



Friday, November 21, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Public Meeting 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
TEAMS Meeting Platform

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) was held on Friday, November 21, 2025. The meeting was held via the Microsoft TEAMS meeting platform. The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Joyce Salzberg, Acting Chair.

Welcome

I. Joyce Salzberg welcomed attendees and read the Welcome Statement.

Attendance

I. Attendance maintained by the Department of Health (DOH).

Introductions

- I. SICC members and DOH representatives were introduced.
 - a. Joan Nunez, DOH, the newly appointed Administrative Assistant for the SICC, and Charmaine Smith, Administrative Assistant for DOH, were introduced.
- II. Quorum requirements were met.

Approval of Minutes

The September 19, 2025, Minutes were APPROVED. Motion by Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen, seconded by Steven Weiss.

Lead Agency Report

Susan Evans, Part C Coordinator

- The federal shutdown has ended. It ended through a year long continuing resolution that, for the most part, froze federal programs at the 2024 level.
- Susan Evans added that a key outcome of the agriculture bill is the extension of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) funding through September 2026, with no increases or cuts.
- The Congress now has until January 30, 2026, to complete the remaining nine appropriations bills for FFY 2026. It is expected that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill will be considered with the Defense bill.

- More federal shutdown updates:

Federal Shutdown Update

The final CR required the government rehire federal employees laid off during the shutdown and a prohibition against future layoffs through January 30, 2026.

Therefore, OSEP staff have returned to work with the conclusion of the shutdown.

The administration's priority continues to be the elimination of the US Department of Education. IDEA programs would move to another Department (HHS). This requires Congressional action.

- The return of federal staff is crucial for states to complete essential administrative tasks, like submitting the Annual Performance Report (APR) by February 1, 2026, which relies on staffed federal systems and available technical support.
 - With federal staff back in the office, states can confidently meet Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant timelines, as delays in application release and the required 60 day public comment period could otherwise affect approval and funding by July 1, 2026.

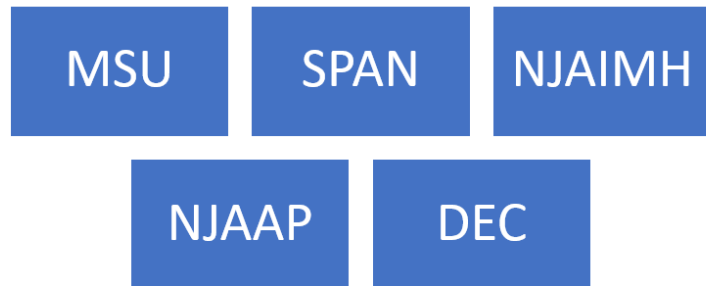
States Updates:

- Kristen Kugelman will provide an update on Indicator 11, the State Systemic Improvement Plan, sharing the work completed during the last reporting period and what will be presented to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the February APR.
- Infrastructure development is the first strand, and it has four subcategories: expanding partnerships, improved models of professional development, community improvement plans, and increased use of data.

- Expanding Partnerships:
 - Continuing to broaden and deepen partnerships strengthens the support provided to families.



Expanding Partnerships



- Continue to build system capacity by providing professional development and technical assistance to coordinators, administrators, and PD champions to deepen the skills and knowledge of everyone involved.
- Exciting regional learning opportunities, especially in Southern New Jersey led by Stephanie Flamini, are enhancing the quality and reach of our training programs and statewide professional development.
- In addition to external partnerships, the program actively engages practitioners, system administrators, and service coordinators as subject matter experts, including contributions to the annual conference and other initiatives, leveraging the knowledge and experience of professionals within the system.
- Community Impression Plans (CIPs) have been used in New Jersey for the past four to five years as data driven initiatives developed by Family Support Coordinators and Regional Early Intervention Collaborative (REIC) training and technical assistance staff.
 - These plans analyze regional and statewide data to identify system challenges, test hypotheses, and explore potential solutions.
- The fourth component of infrastructure development is the increased use of data, with the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) team leveraging Learning Management System (LMS) analytics to track and analyze state and regional training participation for both lead and local agencies.

