

**STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)
ON EARLY INTERVENTION**

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, March 22, 2002
Lake Natoma Inn
Folsom, CA

ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair
George Chance, DSS
Arleen Downing, M.D.
Rick Ingraham, DDS
Cynthia Jaynes, DADP
Melody James, CDE
Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS
Marie Kane Poulsen, Ph.D.

ICC MEMBERS ABSENT

Livia Faure-Gault
Nancy Lee, DOI
Cynthia Rutledge, DMH
Martha Sanchez
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.
Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions. Dr. Peterson acknowledged Zelna Banks participating on behalf of Martha Sanchez and Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D., representing the Public Awareness Committee; and Linda Landry, participating on behalf of Mara McGrath representing the FRC/N-CA. Dr. Peterson also recognized Nina Lavine for her long term participation with the ICC and for her recent appointment as a Community Representative and member of the Family Support Services Committee (FSSC).

Linda Landry announced the passing of Debbie Rowell. Ms. Rowell was an active member of the Family Resource Center Network and Director of the SEA Center in Paradise, California. Her contributions will be greatly missed.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2001, NOVEMBER 2001 AND JANUARY 2002 ICC MINUTES

It was noted that a quorum of ICC members was in attendance. Dr. Peterson acknowledged the proxy vote of DMH for the meeting minutes approval. The minutes of the July 2001 and November 2001 meetings were approved as written.

The January 2002 minutes were approved with the following change on page 12:
“Hedy Hansen reported that she had attended the NECTAS National meeting held in Washington D.C. during February 2001, and that it was a wonderful networking opportunity on behalf of parents. Nenita Herrera-Sioco reported that the National ICC Parent Leadership Phone Conference focused on recruitment, mentoring and sustaining of parent representatives. “

CHAIR’S REPORT

Dr. Peterson thanked the ICC for their commitment to work as a cohesive group, maintain parent professional partnerships, and work with the Legislature to ensure adequate funding for programs serving vulnerable children and their families.

Dr. Peterson addressed the potential impacts on the service system following the release of the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) analysis and recommendations for legislative action on the State Budget proposed by Governor Davis for fiscal year 2002-03. Reductions are proposed in educational services, social services, child care, mental health services, health services and Medi-Cal. The Governor’s budget proposes the elimination of the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program that provides preventative health services for children and youth of low-income families in California. Dr. Peterson recommended the ICC continue to provide information to elected representatives on the needs of children in our local communities and the importance of early intervention.

Dr. Peterson reported the DDS/Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Early Start Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Assessment Forum was held February 21, 2002 in San Diego. The Forum provided the latest practical information on multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary evaluation and assessment practices within everyday routines, relationships, activities, places and partnerships. Assessment tools, protocols and practices were examined, as well linking assessment information with service planning and intervention.

STAFF REPORT

Rick Ingraham reported that the next ICC meeting would be in Burbank at the Airport Hilton Hotel. Participants needing assistance with travel arrangements may contact Barbara Ferriera. The agenda for the upcoming May ICC meeting was discussed. Rick Ingraham recommended the ICC meeting schedule be revisited as participants have indicated challenges regarding time commitments and travel arrangements. It was noted that the FSSC had put forth a recommendation regarding the meeting schedule last year, however there was no change. Mr. Ingraham reported that he is having on-going dialog with Administration regarding appointments to the ICC and suggested an off-site to discuss the meeting schedule after the new appointments are made.

Cheri Schoenborn, DDS, briefly discussed the *ICC Orientation Handbook* and acknowledged DDS staff members Pat Hastings and Barbara Ferriera for their contributions to the *Handbook*.

The *ICC Orientation Handbook* contains helpful information for new ICC Members and Community Representatives. Mr. Ingraham acknowledged DDS staff and ICC members for their contributions to the *ICC Orientation Handbook* and stated that the *Handbook* will be ready for dissemination to new ICC Members and Community Representatives by the May meeting.

