

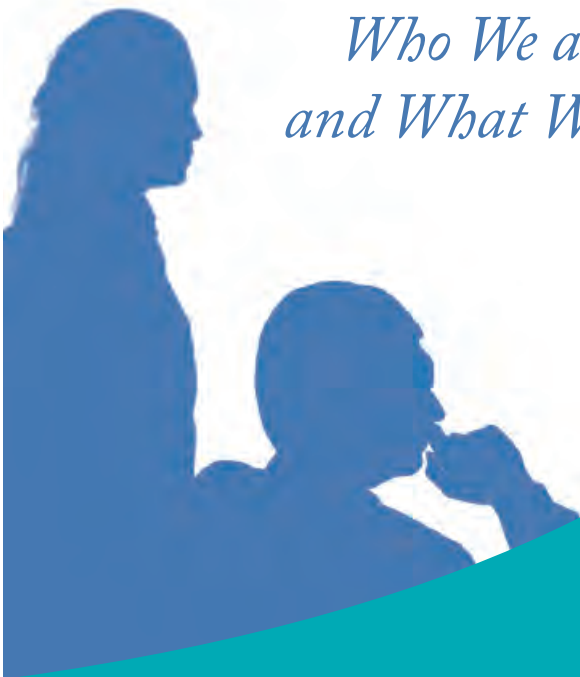
ICC

Interagency
Coordinating
Council

for

SOONERSTART

*Who We are
and What We do*



Mission Statement

The Mission of the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program is to use an individualized, comprehensive, coordinated system of services and supports to enhance the abilities of Oklahoma infants and toddlers with disabilities, developmental delays or both, and to strengthen the capacity of their families to support their development.



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Purpose

The ICC serves a major role in planning and promoting the implementation of a coordinated and family-centered service system in order to address the needs of infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Function of the Council

Oklahoma's Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention was established by a gubernatorial executive order in 1987. Members of the ICC are appointed by the governor. The ICC is required by Public Law 99-457, Part C as amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 and the Oklahoma Early Intervention Act. Administered by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, the ICC provides coordination for the planning, development and implementation of the statewide comprehensive service delivery system of services to Oklahoma's infants and toddlers with development delays and disabilities. In order to carry out this function, the council advises and assists the lead agency, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and other participating state agencies on the broad range of policy and coordination issues.

Roles

- Achievement of participation, coordination and cooperation from all appropriate public agencies
- Identification and resolution of federal, state or local policies that impede timely service delivery
- Resolution of disputes
- Identification of fiscal and other support
- Assignment of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency
- Promotion of methods for intra-agency and interagency – including use of interagency agreements – collaboration regarding child find, monitoring, financial responsibility and provision of early intervention services
- Preparation and submission to the governor and to the federal secretary of education on the status of the SoonerStart program
- Advisement and assistance in the preparation of applications
- Transition of toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities to preschool and other appropriate services
- Provision of appropriate services for children from birth to age 5

ICC Membership

A unique feature of Part C is the mandate for developing service systems built on interagency collaboration and family-centered practices to be integrated into each state's existing service system. The federal regulations governing the ICC, 34 Code of Federal Regulations Section 303.601, describe the overall composition of the ICC and define specific percentages of membership. The ICC is comprised of governor appointed members representing families of young children with developmental delays or disabilities, representatives of state agencies, public and private providers, and the state legislature.

The ICC is composed of:

- 20 percent parents of children with developmental delays aged 12 or younger
- 20 percent public or private providers of early intervention services
- At least one member of the state legislature

- At least one member representing personnel preparation
- At least one member from each of the state agencies involved in the provision of, or payment for, early intervention services
- At least one member from the Oklahoma State Department of Education
- At least one member from the state Medicaid agency
- At least one member representing Head Start
- At least one member from the Oklahoma Department of Insurance
- At least one member from the mental health agency
- At least one member from a state agency representing child care
- At least one member representing the education of homeless children and youth
- At least one member representing the state child welfare agency responsible for foster care
- Other members selected by the governor



ICC Committees

The ICC does the majority of its work through committees. Standing committees and task forces address issues of funding, policy, personnel development, public awareness, program implementation and evaluation, family support and membership.

Standing committees and task force membership is not limited to ICC members and can be expanded as necessary to include additional parents and professionals whose expertise and perspectives are valuable additions to ICC planning efforts.

Parent experience on the ICC

As a Parent Representative of the ICC or as a member of one of six committees of the ICC, you will learn how the early intervention system works and be on the forefront of receiving information that affects the SoonerStart program. Parents have the opportunity to “sit at the table” and voice their opinions with other key advisors to the Oklahoma State Department of Education, lead agency for the SoonerStart program.



The Rogers Family
(Top row from left to right: Matt, Tammy
Bottom row from left to right: Maycie, Madison)

To whom it may concern,

The Oklahoma SoonerStart Early Intervention Program has helped our family in many ways throughout the last several years and we will never forget it. After my husband and I were faced with our only surviving twin being placed in the NICU after being born four months premature at 1 lb 7 ounces . . . SoonerStart quickly became involved. They provided us with all of the resources needed to overcome this nightmare. They helped us with developmental goals, hearing and vision exams, monthly in-home visits, transition and situational information, but most of all they gave us hope. They have become part of our family.

Simply put, SoonerStart was a miracle for us in our time of despair. They helped us through the unimaginable. They encouraged, supported and inspired us. I look forward to being able to give back and support this incredible program continue their mission.

Tammy Rogers

ICC Parent Representatives

Parent representatives are voting members of the ICC, and as such are required to attend meetings five to six times a year. There is one parent chair and one parent vice chair. Parent representatives must have a child who is receiving or has received early intervention services.



