

STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP)
LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT
Harbor Regional Center (HRC)



The California Early Start State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

The SSIP is a federally required multi-year plan states must develop to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities. States must identify a measurable child result as the focus of their SSIP and report annually to the federal government on its progress in the measurable result through 2020.

Based upon input from Early Start stakeholders, California selected to focus on increasing the percentage of infants and toddlers with disabilities in California who substantially increase their rate of growth in positive social-emotional skills by the time they exit the early intervention program. Three different improvement strategies were identified to accomplish this task:

- Parent and provider education;
- Professional development; and,
- Interagency collaboration.

The Local Implementation Assessment (LIA)

The LIA template has been created to assist regional centers and their local implementation team members with planning and documenting how they will implement the SSIP at their local level.

Intended Goal

The LIA's intended goal is to help the regional center and local implementation team understand minimal implementation requirements and recommend additional implementation activities that the local team may want to consider.

Stakeholders and Partnerships in Early Start Services

Local implementation teams are not limited to the activities associated with this template and are encouraged to utilize their existing resources and partnerships to implement the SSIP. It is recommended that local implementation team members participate in developing the LIA or that the plan be shared with local implementation team members to ensure that a systemic approach is used in implementing the plan.

Resources and Support

DDS liaisons and WestEd professionals will aid teams in completing the form or be available to provide guidance and answer questions. Each regional center is requested to submit an LIA to DDS prior to implementation of their plan.

SECTION I: REGIONAL CENTER INFORMATION

Local Implementation Team

SSIP Local Implementation Team Leader(s):

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- 1. What processes and tools are currently used by regional center and provider personnel to evaluate and assess the social/emotional development of infants and toddlers referred to Early Start?** HRC utilizes licensed clinicians, primarily occupational and physical therapists, during the intake process to determine Early Start eligibility. These professionals administer the *Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, 3rd Edition* (BSID III) to evaluate cognitive, communication and motor areas of development. When the referral is specific to language deficits, Early Start eligibility is determined through the administration of the *Developmental Assessment of Young Children-Second Edition* (DAYC-2) by a licensed speech/language pathologist. The DAYC-2 provides screening in all five developmental domains: cognition, communication, social-emotional development, physical development, and adaptive behavior. Each of the five domains reflects an area mandated for assessment and intervention for young children in IDEA. Once Early Start eligibility has been determined, developmental evaluations are completed every six months by the same licensed professionals. The same assessment measures are utilized in order to provide indicators of developmental progress.
- 2. Please briefly describe how your regional center currently supports children and families in the provision of services that promote social/emotional development.** HRC provides a variety of opportunities to enhance social emotional

development. These opportunities are presented through a series of workshops, trainings, enrichment classes (*Mommy/Daddy & Me, Small Talk, Wee One's, Child's Play, Infant Massage, Imagination Station, Tumble Time, Circle Time, and Learning Cafes* for parents) and an ongoing Saturday Speakers series ("*Controlling Big Emotions in Little Bodies,*" "*The Emotional Child,*" "*The Importance of Play,*" "*How to Create Daily Routines,*" and "*Screen Time*"). The enrichment classes offer a social interaction component, including, wait time/ choice and respect for individuals. Many of our classes are offered in Spanish and at both our Torrance and Long Beach sites. Funding allowed, HRC offers an annual *Early Intervention Parent Speaker Series*, with an identified theme, and outside presenters. For example, this past year we presented a three-part "*Dadness*" series (about fathers, for fathers, by father) which included "*Enhancing Your Relationship with Your Children,*" "*Enriching Your Relationship with Your Partner,*" and "*Staying Strong and Caring for Yourself.*" In the past, our themes have reflected "*Celebrating Families: Strengthening Families, Building Trusting Relationships,*" and "*Building Families: Supporting our Children by Strengthening our Relationships.*" The speakers were all recognized psychologists, educational specialists, speech and language pathologists, and occupational therapists, all specialists in the field of infant and early childhood mental health, and introduced the importance of protective factors in strengthening their family support systems to parents

Most notably, HRC was recently awarded an MHSA funded three-year grant focused on early mental health and social-emotional development of children from birth to three. One of the goals of "*Side by Side, Enriching Children Lives Through Parent Provider Partnerships,*" is to ensure that parents and other family members are provided the opportunity to learn about the critical importance of social and emotional development as the foundation for successful development across all other domains, and to develop realistic expectations for their child's developmental abilities. As early interventionists are encouraged to understand that "our families and our professionals will all benefit when we share a common knowledge about the basics of emotional support for children and families – and when we can collaborate on teams to share the knowledge necessary for such support," parents are invited to participate in six parent workshops over a two year period conducted by nationally and internationally recognized infant and early childhood mental health professionals, learning the same information that is presented to service providers at a separate symposium, culminating in a final training in which both providers and parents attend together. Information specific to this project and the confirmed trainers can be found at www.harborrc.org/news/sidebyside.

