

"Innovating Together"

A Multi-Lens Approach to IFSP Success

Wayne County Public Health

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● Why Innovation Matters

- ✓ Rising family needs
- ✓ Provider shortages
- ✓ Need for stronger collaboration
- ✓ Better outcomes through modernized systems



♥ The Parent Perspective

- ✓ Parents are usually doing the best they can with what they have.
- ✓ Caring for children with severe or multiple delays can be emotionally and physically exhausting!
- ✓ Respite care is difficult to find (if at all).
- ✓ Families may experience guilt, stress, or worry.
- ✓ **Caregivers know their child best.**



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Innovation Opportunity

- ✓ A true return provider-led to family-centered coaching models
- ✓ Routine-based intervention (rather than treating separate events) and building them into daily family routines
- ✓ Continued use of technology and creating modules in multi-platforms where parents naturally seek information
- ✓ Parent Institutes
- ✓ Integrated mental health supports
- ✓ Visual progress tracking



♥ The caregiver perspective

- ✔ May sometimes be “in the middle”.
- ✔ A knowledge of other children that may be in care
- ✔ May not have a clear understanding of “pushing in” or “pulling out”.
- ✔ May need support in implementing behavior supports





Innovation Opportunity

- ✓ Technology-enabled collaboration
- ✓ Data tracking platforms and digital data sharing
- ✓ Capacity Building Coaching (new model)
- ✓ Offering of respite services for foster parents
- ✓ Collaborative goal setting, especially for transitions that may be difficult for the child



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● Capacity Building Coaching

- ✓ Joint Planning
- ✓ Observation
- ✓ Action/Practice
- ✓ Reflection
- ✓ Feedback
- ✓ <https://www.birth23.org/about-us/our-approach/coaching/>



♥ The child perspective

- ✓ To feel successful
- ✓ To be included
- ✓ To have meaningful relationships
- ✓ To communicate
- ✓ To feel safe
- ✓ To learn through play



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● Innovation Opportunity

- ✓ Trying to utilize natural environments whenever possible
- ✓ Adaptive Play Tools
- ✓ Incorporating Visual Supports and Schedules into play
- ✓ Peer interaction focus
- ✓ Celebrate the small wins!



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♥ The Provider Perspective

- ✔ They continually study best practices
- ✔ They provide tools and strategies families can use daily
- ✔ Providers are increasingly balancing direct intervention with caregiver coaching expectations



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● Innovation Opportunity

- ✓ Administrative pay models or stipends
- ✓ Hybrid and/or teletherapy service delivery
- ✓ Better reimbursement systems
- ✓ Workforce retention initiatives



● The Service Coordinator Perspective

- ✓ Often balancing large caseloads
- ✓ Manage regulations, IFSP reviews, monthly contacts, and updates
- ✓ Need honest family communication to match supports effectively
- ✓ Coordinate communication across families, providers, evaluators, and agencies



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● Innovation Opportunity

- ✓ Family resource dashboards
- ✓ Automated reminders and documentation tools
- ✓ Shared digital and billable allowed communication platforms



● The Evaluator Perspective

- ✓ Evaluators need a true picture of the child.
- ✓ Families often need strategies while waiting for services.
- ✓ Qualification decisions rely on assessment data and clinical indicators.



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● Innovation Opportunity

- ✓ Natural environment evaluations
- ✓ Parent video input tools
- ✓ Faster referral-to-evaluation timelines and immediate resource kits after evaluation



● Successful Teams

- ✓ Trust & Respect
- ✓ Strong active listening & coaching
- ✓ Confidence with each member's area of expertise
- ✓ Family needs over personal agendas
- ✓ Collaborative Problem Solving



● Let's create IFSPs with curiosity.

- ✔ What should everyone know about your child?
- ✔ How does your child communicate?
- ✔ How would you like your child to communicate?
- ✔ What would a successful day look like?
- ✔ How does your family learn best?
- ✔ What routines are going well or are challenging for your family?



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● Blending of Infant Mental Health & EI

- ✓ Massachusetts
- ✓ *Michigan
- ✓ Illinois
- ✓ Virginia
- ✓ Washington
- ✓ Colorado



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Top Innovations for the Future of EI

Technology Integration:

- ✓ Secure apps for communication
- ✓ Virtual coaching sessions
- ✓ Shared progress tracking

Data-Driven Practice:

- ✓ Real-time outcome dashboards
- ✓ Easier progress monitoring

Workforce Reform:

- ✓ Better reimbursement
- ✓ Paid admin time
- ✓ Recruitment incentives
- ✓ Family Empowerment

Parent Leadership

Councils:

- ✓ Advocacy Training
- ✓ Peer Mentoring



“The future of EI is not built through better paperwork. It is built through stronger relationships, better teams, sustainable systems, and empowered families.”
~Deseré Baker, M.S.Ed



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