

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention: Improving State Systems Committee Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording: [ICC
Communications & Outreach Committee
Meeting](#)



MEETING MINUTES

Opening | Susan Ducore

- Welcome
- Introductions/Roll Call
- Housekeeping Items
- 2025-2026 Committee Priority Setting – Discussion for Clarification
- Public Input
- Next Steps

2025-2026 Committee Priority Setting – Discussion for Clarification | Ryan Digman

- P. Moore asked if the committee has a quorum to make decisions. F. Chasen responded that she has received clarification that as a work group, the committee does not need a quorum to vote on decisions.
- M. Segura reviewed the current status of the priorities. The committee will vote on its top three priorities via survey, and each committee member will rank its priorities.
- R. Digman provided an update on the priorities from the last meeting. The committee identified nine topics, examples under each topic, and possible recommendations.
- M. Poulsen noted that it is essential to include parental mental health screening and support in the IFSP process within the first priority.
- Y. Baptiste added that the committee should decide how to present the recommendations under each priority as a whole, and the language in the recommendation may not make sense because it represents multiple ideas.
- S. Ducore noted that she would also like to see more definitive language in the priorities to highlight the individual items the committee thinks are critical.
- Y. Baptiste responded that the committee should just vote on its top priorities and clean them up afterwards. The committee should move forward.
- F. Chasen suggested broadening the opening statement in the priorities document, considering that there are many families who believe they are receiving services on the IFSP who are not.

- Y. Baptiste responded that it may be more beneficial to discuss a topic that has not been addressed, which is the behavioral health needs of infants, toddlers, and parents, so she is against broadening the opening statement.
- F. Chasen suggested that the committee add an opening statement that would clarify some of the rationale for just focusing on this particular one.
- S. Ducore suggested adding a statement on improving documentation of service delivery to make the opening statement more inclusive.
- J. Fraser asked if the committee is focusing on improving documentation or improving the availability of services to address behavioral health concerns. Y. Baptiste responded that it is up to the committee to decide what it wants to say and influence decision making through committee recommendations.
- Y. Baptiste recommended the committee not go through the priorities again today because they have gone through them already and she suggested the committee should vote on them now. She would like the top three priorities chosen to bring to the next ICC meeting.
- R. Digman recommended removing the priority focusing on updating the Early Start manual because that is already in process. F. Chasen and S. Ducore agreed.
- R. Digman also recommended moving the presentations recommendation. This is being worked on through the planning and formations of the ICC meetings. Y. Baptiste and F. Chasen agreed.
- F. Chasen suggested adding an ICC agenda item to follow up on the work addressing workforce shortages and retention. She also suggested adding coordinated efforts for Child Find to the recommendations, and Y. Baptiste added that presentations could be a way to bring awareness and encourage interagency discussion on Child Find.
- P. Moore suggested finding new examples for the Child Find priority and Y. Baptiste agreed. P. Moore would like to research what the Child Find mandates are to better inform the priority. For now, P. Moore and F. Chasen would like to include language on improving the access and awareness of Early Start as a placeholder.
- R. Digman consolidated the priorities based on feedback from committee members to five priorities. If the committee feels like they do not need to prioritize them further, they can clean up the document and take a final look in a September meeting and prepare what the committee wants to present to the ICC in October.
- F. Chasen noted that the public comment on consistent screenings should be added under the presentation recommendations and there needs to be

clarification on what exactly is identified and utilized in the vision needs screening process.

- J. Fraser would like more discussion on the Child Find process and how to raise awareness of services that are available through the regional center. He also asked if there were efforts being made to develop relationships with pediatricians, as they may help identify individuals eligible for early intervention services. F. Chasen agreed and noted that this is an example of why there needs to be clarification on the Child Find mandate.
- F. Chasen noted that there are some committee members who have not been involved in this process and asked about next steps with regard to the absent members. She suggested sharing the document and then planning the working activities for the October meeting. P. Moore is ready to move forward with a survey but suggested adding an option for needing more information.
- F. Chasen asked if the committee should split into workgroups. E. Gallardo liked the idea of workgroups as it would allow committee members to work on priorities that they have more specialized knowledge on.
- R. Digman discussed next steps. The committee will aim to meet again in September to review the final priorities document and begin to prepare its presentation for the ICC. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 24th at 3:30 PM.
- F. Chasen provided a quick update on the Voices from the Field survey. Y. Baptiste., S. Ducore, and F. Chasen plan on rolling out the survey before the October meeting.

Public Input | Ryan Digman

M. Poulson thanked the committee for the meaningful discussion. D. David noted that she was listening to the conversation.

Next Steps | Ryan Digman

R. Digman Ryan to clean up the priority list document based on the committee's discussion and prepare a final version for review at the September meeting.

R. Digman proposed an interim meeting to finalize the priorities document and begin preparing to present the priorities to the ICC. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 24th at 3:30 PM. Ryan to set up the September 24th meeting and send registration information to committee members.