- Slides related to Strands 2–4 of the theory of action:

Early Relational Health Messaging and Communication (Strand 2)



NJAAP presentation October 2025-*The NJ Early Intervention System: Connecting and Thriving Through the Power of Relationships*

Opportunity to message EI philosophy, share EI videos, child find



SNJREIC collaborated with NJAAP to post NJEIS advertisement on banner of website for child find



EI Week



Regional websites, social media

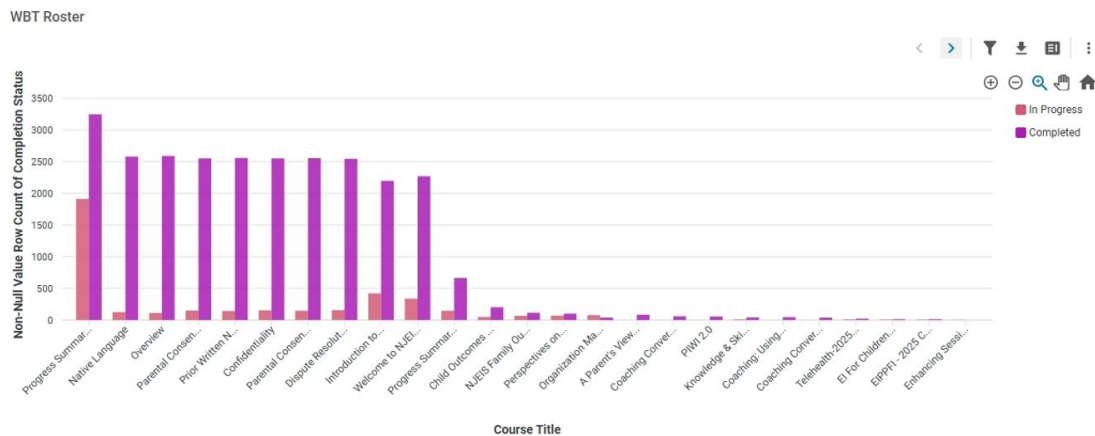
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IFSP Service
Provider and Service
Coordinator
Development &
Support (Strands 3
& 4)

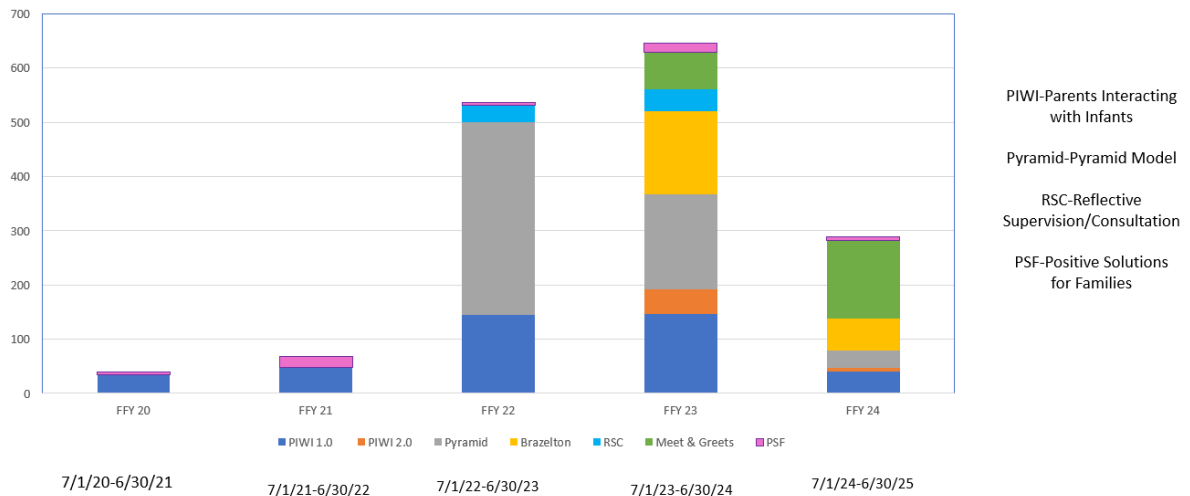


- The number of licenses, currently 7,128, is fluid and reflects those provided by the lead agency to the workforce and administrators. While this number changes as staff leave and enter the system, there is a concerted effort to support the workforce through the LMS.
- Most users (72.6%) have logged into the LMS more than 30 days ago, showing improvement in initial access and engagement compared to earlier data.
- Below are more slides showcasing data and statistics from Kristen Kugelman's presentation:

