

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording:

[April 17, 2025 Zoom Recording](#)



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

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Zoom Conference Call
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Opening

Doug Erber, ICC co-chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Mr. Erber led this meeting on behalf of co-chair Dr. Marie Poulsen.

Housekeeping Items

DJ Tomko and Jasmine Suo reviewed housekeeping procedures for participation. Zoom instructions, ASL/Spanish interpreter instructions, and meeting etiquette were reviewed.

Roll Call

The roll call of appointed members was conducted by DJ Tomko.

Review Agenda

Mr. Erber reviewed the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda. Susan Ducore moved to approve the minutes. Suzanne Sherinian seconded the motion. ICC appointed members approved.

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme of Meeting

Mr. Erber reviewed the mission and vision of the ICC. The theme of this month's meeting is Moving Forward.

DDS Updates and Information – Anne De Medeiros, DDS

Ms. De Medeiros provided the following updates:

- Regarding federal funding for Early Start services, Ms. De Medeiros assured attendees that all Department services remain fully operational.
- Early Start directives:
 - April 1, 2025: [Transition of Status 1 children over 3 years of age](#). From February 2024 to February 2025, there has been a 22.5% increase in children over 36 months in Status 1. Status 1 identifies children who are receiving Early Start services, but not diagnosed as having a developmental disability eligible for Lanterman services. Regional Centers are encouraged to use all available data to identify eligibility factors that may qualify them for provisional Lanterman eligibility.
 - March 14, 2025: [QIP Wave 2 Early Intervention Incentive Payments for calendar year 2024](#). This directive provides instructions for regional centers to distribute incentive payments for initiation of eligible services across quarters.
- Federal representatives met with San Gabriel Pomona and Westside Regional Centers to assess the needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities, and provider needs, due to Los Angeles fires. The following resources to support families following a crisis were shared:

- [Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports which covers Supporting Schools During and After Crisis](#)
- [Taking Care of Yourself During Disasters: which has Information for Parents - HealthyChildren.org](#)
- [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#) was released on March 28, 2025. It is a plan for a shared vision for all Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A 30-minute summary video is available on the Master Plan [website](#). DDS will work with a several work groups to develop implementation plans. The Department will reconvene with the Master Plan Committee twice a year to provide updates on implementation and will submit a report on progress to the legislature annually throughout 2036, beginning next March.
 - Maricris Acon added that DDS is considering all recommendations provided.
- [IDEA Part C grant application](#) was posted for public comment on March 20, 2025, and will be open through May 20, 2025. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS), as lead agency for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, applies annually for the Part C of IDEA— Grant Application. This is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers (birth to three years of age) with disabilities and their families.
- Early Start videos:
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Early Start video: A video for families with infants and toddlers who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing about accessing Early Start supports. The video is being finalized and is expected to be completed and posted to the Early Start website in the coming weeks.
 - Language Acquisition video: A second video is being developed and focuses on creating language rich environments and is anticipated to be released in Summer 2025.
- Early Start Report (ESR) is DDS's online data system for collecting regional center performance data and information for the state and regional centers with respect to meeting federal and state requirements of the Part C Early Start Program. DDS hosted an ESR virtual training for all RC service coordinators and managers (over 1000 attendees) on March 18, 2025. The Department will host an open office hour with regional centers in the coming months.

Yvette Baptiste noted that more early intervention professionals and families are needed to shape the outcomes in the Master Plan. Dr. Baptiste asked who people should reach out to if they are interested in participating in the work groups.

- Maricris Acon responded that interested individuals may connect via the [Early Start email address](#).

Breakout Room Discussions: Purposes of ICC

Doug Erber reviewed the ICC mission and purpose. Mr. Erber highlighted accomplishments of the ICC, such as [Darby's Legacy](#), [Take a Minute: Relationships Matter](#), and [Drowning is Silent](#). Mr. Erber encouraged parents, professionals, and advocates to join ICC.

