

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 15, 2014
1:30 p.m. ~ 4:30 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Susan Burger, Arleen Downing, Fernando Antonio Gomez*, Douglas Hall* (via conference call), Gretchen Hester*, Jim Knight, Beverley Morgan-Sandoz, Marie Kanne Poulsen

JoEllen Fletcher, Madeline Journey-Lynn, Elise Parnes, Erin Paulsen, Ashley Ramirez, Patric Widmann

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Tony Anderson, Maurine Ballard-Rosa, Fran Chasen, Toni Doman, Linda Landry, Virginia Reynolds, Debbie Sarmento

GUESTS:

Jennifer Boyden
Angela McGuire
Jennifer Miller

RECORDER:

Ashley Franklin

*Parent

MEETING NOTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Arleen Downing opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Arleen chaired the meeting until Gretchen Hester took over at 1:40 p.m.

OPENING ROLL CALL

Madeline Journey-Lynn completed roll.

REVIEW AGENDA

The agenda was approved with the following changes: Arleen added the remainder of the ICC Orientation to the agenda (carried over from the morning), from 1:00-1:30 p.m. The group moved the special presentation to 1:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2014 MINUTES

Minutes were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

ICC ORIENTATION (CONTINUED)

Patric finished the PowerPoint presentation on the ICC Orientation for new members. Refer to the Executive Committee meeting minutes for more information.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Angela McGuire, WestEd, presented information on the natural environments from an on-line module: *Early Start Online Foundations II: Working through the IFSP Process, Lesson 9: Natural Environments for Families*. The lesson describes natural environments (everyday routines, relationships, activities, places and partnerships) for early intervention services, requirements and principles related to natural environments, benefits of providing services in natural environments, and justifications for providing services in other environments when necessary. The audience for the Early Start Online Foundations series includes early interventionists, service coordinators and family support professionals working in Early Start, and professionals working in partner agencies: including child care, preschool, health and mental health. For more information on the course, go to <http://www.ceitan-earllystart.org/training/early-start-online/>.

There is an evaluation at the end of the trainings. That information is collected, utilized for improvement and shared with DDS.

The group discussed the differences in insurance coverage for early intervention services, regional center funded services, and the natural environments.

TOPICS – NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Gretchen opened the discussion about natural environments. A discussion ensued about the letter (Attachment B) submitted by the University of California at Davis Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders. The letter was a result of Maurine taking the questions on natural environments created at the last ICC meeting (see February Meeting Minutes at http://www.dds.ca.gov/EarlyStart/docs/feb14COTW_Minutes.pdf) to the Early Start Network. (27 counties are represented, including regional centers, and Local Educational Agencies). Maurine shared that the Early Start Network believes there needs to be attention to: natural environments, focus on looking at our work across disciplines, the training and education for the disciplines (knowledge, skills and dispositions), and emphasizing the outcomes for families and children. Maurine shared that the ICC must make it clear to the field that all children with all levels of ability must be welcomed, and also that the ICC must provide training and support to help the field to do that.

Patric added that in any outreach and training on the topic of natural environments, the training that is provided must provide education to families about why natural environments are significant and important. Patric also added that when providers are reaching out to parents of typical developing children, there must be questions about inclusion, making the expectation that inclusion happens, and the importance of having the experience of learning/living with other peers of all abilities should be stressed.

Virginia shared that early intervention services are at least partially defined by the delivery model: services that are delivered in an isolated medical model versus services that are delivered with a dyad where there is carryover into the rest of the child's life. Natural environments are where the service is directed to the family system and the context of the child's development rather than solely the child alone.

Marie commented that there is a need for program standards to go with personnel standards. She suggested that we consider a directive that every provider be required to take the online training from WestEd for Early Start.

Arleen began a motion for DDS to fund someone from WestEd to work with Arleen, Marie, and Maurine to create a basic structure to formulate as an action item from the ICC. Fernando recommended that the group take the time to look at the 1999 document, while keeping in mind updating it. Arleen withdrew her motion.

Follow-up:

- The ICC needs to decide on whether or not to update the *Natural Environments Recommendation* from 1999, to include clarifying the interpretations and meanings of natural environments.
- Create a plan for disseminating the document for the appropriate audience.

ICC STRATEGIC PLAN

The group discussed the need to update the ICC's strategic plan.

Follow-up:

- Azadeh recommended that the latest version of the strategic plan be sent out to the members. They can review and consider what is needed to update the current strategic plan. Madeline will send the latest version to the group next week.

A motion was called by Fernando to have a strategic planning meeting. Maurine commented that she recommends the meeting occur prior to the next ICC meeting so that the group can move forward at the next ICC meeting. A vote was called and the motion sustained. The group discussed proposing a two-day planning meeting. No decision was made on this item.

Follow-up:

- Azadeh indicated she would find out if financial support for the meeting is possible from DDS.

Special Populations Update Report

Patric provided an update about the special population work. The groups will look at strategies for how to address the needs of these populations in a different way.

Patric shared that the group decided the American Indian document would be separate from the other social issues/experiences, because one is a group of people versus an experience. Patric explained that she is working on describing an approach to working with the population and has rewritten the document separately. She explained that she needs some additional involvement from representatives from the American Indian population. Patric is working with the Indian Health Clinic group who are interested in providing assistance. Discussions will continue on the best course of action for this document.

Fernando raised the issue of undocumented families as another possible group to be included as a special population. Gretchen spoke about undocumented families and the implications for accessing care. The group decided to add families that are undocumented to the list of special populations projects, although this population is not mentioned in our federal regulations. Fernando and Azadeh will be part of this new group.

John Hall joined the victims of domestic violence group. Beverley joined the undocumented families group. Linda Landry joined the homeless population group. Gretchen requested that

we call and ask Doug Erber if he is interested in joining a group. Theresa is to be notified when the specials populations meetings occur.

Definitions for the federally required groups can be located in the Child Find section 303.302 http://www.dds.ca.gov/EarlyStart/docs/compilationES_StatsAndRegs.pdf

ADJOURNMENT

Gretchen adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.