LMS Web-based Attendance



NJEIS Workforce & Family Training Attendance
FFY 20-FFY 24



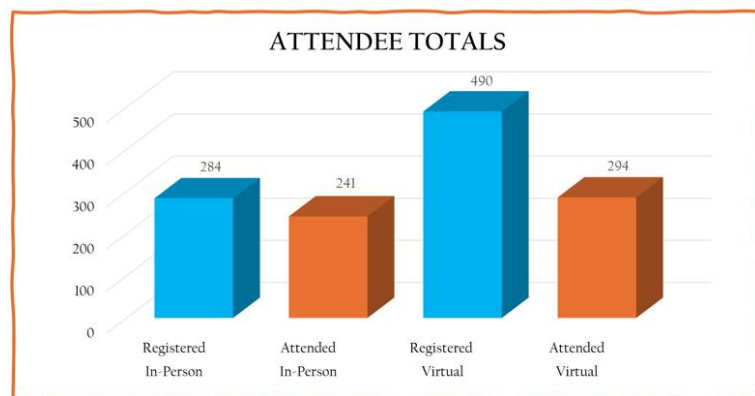
SNJREIC Regional Trainings (CIP) Stephanie Flamini

- Nine distinct trainings-13 sessions (*attendance-number of sessions*)
 - *Understanding Autism in Toddlers (279-3 sessions)*
 - *Functional Communication and Prosocial Behavior in Toddlers (179-2 sessions)*
 - *Parent/Child Engagement and Parent Coaching in EI (112-2 sessions)*
 - *Developing High-Quality Session Notes Using Quantitative & Qualitative Measures (112)*
 - *Understanding Sensory Differences (101)*
 - *Stages of Toddler Play (85)*
 - *EBPs for Toddler Learning and Development: Understanding the EI Philosophy (82)*
 - *Supporting Toddlers with Behavioral Challenges (78)*
 - *Supporting the Dyadic Relationship (67)*

Total Registered: 1,162

2025 NJEIS Conference Supports EBPs

*“Stronger Together: Enhancing
Connections Through Quality
Early Intervention”*



- Kristen Kugelman outlines the ongoing expansion of the Early Intervention Pyramid Practices Fidelity Instrument (EIPPF) initiative.
 - The initiative aims to support agency staff in developing skills to implement evidence based practices with families and to measure how effectively practitioners use these approaches.
 - Technical assistance is provided to both original and new cohorts, either jointly or separately, tailored to the needs of each agency.
 - Following the first EIPPF cohort, 11 new agencies were added in the most recent reporting period, receiving targeted technical assistance to help integrate the EIPPF tool into their practices, with support tailored through joint and separate meetings as needed.

- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked if a second EIPFFI cohort will roll out soon.
 - Kristen Kugelman answered that a second EIPFFI cohort is planned, being rolled out incrementally to ensure each agency receives adequate support, with the ultimate goal of statewide implementation.
- Proposed SSIP plans for FFY 2025 will be shared at the January SICC meeting
- Stephanie Flamini facilitated a workshop led by Rose Griffen, a speech language pathologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), on the power of joint attention.
 - The session had 456 registrants, with 211 attending, and 163 indicated interest in earning Continuing Education Units (CEUs): 159 speech language professionals and 4 BCBA's.
 - ASHA and ACE continuing education units (CEUs) for SLPs and behavior analysts
 - There are currently over 1,400 speech language practitioners in the system
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen shared that Susan sent an email to everyone about OSEP, highlighting a Leadership Academy training focused on building capacity to effectively lead sustainable systems for IDEA implementation. The program includes in person workshops and virtual sessions, allowing participants to collaborate nationwide on common challenges.
- Susan Evans added that the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is a five year continuous quality improvement program, currently nearing the end of its cycle. Guidance from OSEP is awaited regarding any changes to requirements.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen stated that it would be helpful to have grant opportunities to reimburse staff for participating in professional development, as current participation is low despite mandatory training, likely because it is an unfunded opportunity.
- Joyce Salzberg said it's fabulous that CEUs are being offered for speech pathologists and BCBA's. She recommended expanding CEU offerings to other professionals who are required to complete continuing education every two years, noting that this is long overdue. Joyce Salzberg also shared that her agency is exploring how to offer CEUs as well, and she believes that providing CEUs would lead to much higher participation.