DJ Tomko provided instructions for breakout room discussions focused on the current state of the ICC and potential areas for improvement. Facilitated discussions included the use of Mentimeter, an interactive tool which displayed questions for participants to answer anonymously using their computers or mobile devices. Discussion questions about the ICC meeting format and accessibility addressed how the current meeting format was working, the public comment process, and suggestions for improving accessibility and inclusion. Additional questions were posed regarding community outreach and engagement, and strategies for engaging diverse communities, responding to community concerns, and conducting outreach that is culturally sensitive and inclusive.

- Breakout rooms began at 9:56am. Breakout rooms ended at 11:00am.

****BREAK****

Summary of Breakout Room Discussions

Doug Erber and DJ Tomko provided a recap of discussions for the main room breakout group:

- Group expressed wish for more opportunities for longer discussions.
- Group suggested ICC could increase accessibility and community outreach through Family Resource Centers and regional centers.
- Group discussed the meeting format of virtual vs. hybrid, and the pros and cons of being in person; satellite locations could be helpful for all-virtual meetings to facilitate in-person connections and discussions. Alpha FRC and ELAFRC are doing this already.

Anne De Medeiros provided a recap of discussions for breakout group #2:

- The breakout room format was well-received.
- There is a strong preference for virtual or hybrid format.
- Members requested that meeting information be sent to registrants prior to meeting.
- The use of QR code integration was well-received.
- Group suggested outreach to DDS Service Access and Equity grant recipients and FRCs to do outreach about Council participation.
- Group suggested an annual ICC report to recap accomplishments; the APR does contain this, but it would be useful to pull out that information into an ICC-only report.

Ryan Digman provided a recap of discussion for breakout group #1:

- The current meeting format may be too long for parents to participate.
- Group suggested using current resources like FRCs and RCs to do ICC outreach in plain language.
- Ensure the ICC mission is well-understood by the community.

Voices from the Field

- **Infant Development Association of California (IDA) – Fran Chasen**

Ms. Chasen brought a few items to the attention of the Council:

- SB 255 is a bill to identify a work group to review the status of direct service professionals and their wages.
- There is a federal-level discussion of reduction of payments to Medicaid and Medi-Cal. Ms. Chasen encouraged members to reach out to congressional representatives to let them know potential impact. There are [rallies planned around](#) the state for next week to protest these cuts.
- IDA is offering a public event to discuss California budget: [Here's is What We Know So Far: The Current State of Public Policy for Children and Families](#)
- Current issues IDA is following are around the implementation of the rate reform.

- **California Disability Community Action Network – Marty Omoto**

Mr. Omoto was not present.

- **Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) – Yvette Baptiste**

Dr. Baptiste shared the following items:

- Dr. Baptiste provided context and background on the Community Navigator Program, established in 2021. FRCNCA established at least one Navigator in each lead agency in each catchment area, which now has a total of 90 community navigators and 380 partnerships. FRCNCA is tracking the barriers to access for both regional center and generic services; participants in the study identified 6,000 barriers they have individually experienced, but only 850 barriers when working with Navigators.
- Over the last two years, FRCNCA has trained 60 FRC staff to be support group facilitators.

Julie Maier asked, are the support groups led by the FRCs primarily for families with young children or do they include families of children of all ages?

- Dr. Baptiste responded that each FRC responds with support groups tailored to their specific community needs. There are groups for parents of both young children and older children, and parents who receive regional center services.

Gabriel Echaves asked, are there still trainings being done by the FRCs? Autism Society San Diego has support groups and are looking to expand.

- Dr. Baptiste asked Gabriel to get in touch with FRCNCA staff for opportunities.

****LUNCH BREAK****

Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Michelle Oliver, community member, shared concern that the two-minute time limit may be discouraging to family members who want to share.

Yvette Baptiste, Executive Director of FRCNCA, shared that Jazmine Blackman from San Gabriel Pomona RC and others are involved in a Service Access and Equity Grant to form a community of practice for disability service access in the Black community in the areas served by SGPRC and Valley Mountain RC. In both groups, participants have expressed concern that the Black population served by regional centers should be larger than it is. Participants feel that the RCs should be doing more concerted and culturally specific outreach and engagement in the Black community. Dr. Baptiste asked if DDS could investigate demographic data and respond to any issues of engagement.