The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act has been amended effective January 2002. The law governs notice and open meeting requirements for state bodies. DDS staff are conducting an analysis of the amendments to determine the impact, if any, on ICC meeting requirements.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN of CA) REPORT

Linda Landry reported for FRCN-CA Chair Mara McGrath on their meeting held on Wednesday. Twenty-five Network members attended the meeting, as well as partners from the California Center for Autism and Developmental Disability Research and Epidemiology and the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities. The meeting began with recognition for the success of the Fourth Annual FRCN Training Conference on February 25-26, 2002, at the Ontario Marriott Hotel. Conference registration reached full capacity of 250 participants.

Ms. Landry reported the meeting included a moment of silence to commemorate the loss of FRCN-CA member Debbie Rowell. Ms. Rowell was the Executive Director of the SEA Center in Paradise. The FRCN-CA is assisting her family in developing a scholarship in her son's name.

Ms. Landry provided an update on the FRCN-CA listserv. The listserv now includes all the Family Resource Centers and 70 parents and has proven to be an efficient method of increasing communication among Network members.

Ms. Landry announced changes in several positions within the Network. Debbie Sarmiento will continue as regional representative for the Sacramento area and Stacey Thacker will replace Leslie Lee and Kim Winters for the Central Valley area. The position of Legislative Liaison is being restructured and will include increasing involvement from Rachel Ford of Matrix FRC. Ms. Ford will assist Kate Warren in the establishment of a Legislative Committee.

The Wednesday meeting included a presentation from Nila Rogosin from the California Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology (CA CADRE), on a new National Institute of Health research project and she explained research protocols and parameters.

Mark Polit from the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities, Inc. (CAIC) presented an overview of the organization. The CAIC is a state-wide family based organization committed to advocating for high quality community-based services and supports for individuals of all ages with developmental and other related disabilities, and their family members, throughout the individual's life span. Mr. Polit discussed the success of the Community Imperative Conference held in January 2002, in Oakland.

Juno Duenas also provided the FRCN-CA with a brief update on the Family Voices Health Liaison Project, the California Children's Services (CCS)/Family Voices Project, and the CCS survey distributed by the Department of Health Services. She also

reported that four FRCN-CA members attended the Family Voices National Conference in Washington D.C.

Ms. Landry reported the Legislative update at their meeting centered on SB 511, the Family Empowerment Act. The FRCN-CA awaits the announcement of the grantees for the Family Empowerment Centers on Disability on March 22, 2002. Forty FRCs submitted grant applications and twelve awards are anticipated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COTW)

The committee discussed the anticipated May visit from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) project officer, Rhonda Ingel. Dr. Peterson requested each committee provide Ms. Ingel with a brief overview of their mission, activities, and accomplishments. Rick Ingraham indicated he will be in contact with Ms. Ingel and as more details of her visit are known, these will be reflected in the May ICC agenda as appropriate to meet the needs of OSEP.

In response to the OSEP review and the need for information about the Part C program, DDS has funded a contract with Xenologix, Inc. to conduct a statewide family satisfaction survey. The survey seeks information about early intervention services provided, IFSP processes, and family perceptions about quality services and supports. Ken Freedlander, Chief, DDS Early Start Local Support Section, is working with the contractor to finalize the report. It is anticipated that the report will be available for the OSEP visit in May 2002.

Ideas for the next COTW agenda included:

- 1) A discussion with OSEP about Early Start community activities, presentations of preferred practices and community challenges;
- 2) A presentation on "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: the Science of Early Childhood Development" regarding integrating children's cognitive and emotional development in early childhood education and school readiness.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PAC)

In the absence of Co-chairs Martha Sanchez and Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D., Zelna Banks reported on PAC activities. Ms. Banks thanked Stephanie Pringle Fox for inviting several Sacramento area parents to attend the Newcomers Orientation meeting and acknowledged Pat Hastings for providing information packets and support to the meeting. Linda Landry will invite parents to attend the Newcomers Orientation meeting at the next ICC COTW meeting in Burbank on May 30, 2002.

Ken Freedlander met with PAC and answered questions regarding Early Start site monitoring visits. Mr. Freedlander discussed efforts to facilitate parent participation in and training for monitoring visits. He confirmed that site visits do include parents as team members and that families are always interviewed as part of the monitoring process.

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Ms. Banks reported that a statement prepared by DDS was reviewed regarding the PAC's activities and accomplishments in 2000-01. It was requested the committee review this information for inclusion in the Early Start Annual Report.