SICC FYI

EIP and DOH meeting date set for Dec 11. Agenda will focus on EIP General Supervision plans and listening from EIPs.

Cyclical Monitoring has been in process since July and 2 additional EIPs began the process this month.

Reminder: January Meeting will present APR data and will need SICC to approve as the official report to OSEP.

- Susan Evans explained that renewed use of Consultative Services over the summer led to unforeseen challenges across several New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) sectors, including:
 - Family and practitioner scheduling challenges, along with additional costs for families due to this service being subject to Family Cost Participation (FCP).
 - Concerns from professionals about providing consultative services in compliance with their license parameters.
 - Evans noted that there were billing challenges for Early Intervention Programs (EIPs). However, she reported that most of these issues were resolved this week.
- Susan Evans added that, at the beginning of November, the department put a stop on the use of consultation in the system for these reasons.
- Families with consultation on their Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) are working with service coordinators to revise their plans and identify additional strategies or services that could be helpful. The department will continue to explore solutions to address these challenges.

Procedural Safeguards Office Initiatives

OFFICE HOURS SFY26:

- Beginning in September, the PSO resumed monthly dedicated office hours with the focus on Procedural Safeguards for EIP's, via Teams platform to allow maximum attendance. **297 Participated.**
- Upcoming office hour, November 24, 2025, with an EIP focus on fraud, waste and abuse.

TRAINING INITIATIVES:

- PSO Quarterly Trainings: Continuous education on Procedural Safeguard requirements for direct service providers.
- Mediator Refresher Training- Date TBD
- **Assurance that families have been informed of their right to formal dispute resolution.

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

- Monthly Office Hours: Regular sessions to address questions, discuss trends, and provide support.
- Infographic Resource for families ensuring the importance of their signatures.
- Partnership with the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network: Collaboration on a joint training for families on Creating Agreements and Formal Dispute Resolution Options in the NJEIS. SICC Family Support Committee collaboration.

- Beth Lohne stated that another reason for discussing fraud, waste, and abuse is the large number of fraud allegations the department has received, and a significant number of these have been substantiated. She noted that, while the overall number of substantiated cases may appear small relative to the total population in the system, nonetheless, even a single confirmed case is considered significant.
- Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Investigations SFY25 – 22 total:
4 unfounded, 4 unable to determine, 11 substantiated, 2 pending, 5 suspended from NJEIS
- SFY26 - Summary of Dispute Categories: The department has received three administrative complaints, all of which are currently pending and were filed within the past month. Additionally, four cases of fraud, waste, and abuse have been substantiated. The department also recorded one Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) violation, in which personally identifiable information was shared with an unauthorized individual. A review of the administrative complaints indicates a recurring trend related to practitioner conduct.
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of children eligible for compensatory services, as service coordinators and ongoing providers have effectively worked to address and mitigate gaps during the IFSP process, although some gaps remain unavoidable.

- PSO SFY26 Compensatory Awards Data:
September – 45 Children, 371 Compensatory Hours
October – 46 Children, 932 Compensatory Hours
November – 22 Children, 173 Compensatory Hours
Total: 113 Children, 1,476 Compensatory Hours

Benefits of the new Compensatory Process

Early Implementation: Begins the process at 32 months of age, allowing more time for planning.

Increase in Exit Data: Improved data collection, supporting better outcomes analysis.



Timely Access to Services: Reduction in delays, ensuring families receive needed services on time.

Proactive Missed Services Review: Missed services are identified and addressed earlier during IFSP meetings, ensuring that families' needs are considered promptly.

- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked, "With regards to the Medicaid fraud, when you, when there's determined substantiated by the provider and then the state gets the information and you review it, what is their criteria for reporting that to Medicaid so that they can put on the lists that? That disqualified that person from working with any provider agency that utilizes Medicaid?"
 - Beth Lohne answered that when those cases are substantiated, the department works with the Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance, which then handles reporting to other government agencies and to the Attorney General's Office.