- Maricris Acon asked Dr. Baptiste to provide more information on the discrepancy between who is served and who is eligible in the Black community.
 - Dr. Baptiste responded that this information is from focus groups, so that kind of data is not gathered.
 - Ms. Acon observed that DDS presents data for populations served in the [online dashboard](#).
- Lisa Schoyer commented that de-stigmatizing RCs and making them more inviting for the Black population could build confidence in RCs as a trusted resource.

Julie Rems-Smario acknowledged that the ICC participation poll showed the need for more representation from people with disabilities.

- Yvette Baptiste commented that she would like to see more representation from individuals with disabilities who are also parents.

Samantha Hebermehl, Community Representative, asked how insulated California is from federal budget cuts and how the State is protecting California residents.

- Maricris Acon answered that for DDS, there are no anticipated cuts to Early Start services. Less than 10% of the Early Start budget comes from federal Part C money; most of the funding comes from the State's general fund.
- Ms. Hebermehl noted that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction has posted various communications around education funding.

ICC Council Reports

Department of Education – Gigi Ostrowsky

Ms. Ostrowsky provided updates for both the Special Education Division (SED) and the Early Education Division (EED).

Updates for Special Education Division:

- CALECSE will be holding their 3rd [annual symposium](#) called Reaching New Heights on October 7-8 in San Diego.
- CDE has been enhancing support for transition to Part B through the Partnerships for Effective Practices in Transition and Inclusion (PEPTI), a cross-departmental partnership.

- CDE is in the final phase of creating a parent-friendly resource to assist parents with transitioning from Part C to Part B, to be released this fall. Parent-friendly videos will accompany this guide.

Updates for the Early Education Division:

- EED is developing a system to provide technical support to meet set-aside requirements, specifically for Head Start programs. Collaboration and professional development were identified as a challenge to transition.
- The CDE [quarterly inclusion spring newsletter](#) was just posted on the CDE Inclusive Early Education resource page.
- The first round of the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program grants just closed in December 2024. WestEd has launched the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program ([IEEEP](#)) [webpage](#). Ms. Ostrowsky provided statistics on projects that were funded through IEEEP.
- In December 2024, CDE issued a letter from SED and EED called [Rightful Presence: An Inclusive Early Education Program as the first consideration for children with disabilities](#).

California Department of Education, Homeless Education – Heidi Brahms

Ms. Brahms shared a recently-developed [tip sheet](#) on supporting families with young children experiencing homelessness. The tip sheet provides guidance for districts statewide.

In the last year, there has been a 14% increase in students experiencing homelessness, though graduation rates have improved.

The Department is working on a document regarding immunizations to be released in the next week; school districts can enroll unvaccinated students who are experiencing homelessness and provide access to those immunizations upon enrollment.

The [California Statewide Homeless Education Conference](#) is in San Diego May 7-9.

Department of Developmental Services – Maricris Acon

Ms. Acon provided updates earlier in the meeting.

Head Start – Michelle Dove

As of April 1, five of the 10 Head Start Regional Offices were closed across the country, including the location in San Francisco. Regional Offices oversee and support Head Start/Early Head Start programs and help with the oversight of grant applications, funding distribution, program monitoring, compliance, and technical assistance. This closure has created stress on the system across the country.

- Doug Erber asked how many regional offices exist nationwide?

- Ms. Dove clarified there were 10 nationwide, now only 5. Additionally, the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office and the National American Indian and Alaska Native Collaboration Office have not been closed.

Last Friday, *USA Today* reported on President Trump's budget proposal to eliminate head start funding completely. Ms. Dove explained the consequences of the elimination of that funding to the California Head Start programs and provided the historical background of Head Start. The official budget has not been released and so far, this elimination is only a proposal. Because Head Start has been bipartisan, Ms. Dove encouraged everyone to sign the [National Head Start Action Alert](#) and advocate to congressional representatives.