SECTION II: LOCAL SSIP IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Please describe how the regional center will recruit local partner agencies and organizations to become part of the regional center's local implementation team.

HRC will share information through the "*Side by Side*" Advisory Board and other project partners which include representatives from Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, the California Association of Infant Mental Health (CaAIMH), the Infant Development Association of California (IDA), and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). We will also distribute information through our family resource center, Harbor Area Early intervention Council (HAEIC), Southeast

Resource Center, the Carolyn Kordich Family Resource Center, and the DMH SA 8, Birth through 5 Collaborative. In addition to these avenues we will explore participation in other community collaboratives, focused on the needs of this community's birth to 5 population.

Please list possible local implementation team members. (Recommended partners include vendors, representatives from the local Family Resource Center, educational agencies, Head Start, First 5, parents, and others).

Proposed/Established Team Member	Organization Represented	Email Address
Maria Elena Walsh, MA	Family Resource Center, Asst Manager	MariaElena.Walsh@harborrc.org
Barbara del Monico, MA	Family Resource Center, Manager	Barbara.delMonico@harborrc.org
Pam Hellmann, MA, OTR	Occupational Therapy Consultant	Pam.Hellmann@harborrc.org
Melissa Greener, MA, CCC-SLP	Speech and Language Pathology Consultant	Melissa.Greener@harborrc.org
Terri Nishimura	Pediatric Therapy Network	terrinn@ptnmail.org
Kimberly Chvotkin, RN	Pediatric Nurse	Kimberly.Chvotkin@harborrc.org
	Stramski	
	Local Education Agencies	
	Kids in Motion	
	BCBA	

Proposed/Established Team Consultant	Organization Represented	Email Address
Mona Delahooke, PhD	Profectum	
Adriana Molina, LMFT	Project ABC (Childrens Institute, Inc)	
Barbara Stroud, PhD	CalAIMH	
Lisa Althen, PhD	DMH-TIES for Families	
Cathy Cesarz	South Bay Counseling Center	
Richard Cohen, PhD	Independent Consultant	

SECTION III: INTEGRATION OF EARLY START SSIP RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

How will your regional center integrate the following five Early Start SSIP resources to enhance your local implementation team's success?

1. Early Start Recommended Practices for Assessment of Social-Emotional Development

This resource is an evidence-based best practice document on recommended assessment practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

- Teams will review and share the recommended practices for assessment of social-emotional development with service providers/field staff.
- Teams will review and share the recommended practices and take steps to actively implement recommendations, such as:
 - Using the same assessment tool at both the child's entry into and exit from Early Start; and,
 - Using the same assessment tool to assess social-emotional development.
- Other. Please describe: HRC will explore the use of the ASQ3-SE with those client/families participating in the *Side by Side* project to determine the value of utilizing this tool with all Early Start clients as opposed to the DAYC.

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

2. Resource Guide to State Initiatives

This resource guide contains evidence-based initiatives and resources that focus on social and emotional development. Teams can then identify resources and strategies of an initiative to inform practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

- Teams will identify an evidence-based initiative that focuses on social-emotional development and make the principles and resources from their identified initiative(s) available to service providers, parents, and other local Early Start community partners that will inform their practice.
- Teams will identify an evidence-based initiative that focuses on social-emotional development and facilitate active implementation of the initiative with partners.
- Teams will host events or trainings to facilitate local implementation of evidence-based practices to reinforce or build capacity in supporting social and emotional development.
- Other. Please describe: HRC will strongly encourage and promote the participation of early intervention vendor providers as well as parents in the remaining five *Side by Side* training events (November 2018 through February 2020).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

3. Training

Online training on social-emotional development is available to teams and the Early Start community. The online community of practice, made available by DDS and WestEd, will support the dissemination of information and resources and promote active discussion around implementation of evidence-based practices.

Please check one or more boxes:

Teams will join and participate, and encourage their staff to join and participate, in the online community of practice to support the dissemination of information and resources and engage in active discussions around implementation of evidence-based practices.