Regional Early Intervention Collaborative (REIC) Update, Nicole Ramirez, Nichole Gooding, Stephanie Flamini, Jennifer Blanchette McConnell, Technical Assistance Coordinators

- Training and Technical Assistance Coordinators shared a presentation summarizing their experience from last month at the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) conference, where they presented their Community Impression Plan. The presentation highlighted their work supporting the system, specifically PD champions, supervisors, and administrators, and their efforts to help bring reflective practice to these roles.
- Nicole Gooding noted that the presentation included the abstract and a description of the plan, highlighting what it ultimately looked like to support the system and the framework that was used. The team also aimed to give the audience an opportunity to experience participation in the community of practice, balancing these objectives within the presentation.
- Below are some slides from the presentation:



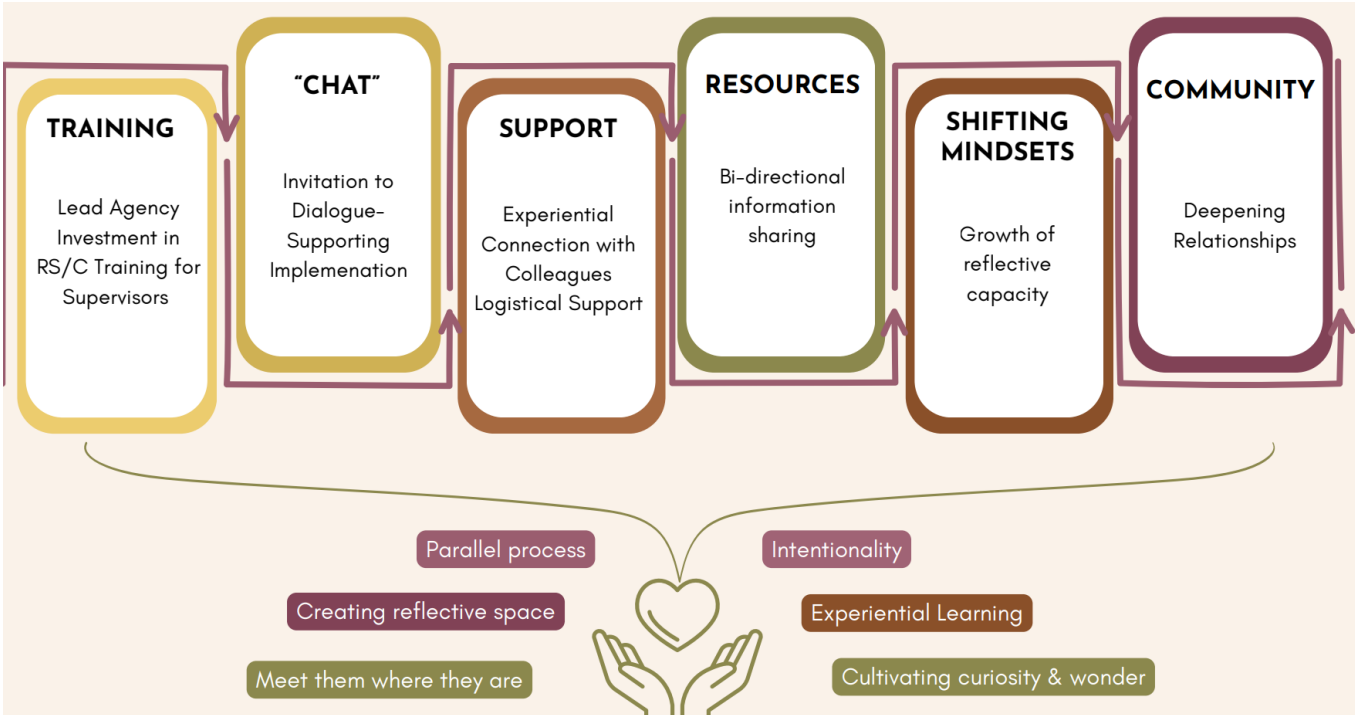
Objectives

1. Describe reflective practice as a methodology to increase self-awareness by examining one's own culture, values, and beliefs consistent with the Diversity Informed Tenets
2. Identify 1 way reflective practice can be used to build trusting and respectful partnerships with families, staff, and colleagues that are sensitive and responsive to cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity to implement DEC RP F1
3. Determine 2 reflective-building strategies that can be used within one's program and practice to enhance teaming and collaboration to implement DEC RP TC2