- Fran Chasen shared a [link](#) to provide Head Start support letters.

Department of Health Care Services – Pamela Riley

Not present.

Autism Partnership Foundation – Doug Erber

Autism Partnership Foundation (APF) works to advance excellence in treatment and research for autism through clinical research. Based on their findings, they provide international trainings and certification programs.

- Patty Salcedo asked if there is any effort by autism organizations to combat negative messages around autism?
 - Mr. Erber replied that the APF is having a conference on Friday to discuss this topic, as CDC has come out with research findings that are different from HHS framing of autism.

Department of Social Services – Karen Chang

Ms. Chang highlighted Child Care and Development division's programs:

1. [Beginning Together](#): provides training to support the inclusion of children with exceptional needs in early learning and care settings.
2. [California Making Access Possible map](#).
3. California [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Network](#): builds capacity of program staff and providers to foster the development of social and emotional health in early learning and care settings.

Ms. Chang provided updates on [rate reform for early learning and care settings](#). The alternative methodology approach allows states to set rates that are informed by the actual cost to deliver services, rather than the price a parent can afford to pay. The rate and quality advisory panel recently met to investigate this rate reform.

At this time, there are no planned cuts to the Child Care and Development fund in the California state budget, which is how childcare settings are subsidized within DSS.

Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing – Shanice Orum

The Department has 42,000 licensed facilities with capacity to serve one million children. During the last ICC quarterly meeting, Ms. Orum provided updates about activities to support facilities impacted by Los Angeles wildfires. 633 facilities were impacted, and 435 facilities had direct impact. 42 facilities were destroyed and 9 sustained damage. Department is continuing to provide support through flexibility and waivers.

DSS is monitoring [AB 421](#), a bill to prohibit law enforcement agencies from collaborating with immigration enforcement actions that take place within a radius of one mile of a childcare or daycare facility.

Two new Provider Information Notices (PIN) have been issued:

1. [PIN 25-06-CCLD](#) provides information to licensees about dangers of extreme heat.
2. PIN 25-06-CCP provides guidance to licensees to assist in providing care and supervision to the children of immigrant families (this PIN can no longer be found on the website).

On March 25, 2025, the Department hosted a webinar with Department of Public Health on respiratory illness guidance for child care providers.

Indian Health Service (IHS) – Susan Ducore

IHS has started planning their annual best practices conference which will take place in the fall, likely late September or early October, and 250-300 providers are expected to attend.

Department of Managed Health Care - Suzanne Sherinian

DMHC is tracking new proposed legislation [AB 1429](#), which, if passed, would require Kaiser Permanente (KP) to reimburse Kaiser members for out-of-pocket costs for behavioral health care services and prescriptions accessed outside of KP.

DMHS has a [social media outreach toolkit](#) to inform health plan members about their rights.

Announcement of Committee Composition and Goals

DJ Tomko provided a summary of committee composition and goals. He reminded everyone that only ICC members and community representatives are members of committees.

Subcommittee Meetings

Meeting of the whole was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.; committees met separately.

MEETING ATTENDEES
Thursday, April 17, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Douglas Erber	Karen Chang	Shanice Orum
Gigi Ostrowsky	Maricris Acon	Susan Ducore
Heidi Brahms	Michelle Dove	Suzanne Sherinian

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marie Kanne Poulsen	Pamela Riley
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COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Ana Aragon	Julie Maier	Patricia Salcedo
Apple Sepulveda	Julie Rems-Smario	Robert Rochin
Debbie Sarmiento	Kathleen Angkustsiri	Robin Millar
Edyth Gallardo/IRC	Laurie Jordan/TCRC)	Samantha Hebermehl
Elena Bramble-Rowell	Lindsay Crain	Shan Chan
Fran Chasen	Lisa Schoyer	Stephanie Gomez
Gayatri Mahajan	Michelle Oliver	Yvette Baptiste
Jazmine Blackman		

