

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY INTERVENTION
GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday, September 10, 2009
8:00 A.M. – 12:40 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Theresa Rossini, ICC Vice-Chair
Susan Burger, Designee for the Director (DMHC)
Rick Ingraham, Designee for the Director (DDS)
Hallie Morrow, M.D., Designee for the Director (DHCS)
Marie Poulsen, Ph.D.
Nancy Sager (representing Jim Bellotti) Designee for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (CDE)
Beverley Morgan Sandoz
Cheryl Treadwell, Designee for the Director (DSS)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Toni Doman
Gretchen Hester
Madeline Journey-Lynn, Designee for the Director (DADP)
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.
Raymond M. Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debbie Sarmento
Sherry Torok (representing Linda Landry)
Patric Widmann, ICC Supervisor
Stacie Byrne-Reed, ICC Coordinator
Elissa Provance, WestEd, Recorder

Refer to Attachment A for a complete list of attendees.

CALL TO ORDER

Theresa Rossini called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. She will be chairing the meeting since Dr. Peterson is out of state.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Self-introductions were made. Theresa gave a special welcome to Linda Niemeyer, the 2009 Parent Leadership Award recipient.

AGENDA REVIEW:

The agenda was approved with the addition of other awards to be disseminated under Item 12.

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

APPROVAL OF MAY 2009 ICC MINUTES:

Motion made and seconded for approval.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Theresa Rossini reported that Julia Mullen, Deputy Director from DDS, spoke with the Executive Committee about the changes to Early Start and the Prevention Program. In the afternoon, the Executive Committee focused on priorities and developed tasks for the coming year. The following tasks were identified under the broad heading of Child and Family Outcomes:

Data Collection & Analysis

- Clean data
- Early Start report
- Identify appropriate tool to measure child outcomes on APR, Indicator 3

CSPD

- Define qualifications, training needs for Prevention Program case managers
- Review Recommended Early Start Personnel Model

Other Issues

- Insurance: deductibles, co-pays, denial letters
- Definition of evidence-based interventions
- How to promote the ICC image

Early Start/Prevention Tracking

- Percent of Prevention Program kids that end up in Early Start vs. Part B preschool services
- Early Start kids who transfer to the Prevention Program or to Part B preschool services.
- Cost benefits

ICC CHAIR REPORT

Theresa Rossini shared some stories about her son with autism, who recently started high school. Her family was worried about the transition; however, they were told he is the first student with autism on the campus and is doing very well.

ICC STAFF REPORT

Patric Widmann reported about CalAters, a new automated travel system for the state. All participants need to be entered into the system. She thanked Stacie Reed for her determination in getting this off the ground. There are some complications with travel advances, i.e., less flexibility. Patric is looking into some solutions.

Staff Updates:

- Nurse Consultant vacancy. Suzanne Del Sarto moved to the VA Hospital in Reno.

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

- Associate Government Program Analyst vacancy. Charlaine Hamilton was laid off (fiscal tracking system) and recently took a position with the Department of Health Care Services as a Legislative Analyst.
- There is still a CPS II position vacancy in Local Support.
- Branch Secretary position is vacant. Anna Ly has been promoted.
- A second secretarial position has been eliminated.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA

Sherry Torok, Vice Chair, provided the report (Attachment B) on behalf of Linda Landry. Sherry reported that the FRCNCA continues to meet monthly. Partners in Policymaking class will be graduating 18 self-advocates and 18 family members. The 2010 class will be in the southern California.

The ASD Resource Project, funded by DDS, is complete. There are now web pages linked from the FRCNCA website. In addition, an ASD Resource Kit has been disseminated to each FRC and other related entities.

Sherry also reported on outreach activities, status of grants and that the 2009 FRCNCA Distinguished Professional award went to Kris Pilkington. The Distinguished Individual award went to Nora Thompson.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Proposed 2010 ICC Meeting Schedule**

Option 1 was approved with a modification to February from Thursday-Friday meeting to Wednesday-Thursday meeting. Refer to 2010 Meeting Schedule for specific dates and locations.

PUBLIC INPUT

Shane Nurnberg: Parent and community representative from Redding announced that he has developed the Autismepicenter.com website. Far Northern Regional Center now links to it from their website and he would like to have other regional centers link to it as well.

Laurie Jordan: Parent and community representative from Ventura County has noticed that occasionally the ICC struggles to have a quorum in order to vote on action items. Laurie suggested that having the FRNCA as a voting member would help solve the problem. She also supports the role of the FRCs in the Prevention Program.