Teams will invite members of the broader Early Start community to participate in the online training developed by DDS and WestEd on social-emotional development.

Other. Please describe: Harbor Regional Center Early Start/Early Childhood staff will be encouraged to participate in the Early Start Online Open Access course, “*Skill Base: Facilitating Social and Emotional Development.*” Registration by one of the LIT Leaders (as a group leader) on behalf of the department has already occurred so that staff can begin to participate in the training at their own pace. Access to a variety of webinars on social-emotional development is and will continue to be made available to HRC Early Childhood staff and vendors, members of the Implementation Team, and community partners, through Zero to Three, Brookes Publishing, and the Early Start Institute.

Periodic cross-trainings with *LAC-DMH* focused on infant and early childhood mental health will be promoted and HRC staff will continue to be encouraged to participate. HRC staff will be able to access the *Zero to Three/ First 5 LA “P-5 Cross-Sector Core Competencies”* online training in the identified eight core competency domains essential for all professionals in the P-5 field, including *Early Childhood Development, Family-Centered Practice, Relationship-Based Practice, Health and Development Risk and Protective Factors, Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness, Leadership to Meet Family Needs and Improve Services and Systems, Professional and Ethical Practices, Service Planning, Coordination, and Collaboration.* In addition, continued collaboration with the *DMH SA8 Birth through Five Collaborative*, the South Bay Counseling Center Collaborative, and Project ABC will allow for additional learning experiences for all members of the HRC Implementation Team.

PARENT AND PROVIDER EDUCATION

4. The SSIP Provider Checklist (Provider Tips for Supporting Social-Emotional Development)

This quick reference on best practices in family-centered service provision will include helpful reminders to providers while engaging families.

Please check one or more boxes:

Teams will email the SSIP Provider Checklist to service providers/field personnel and/or make the checklist available on their website or direct them to the DDS website where it will be posted.

Teams will make the checklist available to service providers during regularly scheduled meetings.

Teams will host a local training on the use of the Provider Checklist.

Other. Please describe:

5. Take a Minute Campaign

Brochures for parents emphasize the importance of the parent-child relationship and provide practical tips to promote social-emotional development. A video is also available to explain the components of social-emotional development in a family-friendly manner.

Please check one or more boxes:

Teams will make their staff, service coordinators, vendors and families aware of the Take a Minute resources available on the Early Start Neighborhood and DDS websites.

Teams will encourage their staff, service coordinators, and service providers to share and review the Take a Minute resources with families as often as possible, at a minimum at intake and at each annual IFSP meeting.

Teams will ensure that providers and service coordinators are providing families with copies of the printed Take a Minute resources.

Teams will host a local training on the use of the Take a Minute Campaign.

Other. Please describe: Service Coordinators will share the "Take A Minute" brochure and other resources. "Take A Minute" video will be shared with parents during the Early Start New Parent Orientation.

Please answer the following additional questions:

How and how often will the regional center and its local implementation team members meet to share information on the progress of its implementation?

Initially, the LIT will meet quarterly and then biannually/as needed thereafter.

How will the regional center and its local implementation team provide outreach to vendors, allied health professionals, parents and other members of the Early Start community in their local areas to inform them of the online Community of Practice and other SSIP resources? (i.e. newsletters, regular e-mail communications, personal contacts, regular interagency meetings, health and information fairs, other). We will engaged in outreach activities through mail, email blast, sharing information at various advisory groups, community collaborative meetings, face to face parent meetings, and interagency meeting. We will also routinely invite the vendors who provide services to our clients and participate in Mental Health Committee reviews and other special interagency staffing's for EI children. Additionally, we will include a SSIP web link on the *Side by Side* webpage.

What evidence-based initiative(s) will the regional center and local implementation team choose to focus on? *Strengthening Families Framework* and the five protective factors (Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, Social-Emotional Competence of Children). Service providers will be encouraged to consider these factors when assessing families' needs. Service Coordinators will initially be trained in the red flag system to assist them in identifying the deficiencies in the most basic needs of the family. *Side by Side* participants will be asked to complete the Protective Factors Survey at the beginning of their involvement in the program and a second administration will occur when they terminate or age-out from the Early Start/Early Intervention program.

Please describe how your regional center and local implementation team may be able to provide or gather data related to their implementation. We will utilize parent survey's to evaluate their child's progress. We will also look at entry and exit data from the DACY-C and the Early Start report.