ICC Meetings

ICC meetings are held quarterly and usually begin at 9:30 a.m. Meetings are open and accessible to the public, and anyone may share information or opinions during the public comment period held at each meeting. The ICC welcomes all parents, caregivers and service providers both public and private to its quarterly meetings. The meetings are opportunities for people involved in early intervention to advise and assist the Oklahoma State Department of Education in the implementation of the SoonerStart program. All dates, times and locations are listed on the OCCY Web site – www.okkids.org

ICC Application

There are many ways that you can get involved with the SoonerStart program. If you are interested in using your perspective to advise and assist state agencies regarding early intervention for young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families, contact the ICC Coordinator toll free at 1-866-335-9288 or (405) 606-4900.

Other Ways to Participate

Opportunities for participation in the SoonerStart program also include various committees and workgroups, as they are established. You do not have to be an ICC member to join a standing committee or workgroup. If you would like more information or would like to participate as a SoonerStart stakeholder, please call 1-866-335-9288 or (405) 606-4900 and we will be happy to assist you.





The Kiel Family
(From left to right: Charles, Renee, Genesis)

SoonerStart Links

The following are some early childhood links to SoonerStart Web sites for information on services and family support activities. All participating agencies are represented on the ICC and have been actively involved in every phase of planning and development.

Oklahoma State Department of Education

www.sde.state.ok.us

The OSDE, the lead agency for administration of the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program, is responsible for monitoring progress and providing oversight in the administration of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families to ensure that the intent of IDEA is achieved in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State Department of Health

www.health.state.ok.us

Through an interagency agreement and contract for services with the lead agency – OSDE, the OSDH is SoonerStart’s primary service providing agency, which provides statewide early intervention services through the county health departments and SoonerStart offices in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

www.okdhs.org

OKDHS and SoonerStart have developed complimentary procedures for referring and screening all children under age 3 involved in substantiated abuse and neglect, then click on the link for Programs and Services, then Developmental Disabilities Services, then SoonerStart.

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

www.odmhsas.org

The collaborative partnership established with ODMHSAS and the SoonerStart program enhances a multidisciplinary effort to address the well being of infants and toddlers.

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

www.okhca.org

By working in partnership with the OHCA, a joint monitoring process maximizes accountability and federal cost sharing for services performed by SoonerStart early intervention staff.

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Statewide Training and Regional Support (STARS)

www.ah.ouhsc.edu/tolbert/courses_workshops

A personnel development component, the Statewide Training and Regional Support program, coordinated by the Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities at the OUHSC, provides training and technical assistance for SoonerStart.

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

www.okkids.org

The mission of the OCCY is to improve services to children by facilitating joint planning and coordination among public and private agencies.

Oklahoma Information Network

www.join.ok.gov

IDEA requires states to develop a central directory to serve as an information and referral source. JOIN provides a statewide information and referral service that can help Oklahomans with special needs, as well as anyone in need, find information about community resources. The Statewide Community Resource Directory is a statewide database comprised of thousands of services available to Oklahomans. Services range from basic needs to healthcare and counseling. It is free, easy and confidential. Feel free to search for yourself, a client or a loved one.

Oklahoma 2-1-1

2-1-1.oklahoma.org

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. While services that are offered through 2-1-1 vary from community to community, 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis.

Glossary

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES – any or all services specified in the Individualized Family Service Plan that are designed to meet the developmental needs of each child and the needs of the family related to enhancing the child’s development.

GUBERNATORIAL – referring to a state governor or office of state governor.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT – the Federal law that requires early intervention and special education and related services for children birth to age 21. In 1986, congress enacted Public Law 99-457, amending the Education of the Handicapped Act, which outlined requirements for statewide early intervention systems and preschool services. Now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, the law includes programs that target young children birth through 21 years of age with special needs (P.L. 108-446).

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT – a document signed by authorized representatives of at least two agencies outlining mutually agreed upon responsibilities to perform certain duties under specified conditions.

LEAD AGENCY – an agency, designated by the governor to administer the early intervention system in accordance with the requirements of IDEA Part C. In Oklahoma, the lead agency for services to children from birth to age 3 and their families is the Oklahoma Department of Education, Special Education Services.

MANDATE – required by law to be provided to eligible persons and families.

OKLAHOMA EARLY INTERVENTION ACT – establishes the statute of Oklahoma to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families in accordance with Part C of IDEA. The act statutorily designates the Oklahoma State Department of Education as lead agency for implementation of early intervention services. In addition, the act recognizes the gubernatorially appointed ICC as the body

to assist in the development and implementation of the coordinated services system (Oklahoma State Statutes, Title 70, Section 13-122).

PART C INFANT AND TODDLERS WITH DISABILITIES – provides the federal mandate that allows states to establish a system of early intervention services for children with special needs from birth to age 3 and their families (P.L. 108-446 Sec. 631 of IDEA).

SOONERSTART EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM – is the actual name of the Oklahoma program that serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families from birth to age 3.

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL – required by federal statute and is comprised of governor-appointed members representing families of young children with developmental delays or disabilities, representatives of state agencies, public and private providers and the state legislature to promote a well-coordinated service delivery system.

Agencies involved in SoonerStart

Oklahoma State Department of Education

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Oklahoma State Department of Health

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Contact

For additional information, please contact
the ICC Coordinator at 1-866-335-9288.

Written comments are welcomed
at any time and may be mailed to:

Interagency Coordinating Council

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

1111 North Lee Ave., Suite 500

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Faxed to: (405) 524-0417 or

E-mailed to: tlansdowne@okkids.org

