



***STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FOURTH MEETING FOR ADVISORY GROUP***

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 08/19/2024

Meeting Location: Zoom

Approval:

Recorded By: WestEd Staff

1. ATTENDANCE

Name	Stakeholder Group Categories	Present/Absent
Ginger Elliott-Teague, PhD Senior Researcher and Technical Assistance Specialist, SRI International	Facilitator Federal technical assistance provider	Present
Kathy Hebbeler, PhD Senior Principal Education Researcher, SRI International	Facilitator Federal technical assistance provider	Present
Anna Mark, SRI	Facilitator Federal technical assistance provider	Present
Catarina Fishman Alta California Regional Center	Regional Center	Present
Frances Chacon	Regional Center	Absent
Yasir Ali	Family Resource Center	Present
Maria Rivas Client Services Manager Harbor Regional Center	Regional Center	Present
Susanna Curry Pediatric Behavioral Health Consultant Shasta Community Health Center	Developmental-Behavior Pediatrics	Present
Rafael Hernandez-Perez Case Management Supervisor North Bay Regional Center	Regional Center	Present
Patty Salcedo Training Director Desired Results Access Project		
Howard Doi, LMFT Santa Clara County		

DDS: Nathaniel Taleon, Jasmine Suo, Joni Hasselbring, Cathy Shulze, Reyna Ambriz, Hope Beale, Ashley Lambert, Esteban Ortiz, Anne De Medeiros, Erin Brady, Mini Nandakaumar

WestEd: Rebecca Halpern, Ross Adams

Interpreters: Jamie Ellison, Cindy H.

2. MEETING LOCATION

Online, Zoom

3. AGENDA

• Welcome and Introductions

- Nate Taleon introduced the purpose of the advisory groups: to gather feedback on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).
- Jasmine Suo provided housekeeping information for participating via Zoom and after the meeting.
- Ginger defined focus of these group discussions to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the role of the SSIP in early intervention and consider where to target improvement efforts. Today's meeting is to review the tentative SSIP theory of change and provide input and feedback on proposed plan.
- Ginger conducted a roll call via chat.
- Provided an overview of SSIP public input process as of today's meeting.

• SSIP in Program Context

- Ginger recapped the theory of change model and contextualized the SSIP process within the model.
- A complete SSIP includes:
 - Choosing an outcome as a focus of work.
 - Implementing and selecting one or more practices that have been shown to improve that outcome.
 - Implementing strategies to support practitioners' ability to use those practices.
 - Ensuring that the program infrastructure can support the plan.
- Impact has been defined as helping families help their children develop and learn. The specific actions and conditions have not yet been determined.

• Defining the Outcome

- SSIP will improve how Early Start helps its clients' families help their children develop and learn.
- Reasoning for this outcome is:
 - A child's outcomes depend on family engagement and participation in the child's development.
 - Providers' practices impact families first, so the measurement is closer to the intervention.
 - Families need support and the SSIP focus can draw program and public attention to their needs.

• The New Plan

- The actions must align with the realities of Early Start infrastructure in California, such as resources, organizational capacity, and readiness.

- SSIP team has developed a preliminary theory of change:
 - Impact: Early Start helps more families help their children develop and learn.
 - Practices:
 1. incorporating a family-directed assessment into IFSP process;
 2. standardizing the IFSP template;
 3. improving the monitoring process; and
 4. adopting family coaching as the standard service model for early intervention.
- Ginger asked group to think about what practices do we and our partners need to implement to make an impact?
 - Lisa Gonzales encouraged training for providing services to babies that have been identified as Deaf.
 - Susanna Curry asked, have family-directed assessments been used in other states? Ginger answered, yes there is an example in New York, though the specifics would be tailored to California's needs.
 - Maria Rivas asked what family coaching looks like and is it a new service? Nate answered that all practice models must be based in strong evidence. A handful of coaching models are promising, but a specific one has not yet been identified. The emphasis on family-centered services is the foundation to work from and incorporate into the SSIP.
 - Patty Salcedo encouraged embedding interventions into daily activities into the coaching model. Patty recommended Practice-Based Coaching. Ginger agreed and noted that fidelity is an issue that needs to be defined.
 - Catarina Fishman asked if family-directed goals would be written into the IFSP and who would be monitoring? Ginger answered yes and would be monitored during the progress monitoring phase of the IFSP.
 - Susanna Curry asked what a family-directed assessment would look like in a foster family situation? Ginger answered we don't have answers for this yet, but it is being considered in this process. Nate shared that children in foster families are a main focus of the SSIP plan.
- Ginger asked if any participants have concerns about the proposed action strategies?
 - Howard Doi acknowledged the need for clear definitions and strategies to maintain fidelity. He noted that we don't want to lose track of reflective practice to support the mental health of providers.
 - Susanna Curry asked about the possible efficacy of an added strategy prior to family coaching.
 - Lisa Gonzales asked if it would be possible to create resources on utilizing evidence-based practices? Ginger answered yes and that is part of the proposed plans.

- Rafael Hernandez-Perez stressed the need for training and resources.
- Ginger asked participants to consider what capacities are needed to make these practices effective and how to build them. What do staff and families need to know to ensure practices are implemented successfully?
 - Patty Salcedo stated providers need time and need to understand why practices are effective and how they are feasible in their daily work. A one-off training is not sufficient; professional development needs to be ongoing with communities of practice and a hierarchy of support with opportunities for compensation.
 - Lisa Gonzales has identified training on evidence-based coaching and would like to see a “de-siloing” of training approaches while preserving all training resources that are already developed.
 - Mini Nandakumar said that families need to be primed about family coaching information at the referral source.
- Ginger asked group to reflect about training modalities and family knowledge development.
 - Susanna Curry mentioned phone apps are successful with families.
- Ginger asked group what system features (conditions) must be in place to build capacity and implement selected practices? In what order should features be developed or adopted?
 - Patty Salcedo answered having allies and finding people who do these things well, perhaps by using some kind of tracking mechanism.
 - Maria Rivas suggested needing clear timelines and frequent check-ins.
 - Susanna Curry suggested using representatives who would be facilitating family-directed assessments to design the assessment template.
 - Howard Doi acknowledged that Early Start is part of a larger system and implementation changes need to be considered in the larger context.
- **Concluding Discussion on Implementing the SSIP**
 - Patty Salcedo agreed strenuously with Maria’s comment about needing clear timelines and phases to clarify with the field that not everything needs to happen all at once.
 - Howard Doi encouraged group to reflect on what has worked well in the past when implementing large changes.
 - Susanna Curry suggested considering various barriers like language, education, and referral sources within the very diverse Californian population to ensure everyone can participate to their full potential.

4. Next Steps

- State Leadership Team continues to complete an infra-structure analysis,

finalize theory of change, and draft the improvement plan.

- Advisory Group meeting number five scheduled for late September.
- Constituency Group meetings are scheduled for the rest of this week and in October.