

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording:

[ICC October 17, 2025](#)



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Friday, October 17, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Locations:

In Person: Alta California Regional Center
4151 E Commerce Way, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95834

Zoom Conference Call

Link to Zoom Recording: [ICC Day 2 October 17, 2025](#)

Opening

Marie Poulsen, ICC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Dr. Poulsen thanked Patty Salcedo for her service to the ICC. Ms. Salcedo has resigned from the ICC. Special welcome to Donna Perry and Alexis Deavenport-Saman, new community representatives to the ICC.

Housekeeping Items

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

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Jane Lee.

Review of Previous Day's Agenda

Dr. Poulsen reviewed yesterday's agenda and announced that all meeting materials will be posted on the [DDS ICC website](#). Dr. Poulsen also thanked Alta Regional Center for hosting the in-person portion of the meeting.

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme

Dr. Poulsen reviewed the ICC mission and purpose. This meeting's theme is: Invited Perspectives to Meet the Needs of Children and Families.

Committee Reports and Approval for Projects

Improving State Systems Committee – Susan Ducore and Fran Chasen

- The co-chairs thanked the committee members for their expertise and experience.
 - Called for identification of committee members and clarification of who is participating on the committee. Thanked WestEd and DDS Staff for meeting support and tracking the comments and main points of the discussion.
- The review and update of the *Early Start Personnel Manual* will be addressed through the Department's contract with WestEd and the Systems committee will serve as advisors on the update.
- The committee is reviewing a variety of topics to recommend for presentation to the ICC over the next months.

- The committee proposed priorities for their work for the coming year for the ICC’s consideration and approval:
 - Strengthening intake and service delivery
 - Health insurance and system impact
 - Coordinated child find
 - ICC presentations and updates
 - Updates on addressing client cancellations and absenteeism and impact on service providers
- Susan Dcore moved that the ICC approve the proposed priorities for the Improving State Systems Committee.
 - Doug Erber seconded the motion.
 - The motion to approve the Systems Committee priorities was approved.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Robert Rochin and Doug Erber

- Co-chairs thanked the committee members for their expertise and experience and DDS staff for their support.
- Mr. Erber reviewed the committee’s proposed ICC Mission Statement:
 - To promote and strengthen a coordinated system of services and supports for infants and toddlers, birth to three years old, who have or are at risk for a disability. We are committed to a relationship-based, family-centered approach that fosters meaningful partnerships between families and professionals and encourages effective interagency collaboration.

As an advisory board to the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) the ICC seeks input and guidance from a diverse group of stakeholders. By incorporating a wide range of lived experiences and perspectives, we aim to ensure that our recommendations are inclusive, culturally responsive, and reflective of the needs of all communities we serve.

- Dr. Poulsen cited that the mission statement is missing “and their families”
 - Mr. Erber proposed amending the first sentence of the mission statement to include “and their families.” New sentence: To promote and strengthen a coordinated system of services and supports for infants and toddlers, birth to three years old, who have or are at risk for a disability, and their families.
- Julie Rems-Samario raised a concern that the word inclusive does not mean accessible.
 - Mr. Erber noted that observation was a good point, but he did not suggest editing the statement.
- Ms. Chasen raised concern about using ICC instead of the full name Interagency Coordinating Council.
 - Mr. Erber proposed amending the mission statement to include the full name of the ICC.
- Michelle Dove moved to approve the ICC mission statement as revised during the discussion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ducore.

- The motion to approve the revised ICC mission statement was approved by the Council.
- Mr. Rochin shared an update on the intention to create a new ICC membership orientation by the committee. Orientation materials and activities may include the following:
 - Revision of an orientation PowerPoint.
 - Development of a clear flow of activities that a new member may follow.
 - Ensuring that the orientation is accessible to all new members.
 - Revision of the current ICC flyer for recruitment, to include statewide partners.
 - Pairing new members with current ICC members for ongoing mentorship.
 - Exploration and creation of FAQs, including ARCA.
- The Communications and Outreach committee will hold an interim meeting on January 21, 2026 (Wednesday) from 12 to 1 p.m.

Public Input

Jane Lee reviewed public input guidelines.

