

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording:

[July 18, 2025 Zoom Recording](#)



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Friday, July 18, 2025
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording: [July 18, 2025 Zoom Recording](#)

Opening

Marie Poulsen, ICC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Housekeeping Items

Jasmine Suo reviewed Zoom instructions, ASL/Spanish interpreter instructions, and meeting etiquette.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Anne De Medeiros.

Review of Previous Day's Agenda

Dr. Poulsen reviewed yesterday's agenda and announced that all presentation materials will be posted on the [DDS ICC website](#).

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme

Dr. Poulsen reviewed the ICC mission and purpose. This quarter's theme is Continuing Forward.

Committee Reports and Approval for Projects

Improving State Systems Committee – Susan Ducore and Robin Millar

Susan Ducore reported that the Committee discussed the Voices from the Field Survey which they are preparing to send out in both English and Spanish soon. Additionally, the Committee is continuing to identify priorities for discussion, committee action, and possible recommendations for the coming year. They discussed the Mentimeter responses from the main group meeting yesterday and how to incorporate those responses into the Committee priorities. There are currently nine priorities that the Committee is planning to present to the ICC once they are finalized. The committee will have an [interim meeting on August 13, 2025](#).

Communications and Outreach Committee – Robert Rochin

Robert Rochin report that the Committee is working to improve the mission statement for more clarity and to help others understand the purpose of the ICC. The feedback from yesterday's conversation will be used to revise the mission statement, and the statement will be brought for a formal vote at the next meeting.

Additionally, the Committee agreed to move forward on the formation of three focused workgroups. The workgroups are intended to ensure that all work aligns with increasing diversity and representation of the ICC. The workgroups will establish their goals and timelines at the interim August meeting. The workgroup priorities are as follows:

- Workgroup 1 will re-evaluate current outreach materials and will conduct a review of ICC materials for plain language, accessibility, and cultural responsiveness.
- Workgroup 2 will empower ICC members as champions and will develop a toolkit with resources to assist with the guidance of others
- Workgroup 3 will establish a mentorship program for the ICC and will work on defining mentor roles, draft orientation materials, and create a structure for recruitment and matching.

The Communications and Outreach Committee will reconvene before the next ICC meeting on August 27, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. Details and registration will be sent out and will also be available on the [DDS ICC website](#).

Marie Poulsen, ICC Chair, mentioned that Anne De Medeiros is going to convene the committee chairs and co-chairs to a meeting to develop guidelines on how to have the quorum be present.

Public Input

Anne De Medeiros reviewed public input guidelines.

Teresa Anderson commented that the California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is working with the Infant Development Association of California (IDA) on a workforce project for direct service professionals (DSPs). Last year they did a large workforce project but realized they needed to separate Early Start because the workforce looks very different. The Policy Center is conducting a survey and focus groups and will be drafting a report with its findings. Providers are encouraged to complete the [Early Intervention survey](#) to share the workforce challenges they have been experiencing within Early Start. There will also be surveys for families and regional center service coordinators soon. The first set of surveys and focus groups, which will be held virtually and in-person will be with providers.

- Yvette Baptiste commented via chat that she would like to connect with Teresa Anderson to potentially help connect the family resource centers for survey distribution.

Michelle Oliver proposed looking at dates for the following year's ICC Quarterly meetings in July as opposed to October and considering hybrid meetings for every other ICC meeting. Yvette Baptiste added that Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC) has a potential meeting space for hybrid meetings.

ELAFRC staff commented via chat that parents here have shown gratitude and appreciation for having family resource center (FRC) support on the Medi-Cal waiver process and Early Start transition to Lanterman.

Yvette Baptiste commented that the funding for the DDS position that oversaw the Medicaid waiver process at the regional center level may have been eliminated. Families really appreciated that

additional support and Dr. Baptiste would like an update on any position eliminations that may be happening within the DDS system.

- Maricris Acon responded that there were no positions eliminated at the regional center level. DDS Director Pete Cervinka mentioned in the recent Senate hearing that there may be increased funding to help regional centers meet their caseload ratios. Ms. Acon encourages ICC members to share any position eliminations with DDS so that they can provide clarity on the positions.

