

**State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)
on Early Intervention**



“Promoting Excellence In Early Start”

January 20, 2022

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

January 21, 2022

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

**Interagency Coordinating Council
January 20-21, 2022
Table of Contents**

Mission Statement..... Page 3

Contact List..... Page 4

2022 Public Meetings Notice..... Page 8

Meeting Agenda

- **January 20, 2022..... Page 13**
- **January 21, 2022..... Page 14**

Previous Meeting Minutes

- **October 14, 2021..... Page 16**
- **October 15, 2021..... Page 20**

Additional materials can be found at:

[Interagency Coordinating Council Information](#)

Public Notice
Member Rosters
Website List
Master Calendar
Meeting Schedule
Acronyms
Handouts
Travel

The Interagency Coordinating Council is an open public meeting that may be recorded, provided it does not cause a disruption to the proceedings.

Interagency Coordinating Council On Early Intervention (ICC)

ICC Mission Statement

The mission of the ICC is to promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, who have, or are at risk for having, a disability, and their families, utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration.

The History of the ICC

California has a long history of providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, and their families. In the 1960s and 1970s, special education services for infants and toddlers were provided in public schools and funded through various local, state and federal sources. With the advent of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act) in 1969, California demonstrated its support of young children with prevention and early intervention services for infants with developmental disabilities through the regional center system. This was a huge effort and viewed as a major investment in California's children.

In 1988, the first ICC convened to provide advice and assistance to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding implementation of a coordinated early intervention system in California. In 1993, after five years of state and local planning activities in preparation for full implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Governor signed the California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA: Title 14, Government Code section 95000 et seq.) CEISA established state authority to enhance California's early intervention service system to meet the new federal requirements under Part C. CEISA assigned DDS as lead agency in collaboration with California Department of Education (CDE). Other collaborative partners involved in the ICC include Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), and First 5 California.

Although the early intervention landscape has changed over the years in California, the ICC has continued to follow, advise, and assist DDS on the state of the early intervention community. The changes have included amendments to CEISA that brought the addition of provision of family support services by Early Start Family Resource Centers (FRC). FRCs provide services such as parent-to-parent support, information dissemination and referral, public awareness, family-professional collaboration activities, and transition for families. CEISA also clarified state coordination and collaboration with families and communities, service coordinator competencies and caseload size, evaluation and assessment, parent rights, referral to local FRCs and monitoring efforts. Lastly, CEISA was amended to clarify that the Part C program is based on existing systems and how regional centers must comply with the Lanterman Act. This includes regulations related to vendorization and rate setting as long as the application of state law does not conflict with early intervention statutes.

Interagency Coordinating Council Appointed Members

Name	Composition	Email Address	Phone
Matt Chesnut	Provider/Parent Infant Programs	mattc@parentinfantprograms.com	(530) 247-1375
Michelle Dove	Agency Rep/Head Start	mdove@kcao.org	(559) 362-5629
Sharon DeRego (For Nancy Bargmann)	Agency Rep/DDS Early Intervention Services	sharon.derego@dds.ca.gov nancy.bargmann@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-3681 (916) 654-1897
Susan Ducore	Indian Health Service	susan.ducore@ihs.gov	(916) 930-3981
Douglas Erber*	Parent/Autism Partnership Foundation	dougerber@hotmail.com	(310) 965-9050
Sally Grevemberg	Provider	sallyrenee@me.com	(209) 465-2311
Marie Kanne Poulsen	Personnel/Preparati on Chair	mpoulsen@chla.usc.edu	(323) 361-3819
Alma Martinez*	Parent/Community Medical Centers	AMartinez9@communitymedical.org	(559) 724-4386
Richard Olney	Agency Rep/CDPH Medi-Cal	richard.olney@cdph.ca.gov	(510) 231-7408
Shanice Orum	Agency Rep/DSS	Shanice.Orum@DSS.ca.gov	(916) 215-2973
Sarah Neville- Morgan (For Tony Thurmond)	Agency Rep/CDE Preschool Services	SNevilleMorgan@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0900
Suzanne Sherinian (For Mary Watanabe)	Agency Rep/DMHC Health Care	suzanne.sherinian@dmhc.ca.gov	(916) 255-2391
Stephanie Welch	Agency Rep/CHHS	Stephanie.Welch@chhs.ca.gov	(916) 538-7139
Leanne Wheeler	Agency Rep/CDE Homeless Children	lwheeler@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0383
Lisa Witchey	Agency Rep/DSS	Lisa.Witchey@dss.ca.gov	(916) 651-6020