Rebecca Carroll: Parent and community representative from Santa Barbara County shared what she wrote about her role as a Community Representative. Rebecca emphasized the need for family counseling and mental health support to avoid additional problems for families later on. She used a story about a family as an illustration.

Fran Chasen: Community Representative and IDA Public Policy representative from Southern California pointed out that the side-by-side comparison of DDS and trailer bill language was not in the packet. She shared information about the Early Learning Challenge grants, its application process and that California is considering applying. She recommends inquiries and input be made to the Governor's office regarding the expertise needed for the 13 appointees to the grant committee. IDA has been involved with many partners statewide to share information about Early Start changes and implementation. She stressed the importance of a directive and clear information from DDS.

Janet Hill: Department of Public Health federal coordinator for the Early Childhood Comprehensive System grant and the Statewide Screening Collaborative. Janet briefly shared the efforts that her group is making in encourage early identification of young children who may need early intervention services. She would like the ICC to help disseminate information through local newsletters. She is working with First 5, ARC of California, Zero to Three, and other organizations and agencies.

Robin Millar: Community representative and Chair of IDA from Ventura County announced that IDA now has a blog, Facebook, and Twitter account. The organization continues to offer clarification and a safe space for questions regarding Early Start policy changes. She announced several training opportunities which are listed on the ICC's Master Calendar

Jill Ellis: Executive Director of a non-profit and a teacher of the deaf in San Diego County expressed her concerns regarding children with hearing impairments and minor developmental delays. She is asking the ICC to explore the impact of Early Start eligibility changes on children with hearing loss as well as delays. She also questioned if children already have an IFSP under Early Start, will that transfer to the school district or will families go through eligibility process again?

Dwight Lee: Community representative from Los Angeles County expressed his pleasure with the cost cutting measures and the use of private insurance for POS. In interpreting statutory and regulatory language, the provision allowing regional centers to provide services is a disincentive for insurance companies to be forthcoming with service. He would encourage whoever has authority to revise language for a provision that once an insurance company determines a service is medically necessary, there be a mechanism for reimbursement to regional centers.

Peter Michael Miller: Community representative stated that his goal is to try to develop a more collaborative early intervention system in California that would include Early Start, CCS, Head Start, ECE program. He encouraged the ICC to look at the broader responsibility to families.

Arleen Downing: ICC member, developmental pediatrician and member of the Board on Project Vietnam. She reported that she, Gary Feldman, Elaine Schneider, and Kris Pilkington are going to work with children's hospital in Ho Chi Min City to improve

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

services for children with special needs. She also stated that the American Academy of Pediatrics submitted a letter to DDS regarding policy changes and would like that letter included in the November ICC packet. She also reminded the ICC of the importance of the medical home.

Julie Kingsley: Parent and community representative from San Diego reported on the upcoming SEECAP trainings that will be held early in 2010. Details are available on SEECAP's website and in the ICC Master Calendar.

Kristine Pilkington: Community representative from Santa Barbara County shared that in her role as a transdisciplinary early intervention team provider and as an ICC community representative for 20 years she is having a hard time witnessing the dismantling of the Early Start system. Changes to eligibility and rate cuts to providers are two issues of concern. In Texas, they have a requirement for all providers to have a certification in early intervention, a two-year process. It has given a lot of solid strength to that system. As an early interventionist, we go to where children live and play. Our role is to impact the number and quality of natural learning opportunities in that environment so the child has maximum opportunity to improve outcomes and parents/caregivers are maximizing their ability to meet the child's needs. If we had personnel/program standards, would we, in Early Start, have been less vulnerable to what's happening.

Mara McGrath: Parent, sibling and community representative from Lucille Packard Children's Hospital reported that her local; First 5 Commission are being responsive to prevention efforts. First 5 will be a critical partner down the road.

Al Millan: Parent and community representative from Sacramento has been involved since May with this change process and wants to emphasize that, in this region, he has seen good efforts at communication among partners. He is hearing that basic assistance is becoming difficult and concurs that First 5 locally can be supportive.

Additional Discussion

Nancy Sager reiterated the concern about the service needs of children with hearing impairments. The question arose as to whether education will be able to serve children in Prevention Program if they have two 25% delays or one 50% delay and are not eligible for Early Start.

Beverley Morgan Sandoz agreed to bring information about the Early Learning Challenge Grant to the next meeting. The grant addresses improving quality in all systems within California providing education to children birth to 8 years of age. An Advisory committee is being formed. Young children with special needs should be represented. DDS will research and provide available information on the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee (ELQIS) to the ICC in November. Information is available on www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/sb1629committee.asp Refer to Attachment C for further information.

