



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

**Utah Department of Health
Executive Director's Office**

Richard G. Saunders
Executive Director

Heather R. Borski, M.P.H., M.C.H.E.S.
Deputy Director

January 21, 2021

To the INCREDIBLE Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council Members,

We want to acknowledge and celebrate all of the hard work each one of you has put in for Utah's Zero- eight age population and their families. Despite the onslaught of challenges we all faced in 2020, there was great growth and participation within our Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council. The Executive Committee and five Subcommittees devoted a great amount of time to the goals they selected as well as pivoting to a virtual model to ensure practices and resources could continue to function virtually.

We would like to share a few highlights. Three proposals from our Subcommittee were heard at the Governor's Commission in 2020: Early Care and Education (Professional Development), Data and Research (three data products, including ECIDS) and Health Subcommittee (ASQ screening).

Subcommittees saw great participation and progress. Parent Engagement (framework to incorporate family voices into EC across the state) Mental Health subcommittee's (trauma screening, statewide mental health for providers and the adoption and expansion of an infant and early childhood mental health competencies and endorsement system for the state of Utah).

The ECU Advisory Executive Council met 14 additional times to support the council and subcommittee work, finalizing the rule, bylaws, general membership, subcommittee membership and created a process document (ECU Commission Update and Recommendation Template) to assist the work being done by ECU. Over

These are just a few examples of the great work accomplished in 2020, we at the Early Childhood Utah Program at the Utah Department of Health as the staff of the ECU Advisory Council would like to thank all of the ECU Advisory Council chairs, members, subcommittee chairs and members for working to prioritize children in Utah by participating and sharing your valuable input.

We commend each one of you for the extensive, time consuming hard work you put in this past very challenging year. We recognize the challenges of 2020. The ongoing pandemic and the subsequent strains on Utah children and their families is tremendous. We know through continued collaboration and hard work we can help Utah children and their families get the services they need. This is the most important work we can do right now.

Thank you for a great 2020 and we are looking forward to an even better 2021.

Nicole Bissonette
ECU Advisory Council Support Staff

Carrie Martinez