R. Digman to prepare and distribute the agenda and updated priorities list as attachments for the September meeting.

F. Chasen provided a quick update on the Voices from the Field survey. Y. Baptiste. S. Ducore, and F. Chasen plan on rolling out the survey before the October meeting.

P. Moore to research the Child Find mandates and develop additional examples for the child find priority area.

Committee members to review the final priority document at the September meeting and prepare for presentation to the ICC in October. Committee to present the finalized priorities to the full ICC at the October 17th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM.

DRAFT LIST

For which issues will the Improving State Systems Committee research and provide advice to the ICC in 2025-2026?

1. Improve documentation of service delivery at intake for behavior health and trauma-based care to ensure that they are getting the services that they need:

Examples:

- Improving differential diagnosis of autism to avoid misdiagnosis, missed diagnosis, and bias, as it relates to timely and appropriate services
- Expand recognition of other evidence-based behavioral services, including Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Routines Based Intervention (RBI), Developmental Relationship Based Interventions (DRBI), parent coaching models, infant mental health approaches, etc.
- Include parental mental health screening and support in the IFSP process; make it more intentional rather than an afterthought.

2. Continuation: Review and update of the Early Start Personnel Manual

Examples:

- Evaluate impact of recent revisions to Early Start online from direct facilitation to Open Access
- Provide training grants for Early Start personnel since the American Rescue Plan Act funds are gone
 - a. **Possible Recommendation:** This is currently moving forward with support. Can we receive an update regarding what is happening with this. We want to hear progress.

3. Develop strategies to address the shortage in the workforce

Examples:

- Development of local college partnerships as the solution for Early Start personnel
 - a. **Possible Recommendation:** Presentations from healthcare organizations or health plans such as CalOptima to share about what they are doing to support workforce development.
 - b. **Possible Recommendation:** Expand diversity in the workforce. Look into some of the Service Access and Equity Grants and we could have a presentation from Special Needs Network in LA.

4. Continuation: Take a comprehensive look at the impact that accessing insurance has on families and the overall system which mandates coordinated multidisciplinary systems and early intervention services

5. Address potential impact of federal funds being re-allocated for our California birth to three services

Examples:

- How do we advocate for the children and families as changes are occurring in all the different programs throughout California?
- Head Start: Address impact of federal funds being reallocated
- Supporting families affected by anti-immigrant policies
 - a. **Possible Recommendation:** We may want a standing agenda item to discuss these items or bring in those that have the expertise to inform decisions.

6. Address the need for coordinated child find efforts among agencies that are mandated for child find to avoid duplication and confusion around accessing services

Examples:

- Increasing the consistency of the family/client experience across regional centers

7. Presentations

- a. **Possible Recommendation:** Update on the information learned from provisional eligibility implementation
- b. **Possible Recommendation:** Have someone from the Autism Services Branch at DDS at each quarterly ICC meeting to provide updates?

8. Solutions to address client cancellations and absenteeism that impact service providers (how they are paid, inconsistent with labor laws)

9. Information from DDS

Examples:

- Want to understand how Mental Health Services Act funds are being used for Early Start
- Get information from DDS about the development and implementation of the standardized IFSP
- Look at how the IFSPs are being written so they don't reflect 'sets' of services that every child gets without recognizing specific needs and priorities
- Advocate for a more systematic process to support transition to start during the intake process
- Develop and implement a uniform approach to include foster care children in the regional center system (sign-off process; authorization form)

From Public Comments:

- Improved and consistent screening of infants and toddlers for visual impairments, including cerebral visual impairment

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Ducore (Co-Chair) Marie Poulsen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Maricris Acon Suzanne Sherinian

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Fran Chasen (Co-Chair) Yvette Baptiste Edyth Gallardo (IRC)
Patty Moore

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Vega/ASL Cindy Schulze/ASL Alejandra Serrano/Spanish
Interpreter Interpreter Interpreter

MISSION ANALYTICS GROUP STAFF PRESENT

Danielle Calloway (Mission
Analytics Group)

OTHERS PRESENT

Anne De Medeiros (DDS)	Donna Perry	Letty Lopez
Brenda Tamez	Esteban Ortiz (DDS)	Mariana Guerrero
Brigida Salinas	Fran Chasen	Marie Wecker (DDS)
Carmen Ruiz-Ochoa (DDS)	Isme M	Marisol Segura (DDS)
Catherine Lapid (DDS)	Jadolphus Fraser	Michel Davis
Cathy Schulze (DDS)	JJ Fernandez (DDS)	Mike Odeh
Christi Krause	Jonathan Eckrich	Osman Hossain
Danielle Calloway	Joni Hasselbring (DDS)	Patty Moore
David Bloch	Kaitlynn Truong	Rachel Wilson (DDS)
Debbi Davis	Laurie Jordan	Robin Millar

Ryan Digman (DDS)

Serezamiz Aguilar

Vivianna Cid

Yvette Baptiste