

HB 48 Office of Early Childhood



Early Childhood Utah (ECU)

The Early Childhood Utah Program promotes and supports a strong foundation of health and well-being so all Utah children enter school ready to learn and go on to lead healthy, happy and productive lives.

Early Childhood Amendments

This legislation sunsets the Governor's Early Childhood Commission and moves responsibilities to the ECU Advisory Council. Among their duties, the Council would:

- ▶ Facilitate improved coordination between state agencies and community partners
- ▶ Share and analyze early childhood data
- ▶ Provide recommendations regarding a comprehensive delivery system of services
- ▶ Submit an annual report by August 1 of each year to DHHS, DWS, and USBE leadership

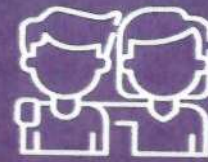
Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council

The ECU Advisory Council is **comprised of statewide leaders from the fields of children's health and mental health, early care and education, and parents and resource programs**. The Council meets four times annually and is led by two co-chairs. Staff support is provided by the ECU Program within the DHHS OEC.

The work of the ECU Advisory Council occurs through five standing subcommittees, each led by co-chairs with membership from a diverse perspective of stakeholders.

- Promoting Health and Access to Medical Homes
- Early Care and Education
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Parent Engagement, Support, and Education
- Data and Research

HIGHLIGHT: In 2021, the ECU Advisory Council recommended that Utah implement a Coordinated Developmental Screening Project across multiple agencies and community partners. Research shows screenings provide crucial information to service providers on a child's needs to ensure any delays are addressed. This project is underway with additional providers completing screenings and statewide data collection.



History

In 2011, Governor Herbert designated the existing Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems State Team to also function as the State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education, **resulting in the creation of Early Childhood Utah**. The Council promotes broad statewide coordination and collaboration among a wide range of programs and services in the state serving families from birth to age eight.

The OEC was created in 2022 within the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Family Health. The Office houses:

- Baby Watch Early Intervention Program (IDEA, Part C)
- Home Visiting
- Child Health Advanced Records Management
- Early Childhood Utah