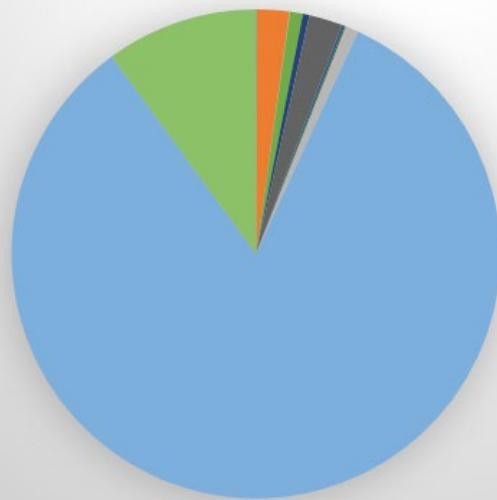
Who Are Our Patients And Families

- 88% from Yakima Valley, the rest come from all over the state
- Over 40% of our kids have a behavioral health diagnosis/autism
- Majority of families have needs that require complex coordination and support



Where Do The Patients Come From

Where Our Patients Live (by county)



- Adams
- Benton
- Columbia
- Cowlitz
- Douglas
- Franklin
- Grant
- King
- Kittitas
- Kitsap
- Klickitat
- Out of State
- Pierce
- Spokane
- Walla Walla
- Whitman
- Yakima

Counties	# patients
Adams	8
Benton	324
Columbia	4
Cowlitz	1
Douglas	1
Franklin	129
Grant	65
King	1
Kittitas	332
Kitsap	1
Klickitat	28
Out of State	15
Pierce	4
Spokane	7
Walla Walla	120
Whitman	1
Yakima	12604
Other not identified	1525

Our Current Services

- Our Specialties in the Building
 - Therapy Services
 - Developmental Pediatrics
 - Behavioral Health
 - Dental
 - Family Support (P2P)
- FWC/Seattle Childrens
 - Cardiology
 - Gastroenterology
 - Neurodevelopmental
 - Neurology
 - Orthopedics
- In Home Services
 - Early intervention
 - Therapy
 - NFP - +Tribal Nursing
 - BAT
- Recent additions
 - Maternal Fetal Medicine
 - Services at Triumph Treatment Center



Children's Village Growth over the past few years

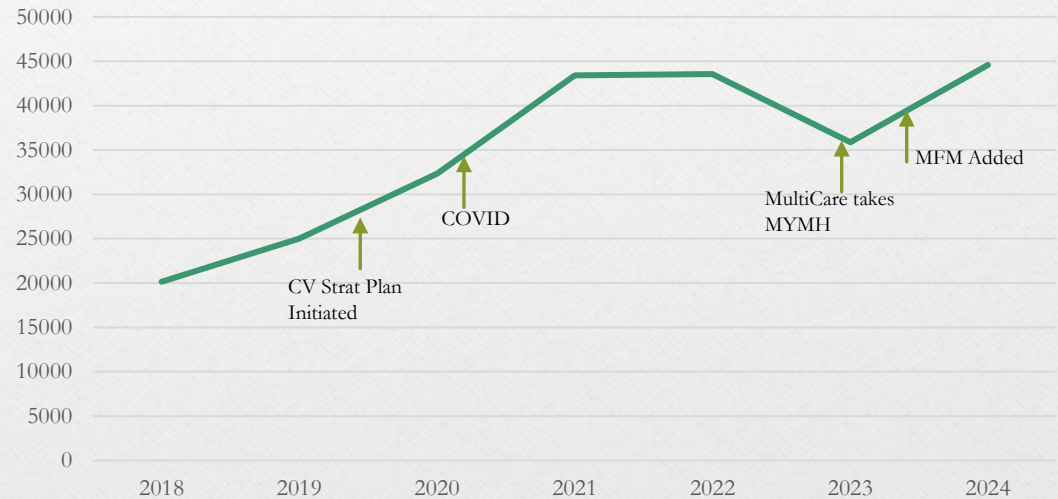
Total Visit Growth

of Patients:

- 2019 = 5,694
- 2020 = 8,114
- 2021 = 9,560
- 2022 = 11,147
- 2023 = 11,879
- 2024 = 12,160

of actual appointments

- 2019 = 25,000
- 2020 = 32,346
- 2021 = 43,398
- 2022 = 43,570
- 2023 = 35,890
- 2024 = 44,588



Children's Village Programs- Summary of Visits for 2024

Program	2023	2024	Change
Parent to Parent	2,185	1,910	-275 encounters, 13% decrease
NFP	3,328	2,991	-337 encounters, 10% decrease
EI		14,522	
PTS		6,199	
Combined PTS and EI totals (could not separate in 2023)	18,147	20,721	+2574 encounters, 14% growth
Medical	5,551	6,729	+1,178 encounters, 21% growth
Dental	4,141	5,671	+1524 encounters, 36% growth
BHS	4,505	6,843	+2,338 encounters, 51% growth
Totals	35,890	44,588	+8,698 encounters, 24% growth overall




Infant Mental Health and Social Emotional Development

NEW: Triumph Treatment Center in collaboration with Children's Village as a community setting location for evaluations and a new parent coaching group for families with infants and toddlers. The focus on bonding, social-emotional support and building a good foundation for babies and parents.