PAC reviewed criteria for awarding certificates of appreciation and amended the criteria for issuing a certificate. Ms. Banks requested that the ICC consider an awards presentation ceremony at a future meeting.

Ms. Banks shared that PAC reviewed a draft of a referral brochure and made recommendations on content and format of information presented. In addition, the committee continued to share samples resource information and outreach materials.

PAC also discussed current Early Start issues and related PAC activities in preparation for the OSEP visit.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPSC)

Marie Poulsen reported that the committee received an update on the status of the Early Start Distance Learning Project by Maurine Ballard Rosa, Ellie Lynch and Claire Cavallero. The Project is a five-year federally funded program to provide instruction to students in early intervention programs who reside in rural areas in coordination with five institutions of higher learning across the state. The project allows cohorts of students to convene in various community locations and receive real-time interactive instruction through links with the various colleges. Experiences and recent study findings were shared.

Ken Freedlander reported that DDS is reviewing the preliminary draft of the Parent Satisfaction Survey. Further discussion of the findings was deferred until the May meeting pending Administrative approval to release the report. Mr. Freedlander also provided the committee with an update on the Early Start Monitoring Process and reported that marked improvement in program implementation has been noted. The committee members expressed their appreciation to Ken for his informative updates.

The committee reviewed a statement prepared by DDS for inclusion into the FY 2001 Early Start Annual Report, made revisions and suggested additions.

James Cleveland distributed copies of the San Diego Regional Center Infant Development Program Quality Assurance Report tool. It is attached to the QAPPSC minutes.

A representative from Sonoma State CHIS Project regarding alignment of children with special needs in the CDE/CDD Desired Results Program Standards was rescheduled, at their request, to the May 30th committee meeting in Burbank.

HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)

Dr. Arlene Downing acknowledged Dr. Miller and Dr. Morrow for reviewing and refining the *HSC Recommendations for Vision Screenings for Children Referred to and/or Enrolled in Early Start*. Dr. Miller reviewed the new draft to highlight salient points and

the rationale for the recommendations. The committee reviewed questions and concerns from previous versions and is prepared to submit their White Paper and Recommendations as an action item at the ICC May meeting.

Juno Duenas gave a presentation on Family Voices of California. Family Voices is very involved in support for families of children with special health care needs. Ms. Duenas discussed the overall philosophy, goals, focus and supporters of Family Voices. She described some of the current projects of Family Voices and how they have provided information and support for both parents and professionals.

Dr. Hickman shared the Speech Language Pathologist's (SLP) Preferred Practice Guidelines and other materials from the California Speech & Hearing Association and requested that committee members read documents for discussion at the May meeting. Dr. Hickman also presented SB 1379 and the fact sheet regarding SLP's involvement in endoscopic evaluation for voice and swallowing disorders.

Dr. Downing reported that the committee reviewed a summary of HSC activities and accomplishments for the Early Start Annual Report 7/00-9/01. The HSC members were asked to review and make revisions to the overview to assist in accurately reflecting the focus and accomplishments of the HSC during this period of time.

Dr. Hickman provided an overview and follow up on New Jersey materials and videos on Autism and Early Intervention. The HSC is interested in working Public Awareness Committee (PAC) on outreach materials for physicians and other primary health care provider's as well as on activities for overall outreach to this population and not only those related to Autism.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)

George Chance reported on the FSSC's activities on child care. The committee reviewed child care materials from the Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers, the *Executive Summary: Barriers to Inclusive Child Care Research Study* and the technical assistance packet of materials prepared for selected counties under the *Barriers Study*.

Mr. Chance reported that Kay Ryan briefed the committee on the results of the Child Care Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC) Survey of Local Planning Councils (LPCs) concerning participation by parents of children with disabilities. Fourteen out of fifty-eight counties responded to the survey. Members expressed interest in comparing the information from the Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and the LPCs to identify where coordination is working well. The discussion included issues of recruitment and retention of parents to work at the local FRC were discussed, as well as strategies for promoting their representation on the LPC.