2009 ICC PARENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Debbie Sarmiento provided information about Linda Niemeyer, 2009 Parent Leadership Award recipient's background, her participation in the early intervention community and her contributions to families and professionals.

Additional Recognition

Members of the "The Role of the Primary Health Care Provider in Early Intervention" workgroup were given a certificate of appreciation for their work in producing this award winning brochure. Arleen explained the process for revisions. The award was given by the State Information Officer's Council (SIOC).

Patric Widmann also displayed the signed and framed poster for Ivette Pena that will be sent to her thanking her for her years of service.

PRESENTATION – STATUS OF EARLY START

Rick Ingraham presented a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment D) about the status of Early Start. California has experienced a 10% increase in Early Start population growth rate and the service expenditures had a 19% growth rate. What contributes to 19% growth rate is identification of kids with autism and intensive intervention: about \$5,200/kid per year in Early Start with wide distribution—some intensive, some lesser amount of services. The cost of kids going into the Prevention Program is about \$2,000-\$2,400/year.

OSEP is increasing their governance over Early Start with increased detail in program compliance, launching a fiscal audit process, and insisting the state lead agencies increase oversight over local programs. Nationally, many states are discussing dropping out of Part C. Most states are having difficulty meeting the maintenance of effort requirement due to budget cuts.

HR 3221: Early Learning Challenge Legislation reportedly allocates an additional \$1 billion available for states. It requires states to participate in Part C for the duration of the grant. Passed the House, no Senate version yet.

Rick reviewed the status of the State Annual Performance Report and discussed Early Start accomplishments and changes to Early Start. He reported that DDS had deferred local monitoring pending development of a focused monitoring approach. It is anticipated that monitoring efforts will resume by January 2010. The ICC requested that the Executive Committee be kept informed of efforts.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Department of Social Services (DSS) – Cheryl Treadwell reported the following:

- There has been a 10% rate reduction to group home and foster families. Options for Recovery, which cares for HIV and drug-exposed kids, was exempt. Overall, Social Services attempted to preserve with an additional \$80 million reduction, they are exploring other cuts.

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

- The Child Welfare Council will be convened on behalf of foster children. Those recommendations are posted on website. Looking at how to rollout and implement. Public input was heard June 23, 2008 and focused on foster youth and mental health and screening. In the next phase, the committee's intent is to focus on children 0-5.
- There is a plan that describes all services to families. It is a five-year plan regarding early intervention and prevention, CAPTA, in-home services, and training. Stay tuned for an announcement regarding webinars about screening and foster parents. Some webinars were conducted in March, May, and June. The next series will target social workers. Cheryl reported that she spoke with DDS regarding expanding participation to include service coordinators and a topic on Early Start policy changes. County welfare directors heard that Early Start was going away and we need to dispel that myth.
- Cheryl sits on the Statewide Screening Collaborative (SCC) and the California Screening Initiative. These are key opportunities to take advantage of a prevention perspective that SSC is doing. She encourages the ICC to look at that opportunity.

Department of Alcohol & Drug Programs (DADP) – No report available.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) – No report available.

Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) – Susan Burger reported the following:

The Department of Managed Health Care ("DMHC") is assessing the potential impact on Help Center activity related to the passage of ABX4 9 which prohibits Regional Centers from purchasing (1) any service that would otherwise be available from private insurance or health care service plans when a consumer or a family meets the criteria of this coverage but chooses not to pursue the coverage; and (2) medical or dental services for a consumer three years of age or older unless the Regional Center is provided with documentation of a Med-Cal, private insurance, or a health care service plan denial and the regional center determines that an appeal by the consumer or family of the denial does not have merit.

The DMHC anticipates not only an increase in treatment requests from health care service plans by affected Regional Center consumers, but also an increase in the DMHC Help Center's receipt and processing of enrollee complaints related to these treatment requests.