- Samantha Hebermehl - Community Representative and parent of two children who attend the California School for the Deaf, voiced concerns about the ability of her preschool- and elementary-aged children to receive services while attending a state special school.
- Dr. Andrea Davis, Coalition for Developmental Approaches, announced a new training opportunity for Early Start providers grant-funded through the US Department of Education. Dr. Davis shared a study of Developmental Relationship-Based Interventions (DRBIs) being offered through Indiana University, consisting of 20 weeks of free virtual training.
 - For more information, contact Addison McGeary, amcgeary@iu.edu. An [informational flyer](#) is also available on the Coalition for Developmental Approaches website.
- Michelle Oliver addressed the comments made by Ms. Hebermehl.
- Christine Sedlack-Rottger, from VistAbility in Contra Costa County, addressed rate reform for preschool programs. Preschool-based programs are considered center-based and not community-based as children come to them. When Hold Harmless ends at the end of February, their rates will be reduced by \$15 per student per hour and they will not be able to continue providing the services. Ms. Sedlack-Rottger expressed concern that parents and families were not included in the discussion on rate reform and they often want their children in the preschool-based setting. Ms. Sedlack-Rottger is trying to do some advocacy around rate reform and provided her contact information for others with programs similarly affected: crottger@vistability.org.
- Robert Rochin shared that the [FRCNCA](#) is continuing its partnership with the [California Autism Professional Training and Information Network](#) (CAPTAIN) as part of the Family Support Leadership Team.
 - The FRCNCA is committed to hosting at least one webinar a year on evidence-based practices for the FRCs.
 - Held an informative webinar on augmentative alternative communication (AAC) basics presented by Cassandra Guerrero, an SLP from the Diagnostic Center in Northern California.
 - Additional [Community Navigator](#) webinar on supporting immigrant families in partnership with Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, located in Central California.
 - The legal team shared a “Know Your Rights” presentation.

- [Disability Rights of California](#) were also included in the webinar.
 - Discussed challenges faced by people with disabilities at immigration detention centers.
 - The webinar served as a reminder about helping families and FRCs develop a plan should ICE arrive at their home or office.
- Additional public input can be emailed to earlystart@dds.ca.gov.

Presentation: Partners for Pediatric Vision - Diane Christian and Tori Schladen

- [Partners for Pediatric Vision](#) provides a critical link between healthcare, education, and support services for families of children with visual impairments to ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive. Presenters described the following services, covered by private foundation grants and individual donors:
 - Free education and support to families (primarily in Southern California) who have questions about how to help their children or teens with visual impairment.
 - Access to an eye exam from a pediatric eye doctor.
 - Opportunities for specialized intervention and devices for children.
 - Partners families with a vision specialist for support and empowerment.
 - Community education, such as resources on early identification, family support, and family events.
 - Informs parents about their rights and provides information on the services available in California through Early Start and the SELPAs.
 - Services that are not available through the regional centers and SELPAs.
- Presenters advised that vision loss may be overlooked or lumped in with other learning disabilities.
- Two agency partners were highlighted:
 - Northern California: [Lighthouse Little Learners](#)
 - LAUSD and the [Braille Institute](#)
- Call to action for the ICC: Spread the word about Partners for Pediatric Vision Services and the services of Lighthouse Little Learners in Northern California and refer families. Many diagnoses have a higher possibility of vision loss or impairment.
- Contact Diane Christian, dchristian@partnersforpediatricvision.org, or Tori Schladen, tschladen@partnersforpediatricvision.org, for more information.

Presentation: Early Start Monitoring – Maria Gonzalez and Hilda Jimenez, DDS Compliance Section

- State Performance Plan (SPP) is required under IDEA.
 - Revised every six years.
 - Describes states' efforts to comply with IDEA requirements and improve services for children with disabilities.
- Annual Performance Report (APR), also required under IDEA, outlines performance for each indicator outlined in the SPP.
 - Completed every February.
 - OSEP reviews the report and issues an annual determination, identifying areas for improvement and demonstrating accountability.

- Data is collected and reported on two measures, results which look at child and family outcomes and compliance with IDEA requirements.
- Today's presentation focused on compliance measures.
 - The federal requirement is to monitor once every six years however DDS conducts comprehensive reviews every two years.
 - Regional centers are divided into two cohorts. Cohort one includes ten regional centers and cohort two includes eleven regional centers.
 - Effective fiscal year 2023, DDS started monitoring reviews of the local education agencies (LEAs). The monitoring process mirrors the protocols in place for regional centers.
 - [Biennial Review Results December 2024](#)
 - Self-Assessment Model
 - Each Early Start program conducts a self-assessment which allows them the opportunity to self-rate and indicate if each record is aligned with federal requirements.
 - Record samples
 - Records are selected randomly and go back six months from the date the monitoring review begins. Record samples include a demographic representation of the populations within program service areas.
 - Two types of records are reviewed: intake records of children who enter the Early Start program and transition records of children who exit the Early Start program.
- During Fiscal Year 2024-2025, DDS conducted 12 monitoring reviews.
 - Gains in the 45-day timeline for the initial IFSP meeting were recorded for:
 - San Andreas Regional Center with a 20% increase from the last review.
 - South Central Los Angeles Regional Center maintained 100% compliance.
 - Tri-Counties Regional Center demonstrated an 11% increase and met 100% compliance.
 - San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center demonstrated a 12% increase.
 - Gains in transition planning
 - Regional Center of the East Bay demonstrated 100% compliance in all areas of transition, including a 28% increase in timely transition planning and a 30% increase in timely transition conferences.
 - Westside Regional Center demonstrated a 20% increase in the timely provision of services and 22% increase in the timely transition conferences.
- [Early Start Local Performance Materials](#) are available on the DDS website.
- Dr. Baptiste raised questions and made comments.
 - Changes to monitoring were announced at the CalECSE conference. Can you address this? Presenters responded:
 - There have been some changes to the responsibilities for monitoring Part C for the LEAs.
 - Ms. Gonzalez shared that DDS is currently monitoring the LEAs.
 - Ms. Jimenez shared that in the 23-24 fiscal year DDS monitored 40 local educational agencies. The LEAs scored in the high 90s. LEAs seem excited and interested in the partnership.
 - Is the relationship with the FRCs included in the monitoring?