Interagency Coordinating Council Community Representatives

Name	Representation	Email Address	Phone
Tamara Allen	SCOE Infant Development Program	tallen@scoe.net	(916) 803-7729
Brigitte Ammons	Disability Rights/Advocacy	Brigitte.ammons@disabilityrightsca.org	(213) 427-8747
Teresa Anderson	The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration	teresa@thearcca.org	(916) 552-6619
Tony Anderson	Executive Director/Valley Mountain RC	tanderson@vmrc.net	(209) 955-3241
Kathy Angkustsiri	UCD MIND Institute	kangkustsiri@ucdavis.edu	(916) 703 0235
Brenda Baldeon	Provider/West Coast Speech & Swallow Rehab Services	brenb7@earthlink.net	(626) 715-2361
Maurine Ballard-Rosa	CSUS Special Ed Faculty	maurinebr@csus.edu	(916) 708-5285
Yvette O. Baptiste*	Parent/Eastern LA FRC	ybaptiste@elafrc.net	(626) 300-9171
Jazmine Blackman	Provider/Carousel Developmental Service	Jazmine.blackman@caroseldev.com	(909) 496-2022
Florence Bracy*	Parent/Autism Family Advocate	bracyflorence2013@gmail.com	(323) 574-0862
Elena Bramble*	Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern CA Inc.	elenab@rfenc.org	(530) 209-3621
Shan Chan	Kinder Speech and Language	shan@kinderspeechlanguage.com	(818) 280-9757
Fran Chasen	IDA Public Policy Liaison+-	fran.chasen@gmail.com	(310) 452-1142
Pam Chueh	Executive Director WarmLine Family Resource Center	Pam@warmlinefrc.org	(916) 455-9500
Rosalyn Daggs	ASAP Home Health	Rosalyn.d@asaphomehealth.com	(661) 678-3366
Wanda Davis	First 5	wdavis@firstfivecc.org	(925) 771-7428
Sheri Farinha	NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	sfarinha@norcalcenter.org	(916) 626-4928
Felica Ford*	Leap of Faith Family to Family Support	fefeford@gmail.com	(310) 420-9119
Karen Moran Finello	WestEd	kfinell@wested.org	(626) 574-6904
Edyth Gallardo	Early Start Program Manager/Inland RC	egallardo@inlandrc.org	(909) 890-3000
Rachel Hagans	Central Valley RC	rhagans@cvrc.org	(559) 738-2264
Amy Hansen	Easter Seals Superior California	amyh2@myeasterseals.org	(916) 679-3142

