



***STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN***  
***MEETING 2 FOR CONSTITUENCY B***  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: 08/23/24

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
Anna Mark Researcher, SRI International	Facilitator Federal technical assistance provider	Present
Kathleen Hebbeler	Facilitator Federal technical assistance provider	Present
Arushie Nugapitiya San Andreas Regional Center	Regional Center	Present
Sarah Franco San Diego Regional Center	Regional Center	Present
Araceli Mendez Area Supervisor, Regional Center of Orange County	Regional Center	Present
Matt Chestnut Executive Director and owner of Parent Infant Programs	Service Provider	Present

DDS: Nathaniel Taleon, Joni Hasselbring, Jasmine Suo, Ashley Lambert, Anne De Medeiros, Cathy Schulze

WestEd: Rebecca Halpern, Jennifer Driver

## 2. MEETING LOCATION

Online, Zoom

## 3. AGENDA

### • Welcome and Introductions

- Nate Taleon introduced the purpose of the constituency groups: to gather feedback on the SSIP. Nate provided context on the process and the advisory and constituency groups that are participating.
- Jasmine Suo provided housekeeping information for participating via Zoom and after the meeting.

- Ginger conducted a roll call via chat.
- Ginger defined the purpose of today's meeting: review the tentative SSIP theory of change and to provide input and feedback on proposed plan.
- Ginger reviewed the SSIP public input process with advisory and constituency groups.
- **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.
- **Defining the Outcome**
  - SSIP will improve how Early Start helps 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 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 IFSP template;
      3. including family-directed goals and improving monitoring process; and
      4. adopting family coaching as 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? What challenges might exist?
    - Arushie Nugapitiya recommended having a standardized assessment

tool so all regional centers report on the same criteria or outcome.

Nate agreed that a standardized assessment tool should be the direction the department is going but a specific one hasn't been identified. Arushie suggested an ongoing funding source to make sure the field continues to be trained on coaching and assessment.

- Matt Chestnut echoed the need for standardized assessments. Matt shared the difficulty of implementing family-centered coaching because it is a bit of a paradigm shift for providers trained on focusing on the child. Matt emphasized the need for ongoing support, training, and resources to make it effective. Matt asked group to consider use of the word "model" because there is not one specific model for family coaching.
- 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? What are some challenges?
  - Arushie acknowledged the need for guidance, training, and resources for service providers, and most of all – funding! Arushie encouraged group to consider how to define "family."
  - Sarah Franco acknowledged the need for getting buy-in from parents and suggested parent videos that shows what family-based coaching looks like.
  - Araceli Mendez encouraged training on shifting from child-centered to family-centered services.
  - Matt shared there are a lot of different expectations from families around what services look like or how they are implemented, and coaching may not be what families are expecting. Matt emphasized that the process of coaching is everything in terms of setting a family up for success.
- 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?
  - Arushie suggested compensation incentives to encourage and sustain adoption.
  - Arushie also suggested reflective practice tools to help combat implicit bias. Sarah echoed this suggestion.
  - Araceli anticipated that a revised IFSP template will be very helpful.
  - Sarah shared concern about maintaining fidelity from service providers. Ginger agreed that monitoring fidelity can be hard to develop without the right resources and shared ideas of report-backs or field monitors.
- **Concluding Discussion and Recommendations for Implementation**
  - Arushie asked if group can take into consideration what natural environments mean given that family structures are not standard. Kathleen Hebbeler asked how this is being addressed now. Arushie explained that at SARC, the family's routines are the focus of how services are provided.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS**

- State Leadership Team continues to complete an infrastructure 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.