To assist affected Regional Center consumers with managed health care coverage during this time of transition the following information was provided:

- The DMHC Help Center provides a free consumer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to receive and resolve enrollee complaints and to ensure that enrollees receive all the necessary medical and mental health care to which they are entitled. If medical treatment has been delayed, denied, or modified, enrollees have the right to an Independent Medical review (IMR). The IMR decision by an external medical expert that has no financial interest, is binding on the health plan. If an enrollee is uncertain about how to proceed with a health plan dispute or is having other problems involving a health plan, please contact the Help Center at **1-888-466-2219**, **TDD: 1-877-688-9891**, or visit the Department's Web site at www.healthhelp.ca.gov. The Help Center can provide help in many languages.
- The DMHC has prepared a short article that can be used in agency newsletters, placed on bulletin boards, and on agency Web sites to inform families about Help Center services (see attachment). In addition, the DMHC can provide community outreach regarding Help Center services and has information brochures that can be sent to organizations for circulation.
- The DMHC encourages organizations and agencies to post a direct link to the DMHC Web site, www.healthhelp.ca.gov, on their own Web site thereby providing additional information to enrollees who may require assistance with obtaining medically necessary treatment or covered benefits from their health plan.
- On March 9, 2009 the DMHC released a letter to health plans on improved plan performance to address autism spectrum disorders ('ASD'). Health Plans must cover all basic health care services required under the Knox-Keene Act, including speech, physical, and occupational therapies for persons with ASD, when those health care services are medically necessary. The memorandum in its entirety can be accessed on the DMHC public Web site, www.dmhc.ca.gov, under the "Announcements" link.

Department of Developmental Services – Rick Ingraham reported the following:

- DDS is working on the Autism Initiative with the National Standards Project in Boston. They are working on the guidelines for effective intervention and evidence-based intervention. He is hoping for release in December. The document was divided up into program areas. California took biomedical and behavioral interventions for adults and the comprehensive model. The National Standards Project took educational interventions for children. Research to practice chapter is critical.
- Trailer bill language expanded the duties of respite workers. In the past, there was special legislation allowing respite workers to be trained in G-tube operation. W&I Code 4686(a) lists other conditions.

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

Department of Education – Nancy Sager reported for Jim Bellotti the following:

CDE Activities for Infants and Toddlers

- The CDE website has been updated. Special items of interest are: (1) updated nonpublic school and agency contact information; (2) 2010 nonpublic school and agency renewal applications; (3) employment opportunities with the CDE; (4) program summaries and information on specific federal special education grants; (4) issues related to the special education funding model; (5) a document entitled *Determining Specific Learning Disability Eligibility Using Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI2)*; and the September 2009 Advisory Commission on Special Education meeting agenda.

Legislative Update

- Assembly Bill 261 (Salas) is on the Governor's desk. This bill makes various changes to pupil records provisions to conform them to the Family Education Rights and Protections Act (FERPA).

Budget Update

The 2009 Budget Act reduced Proposition 98 funding of \$50.7 billion by \$1.6 billion for a revised 2008-09 Proposition 98 level of \$49.1 billion. This amount is \$9 billion below the original 2008 Budget Act funding level. For 2009-10, the Proposition 98 funding level is \$50.4 billion, \$4.5 billion less than the February-enacted funding level of \$54.9 billion. This amount is a decrease of \$8 billion compared to the original 2008 Budget Act. While the special education program did not experience specific cuts, other programs incurred budget reductions which impact special education students. For example these reductions include:

- \$247.1 million to eliminate the 0.68 percent cost-of-living (COLA) provided in the 2008 Budget Act for revenue limits.
- \$944 million from revenue limits on top of the elimination of the COLA.
- \$944 million is a 15.4 percent across-the-board reduction affecting most categorical programs (excluded programs are Nutrition, Economic Impact Aid, K-3 Class Size Reduction, Special Education, Child Development, After School Education and Safety, and the Quality Education Investment Act [QEIA]).
- \$203 million to reflect anticipated savings and revised caseload estimates in a number of programs.

The February budget package authorizes local educational agencies to use funds from about 40 categorical programs for "any educational purpose for a five-year period ending June 30, 2013. Nineteen General Fund programs (including Special Education), plus all programs funded from the tobacco tax and other special funds, plus federal funds, are excluded from this flexibility provision.

More specific information about California's K-12 education budget can be found at the following website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/>.