The committee identified components of Part C/ Early Start that related to the discussion of child care and early intervention services as they impact children and families served under Early Start. An outcome of these discussions was the determination that the committee would review the child care position statement as a tool to help focus and prioritize what the committee wants to accomplish. Mr. Chance reported that the FSSC will be recommending that the ICC convene a statewide

symposium on specific issues identified in the ICC Position Statement on Child Care. The symposium would address the linkages between the child care community and early intervention. He requested and received approval to convene an interim meeting of the FSSC on April 24, 2002, to plan the symposium with other partners.

Mr. Chance also reported that the FSSC requests that the ICC Chair review the attendance of committee members with the chairs of each committee and consider a strategy to encourage regular attendance by committee members. The FSSC is concerned that those members who are frequently absent negatively impact the effectiveness of the committee.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON THE NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Hallie Morrow, M.D., M.P.H., Nancy Grosz Sager, M.A., and Jennifer Sherwood, M.A. provided a presentation on the California Newborn Hearing Screening Program. The California Department of Health Services (DHS), Children's Medical Services Branch (CMS) implemented a statewide comprehensive Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP) to help identify hearing loss in infants and guide families to appropriate services needed to develop communication skills.

Jennifer Sherwood presented information regarding the incidence of hearing loss identified in infants and the rationale for hearing screening. Ms. Sherwood noted that children receiving audiology intervention and early intervention services within the first 6 months of diagnosis have the best outcomes for developing age appropriate language skills. She also discussed legislation implementing the NHSP and the program's goals.

Dr. Morrow presented information about the Hearing Coordination Centers (HCC). The HCCs provide technical assistance and consultation to hospitals in setting up programs, certify inpatient screening providers and collect data. She also discussed outreach and awareness activities including brochures, materials for providers, and the toll free telephone number (1-877-388-5301). As of December 2001, 54,000 infants have been screened with 210 identified with hearing loss.

Nancy Grosz Sager of CDE discussed early intervention for deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers. She provided an enlightening history of deaf education in Europe and America. Ms. Sager also provided research demonstrating that identification of hearing loss by six months of age, followed by intensive early intervention, is the most effective strategy for the normal development of language in deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers regardless of the degree of hearing loss, gender, presence of a secondary disability, socioeconomic status or the mode of communication chosen by the family.

The committee viewed a six-minute video titled "A Sound Choice" which provides general information about the NHSP. The video is used in childbirth education classes and other pre-natal care and education forums. Information distributed during this presentation is attached.

PUBLIC INPUT

Lois Pastore, Director of the Hope Infant Program in San Diego discussed strategies for the inclusion of children with special needs in California Children and Families Commission (CCFC) grantee awards and school readiness initiatives. She shared the report developed for the CCFC titled *Investments to Create Positive Outcomes For Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs*. This report makes recommendations for specific high priority investments, infrastructure and policies for the CCFC to consider in serving children with disabilities and other special needs. Ms. Pastore suggested that the ICC review the report and consider strategies to support the recommendations.

AGENCY REPORTS

LEAD AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Rick Ingraham reported on the current status of the state budget. He noted all state departments are preparing for budget reductions and implementing restrictions on travel as well as other cost savings measures.

Mr. Ingraham discussed the status of the Health and Wellness grant project. Approximately 40 wellness projects are being developed by 21 regional centers with different sources of funding, totaling over two million dollars. The projects all address medical, dental and/or mental health needs to promote the health and well-being of Californians with developmental disabilities.

It is anticipated the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) project officer' visit to California will be in May 2002. DDS anticipates that OSEP project officer, Rhonda Ingel, will participate in a monitoring visit in one regional center catchment area, as well as attend the May ICC meeting. Plans for her visit to the ICC were discussed.

Mr. Ingraham noted the *California Early Start Annual Performance Report 1999-2000* was honored by the Sacramento Public Relations Association with a Gold CAPPPIE Award for excellence in Public Relations. He thanked the committees for their collaboration in reviewing the content of the ICC section of the 2000-2001 Annual Report.

