



Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention
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February 17, 2009

Rick Ingraham, Part C Coordinator
Children and Family Services Branch
Department of Developmental Disabilities
1600 9th Street, Room 330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ingraham,

Enclosed are the State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC) 2008 Priorities, Outcomes, and Recommendations to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) approved at the ICC meeting on November 21, 2008.

In January 2006, the ICC identified four areas of priority using input from parents and families, our professional partners, and the Lead agency to address community needs. The priority areas were assigned to the four ICC standing committees to develop recommendations for system improvements with measurable outcomes. The Committee assignments were as follows:

1. *Outreach to health care professionals – Public Awareness Committee*
2. *Social, emotional and behavioral well-being of young children and their families – Quality Service Delivery Systems Committee*
3. *Special health care needs/managed care – Integrated Services and Health Committee*
4. *Supports for young children and their families in natural environments – Family Resources and Supports Committee*

During the past three years, Committee members reviewed and analyzed extensive data on the Early Start service system and considered the needs of infants, toddlers and their families to develop the twenty (20) recommendations. We hope that our work will be useful to DDS in making policy decisions and system changes. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to enhance and improve California's Early Start program.

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND M. PETERSON, M.D.
ICC Chairperson

Enclosure

cc: ICC members

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY INTERVENTION 2008 PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: *Outreach to Healthcare Professionals* (Public Awareness Committee)

Measureable Outcome: Early Start products and materials will increase access to support services as evidenced by increased early and appropriate referrals by targeted health care providers to regional centers, local education agencies and family resource centers.

ICC Recommendation #1: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that a dissemination plan with strategies for local level distribution be developed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), with input from the Public Awareness Committee (PAC), for distribution of The Primary Health Care Provider's Role in Early Intervention brochure and other Early Start materials to address potential referral sources that may be under-identifying young children, specifically those between 12-24 months of age.

ICC Recommendation #2: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provide ongoing reports and/or data to the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) such as WestEd product dissemination, information from monitoring visits, child find efforts, primary referral sources, physician referrals, percentages served, languages spoken, Baby Line calls and other information to identify promising early entry strategies for program improvements.

ICC Recommendation #3: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the State of California home page and websites at partner State Departments and other entities, including but not limited to, Head Start/Early Head Start, regional centers and local education agencies, have a link to the Early Start home page housed on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) website with a clear message that also identifies Early Start, specifying the age range from birth-3 years.

ICC Recommendation #4: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) be responsible for reviewing all Early Start outreach products and activities and advising the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding the content and dissemination of future public awareness materials and child find efforts to ensure maximum benefits from all public awareness and child find efforts unless the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) mandates preclude the Committee review.

ICC 2008 RECOMMENDATIONS continued

Priority: *Supports and Services to Enhance Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Development of Children Birth to Three and Their Families* (Quality Service Delivery Systems Committee)

Measureable Outcome: To ensure that parental concerns regarding the social, emotional and behavioral development of their infants and toddlers are appropriately addressed, the QSDS Committee recommends that by 2010, 100% of children's records reviewed through ES monitoring will show that 1) service providers/coordinators recognize social-emotional-behavioral concerns that have been identified through family interview and a norm-referenced screening or assessment tool implemented upon referral and annually throughout the period of eligibility for Early Start service, and 2) service providers/coordinators appropriately respond to the concerns that have been identified.

ICC Recommendation #5: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) identify and evaluate reliable and appropriate screening and assessment tools, i.e., norm-referenced and focused on young children, birth-3, with disabilities or at-risk conditions, that address social, emotional and behavioral development of infants and toddlers.

ICC Recommendation #6: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) supports the infusion of Core Provider infant family mental health competencies, as identified in the ICC's recommended 2008-09 Early Start Personnel Model (ESPM) revision, into Early Start Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) training institutes. Curriculum content on social-emotional-behavioral development will include 1) How to provide anticipatory developmental guidance, and 2) How to recognize and respond to social, emotional and behavioral concerns.

ICC Recommendation #7: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), with the assistance of the ICC, design and pilot a profile of local partner agency services and supports relating to screening, referral, intervention, and treatment offered to families who express concern regarding the social, emotional, and behavioral development of their infants and toddlers.

ICC Recommendation #8: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in conjunction with the ICC, collect and disseminate strategies to cross-train state and local Early Start partner agencies about services and supports available for parents who express concerns about the social, emotional, and behavioral development of their infants and toddlers.

ICC Recommendation #9: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) compile and track data about social-emotional and behavioral functioning via processes such as Early Start monitoring, for example, add item/s to self-review, record review checklists, and establish baseline, and/or analyze/track progress.

ICC Recommendation #10: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in coordination with the Quality Services and Delivery Systems (QSDS) Committee and the Public Awareness Committee (PAC), collaborate

APPROVED on 11/21/08

with the First 5 Association to review and disseminate the California Early Childhood Social-Emotional Health System Development Project workgroup materials for appropriate use by Early Start.