Lisa Schoyer commented via chat that the information on the Medicaid waiver on the DHCS and DDS's websites may be confusing. The DDS site does not discuss other waivers, nor does it indicate clearly that it is a subset of California waivers. Families may be eligible for more than one waiver, and that is not clear on the websites.

- Maricris Acon responded that the Department of Healthcare Services operates multiple waivers, and the home and community-based waiver is the only waiver that applies to families and children.

Edyth Gallardo commented via chat that there is waiver information in the [Darby's Legacy publication](#).

Presentation: Wildfire Response - Yvonne Gratianne, San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC)

Yvonne Gratianne shared SG/PRC's multi-layered approach to extreme weather events and natural disasters, specifically regarding the Eaton Fire on January 7, 2025. This approach included an incident command structure and community engagement strategies to track displaced families and those impacted by the fires and organize distribution centers. SG/PRC also assisted in delivering essential items and organized a donation fund to provide some monetary support and address critical unmet needs. Yvonne Gratianne shared lessons learned from SG/PRC's response to the Eaton Fire.

Yvonne Gratianne shared a KTLA5 News [video](#) highlighting SG/PRC's work to organize a distribution center supporting individuals and families with developmental disabilities impacted by the Eaton Fire. Yvonne Gratianne also shared a [video](#) highlighting SG/PRC's work to support individuals and families impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires.

Presentation: Child Development Institute - Dana Kalek, Child Development Institute (CDI) and Elisa Hill, North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC)

Dana Kalek shared the work of the [Child Development Institute \(CDI\)](#). CDI is a nonprofit located in San Fernando Valley helping children reach their full potential by supporting the relationships and environments that shape early development. One of the main goals is to support parents in their role. Dana Kalek highlighted CDI's two new Early Learning Centers – one center focused on free play-based learning and prevention, and another center is focused on therapeutic services. Both centers provide free enrichment programs and free developmental screenings. Over 120 volunteers across all age ranges support both centers.

Dana Kalek highlighted CDI's work in addition to the Early Learning Centers, including therapeutic services, necessities distributions, and work with Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center to assist with warm handoffs for babies ready to leave the NICU.

Presentation: Play. Learn. Grow. Creating Natural Environments for Early Intervention - Charlene Sigman (School of Imagination)

Charlene Sigman provided an overview of the [School of Imagination \(SOI\)](#) and how it creates natural environments for children and toddlers in Early Intervention. SOI utilizes the Early Start Denver model to serve 250 children weekly through inclusive classrooms, playgrounds, and community events. SOI's early intervention framework includes individualized learning plans, an evidence-based approach, and alignment with California state standards.

Charlene Sigman shared SOI's efforts to create a natural learning environment through inclusive and integrated spaces, learning within daily routines, and community connection.

Yvette Baptiste commented via chat if SOI uses a model or evidence-based practice for social skills development in Friendship Club?

- Charlene Sigman responded that they are using Michelle Garcia Winner's social thinking model and Zones of Regulation. It's a concrete way to teach children and identify emotions in themselves and in others.

Maggie commented via chat if the kids graduate out of the program?

- Charlene Sigman responded that they graduate at the end of step 3 at a graduation celebration called the step up ceremony which happens at the end of May. After graduation, their step 3 graduates move to kindergarten or transitional kindergarten. If they continue to need additional support, they will graduate into the school district program.

Marty Omoto commented via chat if they have tracked the children who graduate out into K through 12?

- Charlene Sigman responded that they are starting to do that but haven't done so in the past. They are trying to develop an alumni program that supports the children after they graduate as many of them are coming back at 18 and 19 and still having some challenges. They are considering a social program for them.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Marie Poulsen thanked participants and presenters on the productive discussions and information presented.