A space for exploring culture, bias, & equity

- Promoting a growth mindset
- Enhancing self-awareness
- Encouraging bi-directional learning





- Nicole Ramirez added that, for their own Community of Practice, the team maintains a Padlet to share resources. They created a similar Padlet for the DEC audience. While the DEC Padlet was not as robust as the one used internally, it provided additional supports that mirrored the resources offered to their Community of Practice.
- Below is a slide highlighting some of the additional presentations in which the team participated:



Service Delivery Committee, Virginia Lynn, Chair

- Virginia Lynn stated that the next step should be to develop a packet similar to the one used in Virginia. She noted that the Virginia materials are well designed for families but emphasized that they would want to modify the packet slightly to fit New Jersey's needs.
- If the packet were created, it could be distributed to childcare centers, parents, service coordinators, and possibly other state agencies. Eventually, if sanctioned, it could also be posted on the Department of Health website.
- Virginia's packet includes an introductory letter, which the committee liked very much, and that they would like to establish an introductory letter explaining why services are provided within childcare, noting that this is part of IDEA and part of the law.
- Virginia Lynn explained that many childcare centers still insist that practitioners pull the child out of the classroom. She felt that they don't really understand the natural environment, IDEA, or the value of the child learning alongside peers.
- Virginia Lynn further explained that if they had this packet, it would begin with an introductory letter, which would include what she had previously described. She added that the packet would also include three components, including consent forms. There would be information about the IFSP meeting, what the IFSP is and how it drives services. In addition, there would be an agency specific communication log.
 - QR code or link could be included to show what a session in childcare looks like, with proper consents in place, it might be possible to create a short video demonstrating what a high quality session in childcare looks like.
- In addition, the packet could maybe include positive parent feedback about families who have received services in childcare and how these services have benefited the children and their families.
- Virginia Lynn added that it is important because they are hearing many anecdotal stories about childcare centers that are adamant about not allowing services to be provided within their centers.
- Joyce Salzberg asked whether any of them are franchises, such as Goddard or some of the others.
 - Virginia Lynn responded that no, she had not heard of Goddard being one of them and noted that the Montessori schools seem to be the ones not interested in their model.
 - Joyce Salzberg added that maybe the committee could work with corporate to move forward, since if it is a franchise, they are supposed to follow corporate policies.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked whether there had been any thought to having families help with this narrative, given that they are, for the most part, paying tuition to the childcare centers.
 - Virginia Lynn responded that this could be part of the package, including some kind of family reviews, like Yelp reviews, describing how the services have really benefited their child and their family.

- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked who licenses childcare, and Corinne Catalano added that she thinks it is Division of Child and Families (DCF).
 - Virginia Lynn answered that she had spoken to them and clarified that monitoring the provision of services in childcare is not part of their licensing.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked about the concept of going beyond DCF and introducing legislation that would require childcare centers, as part of their licensure, to comply with IDEA standards.
- Virginia Lynn said that while legislation would be good, she feels the packet might be the next step. She added that policies were also discussed, but noted that creating policies takes a long time, and then they would also need to be monitored.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen stated that it might be worthwhile to reach out to Senator Ruiz's office, noting that there is nothing wrong with a multi pronged approach. She added that the Senator is likely a strong advocate for this work and would probably support efforts to introduce legislation requiring childcare licensure to comply with IDEA.
- Josephine Shenouda added that this will require many different stakeholders working together. She noted that, based on her personal experience, the licensure process involves a lot of work.
- Corinne Catalano stated that at her center, they had recently worked on short webinars. She explained that one of the topics included a simple explanation of what an IFSP and an IEP are, to help childcare providers better understand them. She noted that the focus of these webinars is on working with children with developmental delays and disabilities and offered to share more details.

Fiscal Infrastructure Committee, Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen, Chair

- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen stated that she has spent several years working to revamp efforts to explore insurance reimbursement, including the semantics involved, available options, and what could be done as a state. She noted that, as Josephine said, even with licensure, anything with the state is very complicated and involves multiple layers to navigate.
- The committee is in the process of setting up a meeting with Suzanne Buchanan, the CEO of Autism New Jersey, who has a lot of experience navigating legislation related to insurance and the autism field.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen said that the committee acknowledged that rates remain a problem and do not anticipate any significant increases in Medicaid rates in the current climate. She added that, as a result, they plan to take a different approach by creating a "show on the road," presenting their requests directly to legislators, and advocating for support for potential legislation.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked if Josephine Shenouda could share any information regarding the family cost share and the potential revenue that is not being collected, noting that Sarisha had been looking into it.