NICU to Home

NICU to Home program

Collaborative process improves wait times for NICU families needing support

Samantha Malott | Mon, Dec 2, 2024 7:00 AM | 3 min read | 193 Views |  3



- Previously, families scheduled an outpatient visit and then waited for their intake appointment
- Babies begin ESIT services on average 7.25 days after d/c.
- Focusing on highest need, genetic conditions, prematurity or feeding.
- Sometimes it is so seamless “families didn’t even realize they were in the ESIT program because it was so seamless”.

2023 Finalist for CEO and President’s Award in the category “Caring for the Communities We Serve.

Children's Village Referral Guidelines

Department	Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics	Medical Specialties Clinic through SCH	Behavioral Health Services	Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers	Dental	Nurse Family Partnership	Genetics	Cleft Lip & Palate	Pediatric Therapy Services	Parent to Parent
Services	Evaluation and management of developmental/behavioral concerns such as ADHD, ASD, regulatory disorders, developmental disorders and intellectual disabilities (we do not screen for specific academic concerns ie dyslexia or psychiatric disorders)	Orthopedics Gastro Intestinal Cardiology Neurology Neurodevelopmental	Behavioral Assessment and Treatment Team (for children with special needs) Applied Behavior Analysis	Home Visiting, Physical Therapy Occupational Therapy Speech Therapy Education Nursing Social Work Resource Coordination	Currently only accepting new referrals for children with special needs, or receiving other services at Children's Village	Nurse Home Visiting	Genetic Counseling, Medical Genetics, Genetic Testing	Multidisciplinary Team	Physical Therapy Occupational Therapy Speech Therapy	Family support services including parent and sibling support groups, family events, social/recreation program for children with disabilities/special health care needs, peer matching program and resource navigation
Ages Served	0-18 Yrs	0-18 Yrs	BAT: 0-12 Yrs ABA Day Program: 2-3 Yrs ABA In Home: 2-12 Yrs	0-3 Yrs	0-18 Yrs	Prenatal (1st Trimester)- Child age 2 Yrs	0-18 Yrs	0-18 Yrs	0-18 Yrs	0-21
Geographical Location Served	Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties	No Restrictions	BAT: Yakima County ABA Day Program: No Restrictions ABA In Home: Yakima (not currently providing services to Grandview)	Yakima & Kittitas Counties	Yakima County	Yakima County	Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat and Grant Counties	Yakima, Chelan, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant Benton, Adams, Franklin and Walla Walla	Yakima County	Yakima County, also serving Spanish speaking families in Kittitas County
Contact Information	General Line: 509-574-3200 Fax Line: 509-574-3210 twilal@yvwfc.org	General Line: 509-574-3200 Fax Line: 509-574-3210	General Line: 509-574-3200 Fax Line: 509-574-3210	General Line: 509-574-3200 Referral Lines: 509-490-0797 (Coraima) 509-969-0718 (Pitta) Fax Line: 509-574-3210	General Line: 509-574-3200 Direct Line: 509-574-3220 Fax Line: 509-574-3211	General Line: 509-574-3200 Fax Line: 509-574-3210	General Line: 509-746-4240 Fax Line: 509-746-4241	Text or Call 509-969-0721	General Line: 509-574-3200 Fax Line: 509-574-3210	General Line: 509-574-3200 Direct: 509-574-3280
Who Can Refer	PCP, Specialist	PCP, Specialist	BAT - Anyone ABA - Self or an Rx from a COE specialist	Anyone	Anyone	Anyone	Anyone (except self)	Anyone	PCP, Provider associated with Medical Facility	Anyone



Lessons learned from collaborative work

- It is a pro-active process – just being in the same building is not enough
- It takes work to change a sustainable culture
- Create spaces to talk about the process of collaboration
- Sometimes you have to let go of your “hat”
- Build purposeful places of trust
- When a new person joins the team – revisit purpose and structure
- Be on the lookout for the next moment of opportunity
- Leadership with the same vision and mission is key – shared leadership is needed
- Don't get discouraged – it is hard work – be open to the change



Questions?