Information was provided on all of the upcoming personnel development/training activities. The Service Coordination Institute: Foundations will be held May 21-23 in Berkeley. The Service Coordination Institute: Advanced will be held July 8-9 at the Holiday Inn Bay Bridge in Emeryville. Early Start scholarship funds and training grants are available through DDS' Contract with WestEd, under the CEITAN project. Status of the Scholarship fund is attached.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)

Dr. Hallie Morrow discussed the proposed Governor's Budget for 2002-03 and its impact on Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP). The CHDP program provides preventative health services for children and youth of low-income families in California. The Governor's Budget proposes a \$120 million reduction in the CHDP budget. The Department has convened a CHDP stakeholder workgroup to determine long and short term feasibility options. There was diverse representation from provider groups, health care organizations, advocacy

organizations and county programs at the stakeholders meeting held on March 8, 2002. The stakeholders are comprised of four workgroups reviewing the following issues:

- 1) Those enrolled in Medi-Cal/Healthy Families seeking services through CHDP rather than accessing services through their health plan;
- 2) Those eligible for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families but have not applied;
- 3) Those not eligible for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families;
- 4) The Public Health role of the local CHDP program.

Dr. Morrow provided a brief update on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program and the release of the Request for Proposals to expand the applicant pool of Hearing Coordination Centers. Proposals are due April 15, 2002.

DHS has recently released two policy letters. The first letter is an update of Table 1 (Family Size and Annual Income Level Chart) used by CCS to determine whether an applicant is required to pay an enrollment and/or assessment fee. In addition the Medi-Cal "2002 Federal Poverty Level Chart" was included to assist county CCS offices in making referrals to the Medi-Cal program. The second letter addresses maintenance and transportation to assist CCS clients in accessing CCS authorized medical services. Both policy letters are attached.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)

George Chance reported that DSS continues to prepare self-assessment phase of the Children and Family Service Federal Review. DSS anticipates completing the site monitoring phase of the review later this year. Three counties, including Los Angeles will be visited.

Mr. Chance reported on the status of the CalWORKS/Child Welfare Services (CWS) Partnership Project. The Project is a four-year, two phase project, which is part of the California Center for Research on Women and Families, in partnership with DSS. In the first phase the Project worked with 59 state and county officials to develop policy and programmatic recommendations. There were five workgroups that developed recommendations in the following areas: Service Delivery Models, Coordinated Case Planning, Flexible Financing, Data Systems and confidentiality, and Organizational Change and Cross-Training. In November 2001 DSS held a Feedback Forum to receive input from stakeholders on the recommendations. The recommendations are presently in draft form and scheduled for release at the LINKAGES conference in May 30, 2002. Phase II will provide grants to ten counties to enhance their implementation of coordination activities.

Governor Davis has proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. An Interagency Fair celebrating the Proclamation is planned for April 10, 2002 on the west steps of the Capitol. Local child abuse councils are also planning events to promote child abuse prevention and identification of resources available to communities.

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS (ADP)

Cynthia Jaynes reported that Kathy Jett, Director of Alcohol and Drug Programs has made Perinatal issues one of the Department priorities and the Office of Perinatal Substance Abuse (OPSA) has embarked on a mission to visit 25 Perinatal programs per quarter. A letter announcing these site visits was distributed to County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators and to the existing Perinatal Programs. They also received the updated list of OPSA Perinatal County Liaisons (see attached). These

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visits are meant to re-establish and build upon the existing relationships between OPSA and program providers, determine their technical assistance needs and get a better sense of how the programs are doing. ADP is reviewing program areas including childcare programs, Early Start identification and referrals, aftercare programs and collateral services for children. Early Start information such as the Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources will be distributed to ensure each program has current referral tools.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a contractor to provide Training and Technical Assistance (TA) to programs serving pregnant and parenting women and their children, and other women, has been released with proposals due at the end of April. In the RFP scope of work includes knowledge of Early Start supportive services, CalWORKS, the mother-child dyad, developing parenting skills, domestic violence issues. It is anticipated ADP will select a TA contractor by July 1, 2002.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

The following CDE, Special Education Division personnel have been appointed to the ICC:

Jim Bellotti, Designee for ICC Member Delaine Eastin
Melody James, CDE Liaison to QAPPSC
Nancy Sager, CDE Liaison to HSC
Janet Canning, CDE Liaison to PAC
Mary Smithburger, CDE Liaison to FSSC

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.