- Josephine Shenouda replied that they are still reviewing the data. She added that she had a conversation with personnel outside of the Department of Health and noted that, due to the current hiring freeze, they are unable to recruit additional staff.
- Josephine Shenouda explained that the hiring freeze needs to be lifted to recruit more staff and expand the three member finance office, adding one more to be able to enforce suspension of services, and that is what she is waiting for.
- Steven Weiss asked whether there is a rough estimate of the annual dollar amount for non collections.
 - Josephine Shenouda explained that this began during COVID and was not enforced, especially with the new Early Intervention Management System (EIMS). She added that they are gathering data to see how it looks over time.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen stated that there have been rumors that departments are being asked to review their budgets for potential cuts due to anticipated Medicaid revenue decreases and asked if any information could be shared.
 - Josephine Shenouda said that all she can share is that she has not been asked.
- Susan Evans added that she wanted to circle back to the insurance question. She noted that she spent some time in the archives and found that attempts to introduce legislation for insurance coverage in New Jersey were made in 2003 and 2006.
- Susan Evans further explained that the reason for engaging with Autism New Jersey is because they played a major role in the 2009 New Jersey legislation covering behaviorally based services for children and families, understand the questions and process involved in advocating for such legislation, and some of the language in that law could serve as a foundation for the committee's future efforts.

Personnel Preparation Committee, Corinne Catalano, Chair

- Corinne Catalano first inquired as to which title should be submitted to the department, Early Childhood Specialist or Early Intervention Educator, and whether the committee had any feedback or a preference between the two.
 - Virginia Lynn & Joyce Salzberg mentioned that they personally liked Early Childhood Specialist
- Joyce asked whether there was a reason the specific title would matter.
 - Susan Evans explained that adopting a standardized title, such as Early Intervention Educator, provides a national platform that supports consistency, professional recognition, and clearer messaging to higher education institutions and potential workforce candidates.
 - Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen added that Direct Support Professionals (DSPS) is now a well recognized, unified term, and that having shared language has been extremely helpful compared to years ago.
- Corinne Catalano asked whether the vote could be conducted via email, explaining that the information had already been distributed to the Council and that a vote had been requested.



- Susan Evans indicated that the SICC bylaws include procedures allowing voting by email.
- Joyce Salzberg explained that when an item is brought forward for action, a formal motion must be made and seconded, followed by an opportunity for discussion among Council members before a vote is taken.
- Joyce Salzberg further advised that, in order to follow proper process and allow for full Council discussion, the item should be addressed at another meeting with a complete quorum and then have a vote.
- Corinne Catalano made a motion to select one of these titles and make a decision on which title to move forward to the department, seconded by Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen raised a concern that if any professional development or coursework requirements are mandated outside of licensure, they must be established as a funded mandate, meaning that agencies would need financial support to implement them.
- Corinne Catalano added that the goal is to raise workforce expectations while broadening the pool of qualified candidates, including those with experience but without formal degrees, by providing professional development to meet the standards.
- Susan Evans highlighted the importance of clearly defining required coursework to guide higher education institutions in preparing candidates for early intervention roles and to make workforce development more systematic and strategic.
- Josephine Shenouda stated that she would like more information on how this approach would broaden the workforce.
- Susan Evans explained that professional development broadens the workforce by recognizing the experience of service coordinator associates and providing clear career pathways. Aligning with national standards helps streamline the process and reduces additional decision making.
 - Josephine Shenouda agreed but emphasized the need to review data from other states that have adopted similar approaches to understand how they affected workforce growth.
 - Corinne Catalano and Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen mentioned looking at Connecticut and several other states.
- Corinne Catalano put forward a second motion that the Council review and submit the Personnel Prep Committee's recommendations, including education, competencies, and experience, to the department for the requested standard, seconded by Steven Weiss.
- Joyce added that we will table the item for further discussion at a later time, with the hope that it will be voted on before the next SICC meeting.