- Ms. Gonzalez shared that the process is very comprehensive. Events are held at many FRCs. It is also asked in the self-assessment model if the regional center has referred families to the FRCs.
- Ms. Oliver offered comments:
 - Need clarification that this is a change in data management and compliance and does not address services and qualifications.
 - Ms. Gonzalez mentioned that the change is that DDS will monitor the LEAs for compliance with Part C.
 - Ms. Ostrowski (CDE) shared that the requirements for provision of services for Part C are the same whether you are working with a regional center or an LEA.
- Donna Perry raised the following question: Sometimes, developmental levels are not shared in a timely manner with LEAs prior to the transition meeting. How will this be monitored?
 - Ms. Ambriz (DDS) responded, commenting that DDS is still in the development phases of the monitoring process for the LEAs and are taking everything into consideration.

Recap and Closing Remarks Marie Poulsen, ICC Chair, and Doug Erber, ICC Vice Chair

Dr. Poulsen thanked participants and presenters for the productive discussions and information presented.

Ms. Lee noted the next ICC meeting is February 5-6, 2026. As a reminder, if anyone is interested in joining the Council as a governor appointee or a community representative, please feel free to reach out at earlystart@dds.ca.gov.

Recognition of Marie Poulsen's Retirement from USC Keck School of Medicine - Yvette Baptiste, FRCNCA

Dr. Baptiste led the ICC meeting attendees in acknowledging Dr. Poulsen's many years of exemplary service to children and families and her mentorship of other professionals. Other meeting attendees shared appreciation for Dr. Poulsen's achievements and support as well. Dr. Poulsen has retired from her position at USC Keck School of Medicine and will continue to serve on the ICC.

MEETING ATTENDEES
Friday, October 17, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Douglas Erber (Vice Chair)	Gigi Ostrowsky	Heidi Brahms
Karen Chang (for Jennifer Troia)	Maricris Acon (for Pete Cervinka)	Marie Kane Poulsen (Chairperson)
Michelle Dove	Susan Ducore	Suzanne Sherinian (for Mary Watanabe)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pamela Riley	Shanice Orum (for Kim Johnson)
--------------	--------------------------------

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Apple Sepulveda	Julie Maier	Robin Millar
Debbie Sarmiento	Laurie Jordan	Samantha Hebermehl
Diane Williams	Lisa Schoyer	Stephanie Gomez
Edyth Gallardo	Michelle Oliver	Tara Sisemore-Hester
Gayatri Mahajan	Patricia Salcedo	Yvette O.Baptiste
Jadolphus Fraser	Robert Rochin	Julie Rems- Smario
Marty Omoto		

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Vega/ASL	Marc Gutierrez/Spanish	Renee Souleret/ASL
Giovanna Wormsbecker/Spanish		

WestEd STAFF PRESENT

Amy Kaiser	Angela McGuire	Jenine Schmidt
Ross Adams		

OTHERS PRESENT

Adriana Zuniga	Isela Solorzano	Martha Ornelas-Cruz
Ana Aragon	Jane Lee (DDS)	Mike Odeh
Andrea Davis	Janelle Fong (DDS)	Mini Nandakumar (DDS)
Anne De Medeiros (DDS)	Jasmine Suo (DDS)	Nancy Chen (DDS)
Annie Drinkwater (DDS)	Joni Hasselbring (DDS)	Paige Richmond (DDS)
Asami Saito (DDS)	Juana Quintal	Reyna Ambriz (DDS)
Brenda Lory	Kaitlynn Truong	Rocio King
Carmen Vasquez	Laurie Jordan	Ryan Digman (DDS)
Cathy Schulze (DDS)	Liliana McDonough	Sarah Yang (DDS)
Christine SedlackRottger	Lisa Gonzales (DDS)	Stephanie Santamaria(DDS)
Crystal Perez	Lupe Rojas-Sanchez	Suada Sergio
Cynde Josol (DDS)	Mahnaz Ehsan	Terquoia Bourne (DDS)
Darcie Azzolini Paiva	María A	Tori Schladen
Diane Christian	Maria Gonzalez (DDS)	Van Pham (DDS)
Dulce Flores	Marie Wecker	Xiaozhu Li (DDS)
Esteban Ortiz (DDS)	Marisol Segura (DDS)	Yvette Renteria
Hilda Jimenez (DDS)		

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