Anne De Medeiros noted the next ICC meeting is October 16-17, 2025. As a reminder, if anyone is interested in joining the Council as a governor appointee or community representative, please feel free to reach out at earlystart@dds.ca.gov.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES
Friday, July 18, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Marie Kanne Poulsen | Maricris Acon | Susan Ducore |
| Christi Krause | Michelle Dove | Suzanne Sherinian |
| Karen Chang | Shanice Orum | |

MEMBERS ABSENT

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Douglas Erber | Pamela Riley | Heidi Brahms |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Apple Sepulveda | Kathy Angkustsiri | Robert Rochin |
| Debbie Sarmiento | Laurie Jordan | Robin Millar |
| Diane Williams | Lindsay Crain | Samantha Hebermehl |
| Edyth Gallardo | Lisa Schoyer | Stephanie Gomez |
| Gayatri Mahajan | Marty Omoto | Tara Sisemore-Hester |
| Jadolphus Fraser | Michelle Oliver | Thao Tran |
| Julie Maier | Pablo Velez | Tony Anderson |
| | Patricia Salcedo | Yvette O. Baptiste |

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Elizabeth Vega/ASL | Marc Gutierrez/Spanish | Rick Haffner/ASL |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|

MISSION ANALYTICS STAFF PRESENT

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Vicky Wheeler | Danielle Calloway | |
|---------------|-------------------|--|

OTHERS PRESENT

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adriana Moreno (IRC) | Esteban Ortiz (DDS) | Mike Odeh |
| Alexis Deavenport-Saman | Eulalia Apolinar (TCRC) | Mini Nandakumar (DDS) |
| Amanda Smith | Gayatri Mahajan | Nancy Chen (DDS) |
| Ana Barranco (TCRC) | Gilda Giron | Pablo Velez |
| Andrea Lemus | Griselda Hernandez (SCLARC) | Paula Leonesio (NLACRC) |
| Angel Rodriguez (DDS) | Hannah Michaelson | Paulina Blanco (KRC) |
| Angie Luu (SGPRC) | Hannah Rosato | Penelope Knapp |
| Anne De Medeiros (DDS) | Hannah Steinberg | Rachel Wilson (DDS) |
| Arushie Nugapitiya (SARC) | Hely Chan (SCLARC) | Reina Canale |
| Asami Saito (DDS) | Hilda Jimenez (DDS) | Reyna Ambriz (DDS) |
| Blesilda Uban (RCEB) | Jane Lee (DDS) | Rocio King (SARC) |
| Brigida Salinas | Jasmine Suo (DDS) | Ryan Digman (DDS) |
| Caren Herdez | Jeremy B-Woodard | Sandra Weeks Kirk |
| Carmen Ruiz-Ochoa (DDS) | Johana Caicedo | Sarah Yang (DDS) |
| Carol Odulio | Karen Wylie | Saul Kanno |
| Charlene Sigman | Latonya Harris (DDS) | Sharon White |
| Christie Null (NBRC) | LaWanna Blair (HRC) | Shreya Krishnan |
| Daniel Hernandez | Liliana Manriquez | Stephanie Hicks |
| Daniel Jordan (DDS) | Liliana McDonough | Susan Stroebel |
| Debbie Sarmiento | Linda St. Angelo | Teresa Anderson |
| Diane Storman (FRCNA) | Lisa Gonzales (DDS) | Van Pham (DDS) |
| DJ Tomko (SCDD) | Maggie Ononiwu | Vivian Doan (GGRC) |
| Dana Kalek | Mantin Lu | Xiaozhu Li (DDS) |
| ELAFRC | Maria De Jesus Rodriguez | Y. Gratianne (SGPRC) |
| Elisa Hill (NLACRC) | Maria Gonzalez (DDS) | Yennin Romo-Saenz |
| Ellen Paddock | Maricris Acon (DDS) | Yolanda Howard |
| Erika Witt | Marisol Segura (DDS) | Yvette Cauntay (FNRC) |
| Erin Brady (DDS) | Mayra Madriz | |

QUESTIONS?

Contact DDS/Children, Adolescents and Young Adult Services Division

Email: earlystart@dds.ca.gov

Phone: (800) 515-2229

Mailing Address: 1215 O Street, MS 7-40
Sacramento, CA 95814