Transition Committee, Steven Weiss, Chair and Josephine Shenouda, Co-Chair

- Steven Weiss stated that the transition committee, as a reminder to everyone, focuses on children transitioning out of EI, and that the committee has been divided into two subcommittees.
- Steven Weiss added that the subcommittee has reviewed numerous IDEA, NJAC, policies, and procedures and has met with Part C and Part P advocates to address frustrations around the transition process, leadership roles, and ongoing service coordinator involvement.
- The second subcommittee focuses on parent support and education and has developed a comprehensive, updated transition packet that is currently in draft form. The packet explores multiple transition options and includes detailed information, visuals, and links, with the goal of standardizing it into a single document that can be used consistently across the state.
- The next step is for the subcommittee to meet on December 1st, after the holidays, to review the final draft, present it to the larger Transition Committee, and then, once approved, share it with the overall SICC.
- Joyce Salzberg asked whether there are representatives from Part B on these committees.
 - Salzberg added that it would be helpful to have someone from a child study team involved, since these are the individuals, families will ultimately meet with to set up their IEPs.
- Corinne Catalano stated that the New Jersey Inclusive Education Project will provide preschool inclusion professional development at all four Local Resource Centers (LRCs) in New Jersey. Administrators recommended targeting child study teams, and she emphasized that information on early intervention and transitions should be included.

Family Support Committee, Nicole Edwards, Chair

- Nicole Edwards added via the Q&A option that the Family Support Committee has no new updates to share at this time. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 5.

Administrative/Policy Committee, Samuel Kivell, Chair and Saira Hussain Akhter, Co-Chair

- Saira Hussain Akhter shared via messages sent to Joyce Salzberg: “For the SICC Administrative Committee, the two main updates are that their work has been completed on an intro pack for new SICC members that will be circulated for review, and a form has been created for each committee to fill out regarding their mission and summary of key initiatives, which will also be circulated.”

New Business

- Council agreed on the dates for next year: January 16, March 20, June 12 (changed from June 19), September 18, and November 20, 2026.

Old Business

SICC Member Appointments Update, Josephine Shenouda, Executive Director

- Josephine Shenouda stated that they are hearing from the Governor's office that they are close to finalizing appointments. she reviewed the member list and noted that there are currently twelve members, including a state representative, an EIP representative, and a parent representative, and expressed hope that by the next meeting they will have Part B representation and additional parent representation

Update on the Rutgers Study (NIEER)

- Josephine Shenouda added that NIEER is currently working on a family satisfaction survey that will hopefully go out early next year, they are waiting for approval from Rowan IRB since it will be sent to parent. The second part will focus on the service delivery model, with a task force planned to be initiated in January to gather input from stakeholders, with more information to come as details are finalized.
- Joyce Salzberg asked what was happening with the 1% for the programs.
 - Josephine Shenouda answered that there was communication with EIPs back in early October indicating that the increase would come as a check on a quarterly basis, with a schedule provided in the PowerPoint or during that meeting, and added that, if needed, Chris, the fiscal coordinator, will send an email to all EIPs with the schedule of the checks.
- Kathleen Hinnigan-Cohen asked about recent meetings, noting that this may be more for Susan, regarding the Southern Region and whether there were issues with service provision or providers.
- Josephine Shenouda shared that in Cumberland County, there is an initiative with WIC in the Cumberland County and Newark Region to screen for autism and refer children early to Early Intervention, and so far, at least 90% of children who screen positive are being referred to and engaging with Early Intervention.
- Virginia Lynn asked if there is any thought about expanding the WIC program to other counties.
 - Josephine Shenouda responded that it is the plan to expand the program, noting that they are working with WIC counterparts to explore expansion. She explained that they piloted it first to review preliminary data before moving forward.
- Josephine Shenouda added that another issue is that the median age of referral is 20 months, and by the time children actually enter the system and receive services, they are around 24 months, noting that this is something the team needs to work on together.



Public Comments

No public comments were submitted via email.

Submitted Written Comments (Attached):

There were no additional public comments.

The Public can submit comments to the Department or in the Q&A section which are recorded for the Department.

The next SICC public meeting is January 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Corinne Catalano and seconded by Virginia Lynn at approximately 12:30 p.m.