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Amy Hansen	Lucero Irizarry	Scott Turner
Christina Nigrelli	Marty Omoto	Season Goodpasture
Diana Maffei	Pablo Velez	Sheri Farinha
Diane Williams	Pam Chueh	Sheri Rosen
Felicia Ford	Patricia Moore	Tamara Allen
Felipe Garcia	Penelope Knapp	Tara Sisemore-Hester
Jim Frazier	Rachel Hagans	
Jonathan Eckrich		

DDS STAFF PRESENT

Angel Rodriguez	Hope Beale	Paige Richmond
Anne De Medeiros	Jane Lee	Rachel Wilson
Asami Saito	Jasmine Suo	Ryan Digman
Carmen Ruiz-Ochoa	John Knight	Sarah Yang
Caroline Castaneda	Joni Hasselbring	Shannen Cheng
Cathy Schulze	Latonya Harris	Stephanie Santamaria
DJ Tomko	Leo Marchena	Tierney O'Donnell
Hilda Jimenez	Nancy Chen	Van Pham

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

AnaElvia Sanchez/Spanish	Marc Gutierrez/Spanish	Rick Haffner/ASL
Elizabeth Vega/ASL		

WESTED STAFF PRESENT

Amy Kaiser	Rebecca Halpern	Ross Adams
Angela McGuire		

OTHERS PRESENT

Adriana Zuniga	Breanna Gatti	Donna Perry/CVRC
Ana Barranco/TCRC	Carmen Sahagun/IRC	Douglas Erber
Ana Peña/KRC	Carmen Silva	Dulce Flores
Anastasiya Moiseyeva/KRC	Cassie McWilliams	Eastern LA FRC
Andrea Davis	Catherine Powell	Elisa Hill/NLARC
Andrea Lemus	Chen Lu/RCEB	Elizabeth Jimenez-Winslow/RCEB
April Sayre	Chinyere Emelobe	Eun Kim/HRC
Araceli Mendez/RCOC	Christie Null/NBRC	Faye Tait/ARC
Art Castellanos/ELARC	Christina Renteria	Gabriel Echaves
Becky Lam/LRC	Claudia Sotelo	Gabriela Laguna
Ben Braun/RCEB	Crystal Perez	Hannah Michaelsen
Beth Heavilin/RCRC	Delisa Randolph	Heidi Reindl/KRC
Blesilda Uban/RCEB	Diane Storman	Hely Chan/SCLARC

Irma Zepeda/SCLARC	Mahnaz Ehsan/SARC	Rosa Martinez
Isela Solorzano/SARC	Maria Davila	Sandra Perez
Jacqueline Carmona	Maria De Jesus Rodriguez	Sharon Diaz
Jadolphus Fraser	Marisol Ontiveros/KRC	Silvia Costichi/SCLARC
Janneth Juarez	Matt Chesnut	Stefanie Chang/IRC
Jawid Azin	Mayren Vazquez	Stephanie Herrador/SCLARC
Joe Bowers	Meri Mattheus/KRC	Stephanie Martinez
Jonathan Munoz	Midori Perez/KRC	Suada Sergio
Kami Kincheloe	Mike Odeh	Susana Navarro
Karen Bohall-Ortega	Momna Shahbaz	Thao Tran
Kelly Lam	Monica Navarette/IRC	Valerie Sanchez
Kelsey Barnett/KRC	Noriko Ikoma/ELARC	Veronica Valenzuela/ELARC
Laurie Stephens	Norma Hernandez	Victor Campos
LaWanna Blair/HRC	Pam Chapin	Victoria Berrey
Libby Contreras/VMRC	Paulina Blanco/KRC	Virginia Excontitta/KRC
Lidia Flores	Petra Gordian	Yesenia Garcia
Linda Burritt	Po-Wen Leung	Yvette Balliu/IRC
Linda St.Angelo	Rocio King/SARC	

QUESTIONS?

Contact DDS/Children, Adolescents and Young Adult Services Division

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Phone: (800) 515-2229

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