ICC 2008 RECOMMENDATIONS continued

Priority: *Special Health Care Needs/Managed Care* (Integrated Services & Health Committee)

Measurable Outcome: Improve access to health care and early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers with special health care needs by ensuring that A) Reasons for delays in timely service provision for children with special health care needs enrolled in managed care programs are identified and resolved, B) Records reviewed during monitoring indicate that strategies to support parent participation in activities designed to enhance their ability to meet their child's developmental needs, including respite, are discussed and included in the IFSP and that indicated service authorizations are present, C) Enhanced promotion of training opportunities, information and resources related to the inclusion of children with special health care needs targeted to early care and education providers as evidenced through TTAC minutes, D) All children referred with hearing loss will have an eligibility determination for Early Start within 45 days of referral, and E) All ES service coordinators receive comprehensive local or regional training/workshops on comprehensive health status review practices and procedures within 18 months of hire date.

ICC Recommendation #11: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) promote as best practice that the Early Start agencies develop or update coordination plans to increase the number of designated liaisons across the system who interface regularly with 1) Fee-for-Service Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care providers, and 2) Local managed care collaborations focused on health care issues (i.e., roundtables, case conferences, etc.).

ICC Recommendation #12: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that care coordination plans be utilized to 1) Document (e.g., survey) conflicts and delays in service provision during previous fiscal year (baseline), 2) Document activities (care coordination agendas/minutes/interagency agreements, etc.), 3) Self-monitor progress (service implementation dates following referral, changes in local procedures, etc.), and 4) Facilitate comprehensive exchange of information between Early Start agencies and Health Care providers (i.e., timely sharing of medical records and Individualized Family Service Plans to Primary Health Care Providers).

ICC Recommendation #13: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) request that the Training and Technical Assistance Collaborative (TTAC) identify options for training to early care and education providers in order to promote inclusive practices for children with special health care needs.

ICC Recommendation #14: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that a regional pilot effort be initiated for establishing a data collection methodology to be developed with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for establishing a baseline and for collecting and tracking referral and eligibility information on children who are identified as having hearing loss and are referred for Early Start services, including 1) Date of referral, 2) Date of eligibility determination, 3) Reasons for delays in eligibility determination, and 4) Documentation regarding children lost to the system following referral.

ICC 2008 RECOMMENDATIONS continued

ICC Recommendation #15: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that as an additional option to attending Early Start Institutes, Early Start Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) local training grants be marketed to encourage local collaborative training on health status review practices and procedures to include 1) Utilizing Early Start Service Coordinator's Handbook, Section 11, The Health Status Review, 2) Performing and documenting a comprehensive health status review, 3) Utilizing the Health Status Review as a service coordination tool, 4) Identifying health-related service and support needs, 5) Developing health-related service and support outcomes, 6) Collaborating strategies, 7) Appropriately utilizing Generic and Other health care service providers, 8) Exchanging information with providers (e.g., Individualized Family Service Plan sent to the Primary Health Care Provider), and 9) Outreach to and disseminating information to the medical community.

ICC Recommendation #16: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that agencies coordinating local or regional trainings/workshops on comprehensive health status review practices and procedures, publish local training timetable, curricula, and attendance for review and confirmation during monitoring.

ICC 2008 RECOMMENDATIONS continued

Priority: *Supports for Children and their Families in Natural Environments as indicated by the Individualized Family Service Plan* (Family Resources & Supports Committee)

Measurable Outcomes: Early Intervention agency staff and families will have increased access to information on respite as a family support service provided through California Early Start and the regional center system;

Families will have the opportunity to discuss awareness of respite service and use and Service Coordinators will demonstrate increased ability to assess families' respite needs; and

Alternative methods of distributing the Service Coordinator's Handbook will be implemented.

ICC Recommendation #17: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that respite information be included in, but not be limited to, the Early Start Institutes, Service Coordinator's Handbook, Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) resources, Regional Center Resources, and Family Support Guidelines.

ICC Recommendation #18: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that detailed information about the different types of respite services be included in the Service Coordinator's Handbook as part of family support services (information may include Respite Issue paper, evidence-based practice, existing information at the local level and other pertinent information as deemed necessary).

ICC Recommendation #19: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) continue to pursue alternative ways to distribute the Service Coordinator's Handbook via website and online trainings.

ICC Recommendation #20: The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) recommends that Early Start focused monitoring activities and other varied activities (i.e., National Center for Special Education Accountability and Monitoring [NCSEAM], surveys, phone calls, etc.) review the assessment of the families' concerns, priorities, and resources to assess knowledge of respite and the usage of respite services in Early Start. This process shall include parents, Service Coordinators, and Early Start Family Resource Centers.