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# Developing the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Maine Child Developmental Services

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# Developing the Interagency Coordinating Council for Maine Child Developmental Services

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## Project Description

Each state is required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1441 to have a State Interagency Coordination Council (SICC) to act as an advising council for their state Early Intervention Program. My leadership project mentor, Roy Fowler, the state director for Maine's Early Intervention Program, Child Developmental Services (CDS), tasked me with helping him to develop a new and effective SICC for CDS. Doing this required extensive research into the federal requirements for an SICC including, participant requirements, responsibilities of the SICC, and the overall process for applying to be a member. Once the research was completed a recruitment letter was drafted to send out to prospective members. As the state director of CDS, Roy Fowler was able to come up with a list of prospective members and an invitation to apply was sent out. After a small group of people were picked to be members of the SICC, I was tasked with reaching out to each of them to schedule the first official meeting of SICC.



## Personal Responsibilities

As Roy Fowler's (state director of Child Developmental Services) assistant on this endeavor, I have been responsible for the following:

- Researching the IDEA 20 U.S.C. 1441 and what the requirements are for each State Interagency Coordinating Council
- Drafting a recruitment letter for potential members
- Acting as the liaison between members and Roy Fowler
- Facilitating the first quarterly meeting of 2018



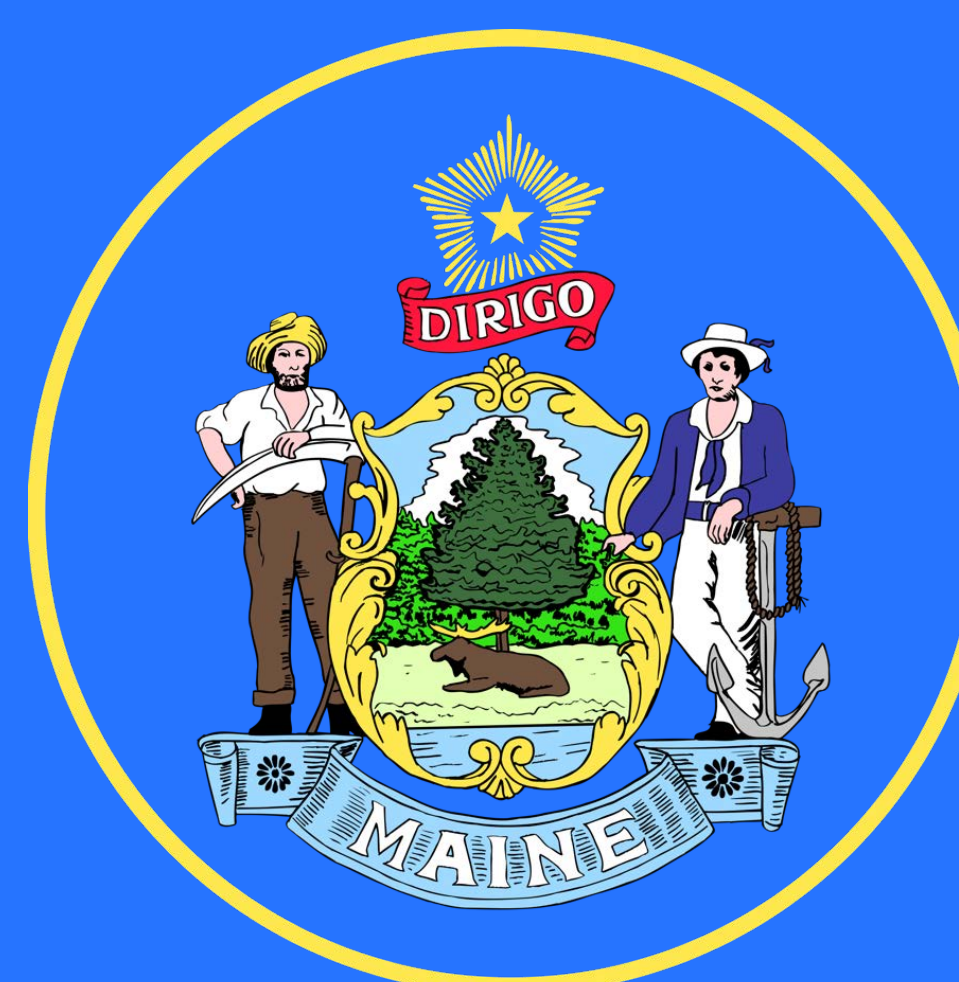
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## IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 20 U.S.C 1441

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.
- The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.
- Infants and toddlers, birth through age two, with disabilities and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth ages three through 21 receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.

## First Quarterly Meeting of 2018

- Members of the Maine Interagency Coordinating Council met for the first quarterly meeting on Tuesday March 27, 2018 at the Department of Education in Augusta Maine.
- I was responsible for coordinating the date of the event, preparing the agenda, and facilitating the meeting.
- Roy Fowler, director of Child Developmental Services gave an overview of what the State of Maine Part C program does and what the roles and responsibilities of the ICC will be.
- Potential projects that were discussed:
  - Improving family surveys, CAPTA referrals, eligibility criteria, and targets for Child Find.
- My last responsibility was to coordinate the next quarterly meeting.



## Research Gathered on State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

SICC is an advising council to each States Part C Early Intervention Program and is a requirement of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1441. The following are requirements that each SICC needs to fulfill in order to meet the standards of IDEA Part C.

- Members of the SICC are appointed by the Governor.
- The Governor must ensure that the membership of the SICC reasonably represents the population of the State.
- The Governor designates a member of the SICC to serve as the chairperson of the SICC or require the SICC to do so.
- The SICC must be composed of a number of individuals representing parents, individuals involved in child services, and individuals from other State agencies.
- The SICC may include other members selected by the Governor, including a representative from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), or from the Indian Health Service, or tribal council.
- The meetings must: be publicly announced in advance of the dates that they are to be held, be accessible to the general public, and as needed, provide interpreters for persons who are deaf and other necessary services for SICC members.
- Responsibilities of SICC include:
  - Advising and assisting the lead agency on the identification of sources of fiscal and other support services for early intervention programs, assignment of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency, promotion of methods for intra-agency and inter-agency collaboration regarding child find, preparation of applications under this part and amendments to those applications, advising and assisting on transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool and other appropriate services, and developing/providing an annual report to the Governor and to the Secretary.
- The SICC may carry out the following activities:
  - Advise and assist the lead agency regarding the provision of appropriate services for children with disabilities from birth through age five.
  - Advise appropriate agencies in the State in regards to the integration of services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and at-risk infants and toddlers and their families, regardless of whether at-risk infants and toddlers are eligible for early intervention services in the State.

## References

- Subpart G — State Interagency Coordinating Council. (n.d.). Retrieved March 27, 2018, from <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/c/g>
- Jo Shackelford. (2003). *State ICC Overview*[Brochure]. Author. Retrieved December, 2017, from <http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/pubs/SICCoverview.pdf>
- State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). (2010). Retrieved December, 2017, from <http://www.pattan.net/category/About/Partners/Single/?id=13>