Interagency Collaboration Activities

- The Head Start-State Collaboration Office is working with the Special Education Division and the Head Start Inclusion Workgroup on a video conference to introduce the updated Part B-Head Start Interagency agreement. The video conference is tentatively planned for Winter 2009 or Spring 2010.
- Pamela Quiroz attended the Early Start Institute on June 2-3, 2009, and made a presentation about Transition.
- The Special Education Division: (1) attended the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Board meeting on June 10, 2009; (2) participated with the Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) to provide training (skills to promote social-emotional competency) to preschool teachers who have children with challenging behaviors; (3) attended meetings of the Early Learning Quality Improvement Systems (ELQIS) subcommittee, on July 28 and August 26, 2009, to develop a statewide preschool rating system that will include environmental, staff credentialing, licensing, and curriculum; and (4) participated in a collaboration meeting with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on August 20, 2009, to discuss the outcome of the budget reductions on the Early Start Program.
- The Parent Links (Hope!Dream!Achieve!) Program, which is housed at the Rowell Family Empowerment Center, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, and the Family Focus Resource and Empowerment Center, has provided parent-to-parent support to 199 families of infants identified as deaf or hard of hearing through the California Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP). A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been established between the CDE and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to allow the Parent Links staff to share information with the NHSP) Hearing Coordination Centers.
- On July 14, 2009, training was provided to Early Start teachers of the deaf in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) on the MacArthur Communication Development Index and the Minnesota Child Development Inventory. CDE will be working with LAUSD and with staff at the California School for the Deaf in the implementation of these assessments and participation in the National Early Childhood Assessment Project ("KNEECAP") under the direction of Drs. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano and Allison Sedey at the University of Colorado.
- In June and August, a six-day training on the SKI-HI Parent-Infant curriculum was provided to 19 Early Start teachers of the deaf from throughout the state. The training was provided by Paula Pittman and Suzanne Pope of the SKI-HI Institute. The SKI-HI Basic Training prepares professionals to be parent advisors helping families acquire information, skills, and support in facilitating the development of their young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. It includes a comprehensive overview of the rationale and organization of the SKI•HI Model, including early identification, administration, and supportive service components.

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

- CDE is pleased to announce that it has received two MCHB grant funds to support the following three-year projects. The first grant will continue to provide support for the Parent Links (Hope! Dream! Achieve!) Project. Three year grants will be issued to the Rowell Family Empowerment Center, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, and the Family Focus Resource and Empowerment Center for the years 2009-2012. This grant will also provide continued support for the KNEECAP project. The second grant is a new grant which will allow the Department of Health Care Services, through an interagency agreement with CDE, to establish a teleaudiology project in rural northern California. Dr. Hallie Morrow will elaborate on the project in her report.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) – Hallie Morrow reported the following:

CMS Branch Staffing

- The Branch Chief position is still vacant

CCS

- Handout of recent Numbered Letters provided
- CCS Redesign
 - Process began with assessment performed by HMA
 - Final report will be available after received and approved by Department
 - ABx4 6 defines the Department's requirements in submitting a health care financing waiver application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
 - Concept paper planned to be submitted to federal CMS in October
 - Current waiver expires August 31, 2010
- Title V Needs Assessment
 - Five year needs assessment process required for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
 - Identify priorities for the next 5 years for CCS, California's Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs program
 - Current intent is to use this expanded stakeholder group to provide input into the CCS redesign process
- Pediatric Palliative Care (Partners for Children)
 - Implementation of the waiver is scheduled to begin October 1.
 - First year counties – Alameda, San Diego, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey
 - Training scheduled for providers and CCS county staff next week
- Neonatal Quality Improvement Initiative
 - Beginning phase 3 of the project with 12 Regional NICUs to focus on reducing catheter associated blood stream infections, other infections, and antibiotic stewardship
 - Will continue through 12/31/10
- AB 1422
 - Tax managed care plans to maintain enrollment of children in the Healthy Families program

APPROVED ON 11/19/09

- Awaiting Governor's signature

High Risk Infant Follow-up (HRIF) program

- Web-based reporting system began 4/15/09, collecting information on infants born after 1/1/09
- Quality improvement project will begin analyzing data in the fall

NHSP

- 233 of the 261 mandated hospitals are currently certified. These hospitals deliver over 527,000 infants each year.
- Contract to implement a statewide data management service with Neometrics has been signed. Hope to begin phased implementation in early 2010
- California was awarded a 3-year grant from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau to implement a teleaudiology pilot project in Northern California.
- The NHSP hosted a 1-1/2 day Audiology Symposium on Infant Audiology: Establishing Guidelines for Care. It was very well attended with almost 100 participants, most of whom were audiologists.

Budget

- No further cuts in the revised 2009/10 budget that adversely affect the CMS Branch
- State furloughs impact staff ability to maintain workload
- County budgets may impact staffing at the local level. Many counties have implemented furloughs.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Debbie Sarmento announced information about the Supported Life Institute Conference, October 7-9, 2009.

The next ICC meeting will be held on November 18-19, 2009. The ICC will meet on Wednesday-Thursday due to State furlough day. DDS will discuss interim steps regarding priority tasks. Rick anticipates a conference call early in October and another a week prior to the November meeting. DDS will provide options for committee structures incorporating priorities and tasks for the Executive Committee to review prior to the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.