Samantha Hebermehl*	Parent	Samantha.heb@gmail.com	(702) 241-2352
Katie Hornberger	Disability Rights California	Katie@DisabilityRightsCA.org	(916) 504-5942
Leah Howley	Easter Seals Superior California	leahh@myeasterseals.org	916-679-3125
Lucero Irizarry	CAEYC Board Member	ecementor@gmail.com	(951) 323-3670
Laurie Jordan*	Parent/Tri-Counties RC	ljordan@tri-counties.org	(805) 288-2544
Linda Landry*	Parent/FRCNCA	lindajoyla@aol.com	(323) 255-0354
Jordan Lindsey	The Arc of California	jordan@thearcca.org	(916) 552-6619 (916) 905-2153
Gayatri Mahajan	NBRC/Medical Director, Sutter Sacramento HRIF	gm050197@gmail.com	(707) 256-1100
Diana Maffei*	Parent/Warmline FRC	diana@warmlinefrc.org	(530) 564-8645
Robin Millar	Early Intervention Provider	millarrp@ah.org	(805) 955-8120
Patricia Moore*	Parent/Alpha FRC	pjmoore@alphasb.org	(805) 683-2145
Wendy Morrison	Ascend Rehab Services, Inc	wendy.morrison@gmail.com	(510) 757-4004
Christina Nigrelli	Zero to Three	cnigrelli@zerotothree.org	(213) 395-3901
Michelle Oliver	Early Start Consultant	growandlearn123@yahoo.com	(408) 506-5173
Marty Omoto	California Disability Community Action	martyomoto@att.net	(916) 757-9549
Julie Rems-Smario	CDE	JSmario@cddf-cde.ca.gov	(916) 262-7283
Robert Rochin	FRCNCA	Rrochin@frcnca.org	(415) 282-7494 x149
Sheri Rosen	Sunny Days of California	srosen@sunnydays.com	(858) 432-4749
Maria Ruiz-Merroth	SOS Paralegal LLC	maria@sosparalegal.com	(949) 326-6612
Nancy Sager	Retired CDE	nqsager@gmail.com	(530) 300-6979
Patricia Salcedo*	Parent/COE	psalcedo@napacoe.org	(707) 477-4570
Debbie Sarmento*	Parent/FRCNCA	debrasarmento@comcast.net	(916) 962-0832
Tara Sisemore-Hester	Valley Mountain RC	tsisemore@vmrc.net	(209) 674-6509
Scott Turner	East San Gabriel SELPA	sturner@esqvselpa.org	(626) 966-1679
Pablo Velez	Amigo Baby	pvelez@amigobaby.com	(805) 901-1237
Diane Williams	Alta California Regional Center	dwilliams@altaregional.org	(916) 978-6417
*Parent			

**Interagency Coordinating Council
Support Staff**

Name	Agency	Email Address	Phone
Maricris Acon	DDS	maricris.acon@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-2250
January Crane	DDS	January.Crane@dds.ca.gov	(916) 639-4722
Sharon DeRego	DDS	sharon.derego@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-3681
Shay Willis	DDS	shay.willis@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-1590
Townley Saye	DDS	townley.saye@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-3111
Omari Smith	DDS	omari.smith@dds.ca.gov	(916) 651-9802
Virginia Reynolds	WestEd	vreynol@wested.org	(916) 654-4016



Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention
1215 O Street, MS 7-40, Sacramento, CA 95814
 (916) 654-1590 · FAX (916) 654-3255 · TTY (916) 654-2054



2022 Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting Dates

The following is information regarding the 2022 Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC) Meetings. At this time meetings are being held via Zoom. The instructions and links to join the meeting are included in the meeting packet. Remote connection information available upon request.

Individuals who require accommodations in order to attend the meeting (i.e., assistive listening devices, interpreting services, materials in alternative format) should notify Melanie Manus at (916) 654-2773 or EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov ten days in advance of the meeting. The meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Visit our website to view [previous ICC meeting minutes](#) and for additional information about [California Early Start](#).

2022 Quarterly Meeting Dates

<u>January</u> Thursday-20 th Friday-21 st	<u>April</u> Thursday-21 st Friday-22 nd
<u>July</u> Thursday-14 th Friday-15 th	<u>October</u> Thursday-20 th Friday-21 st

PROPOSED AGENDA (EXAMPLE)

DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Day One Meeting

The meeting will include:

- Review of previous Meeting Minutes
- Review of Agenda
- Review of previous meetings' tasks
- Announcements
- State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) updates
- Improving State Systems and Communication & Outreach Committees

DATE: Fridays
TIME: 9:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

Day Two Meeting

The meeting will include:

- Review of Agenda
- Committee reports
- Action items (as applicable)
- Reports from the State Department Representatives
- Public and parent input
15 minutes reserved
- Early Intervention presentation

Instructions for joining remotely for the ICC Meeting

The ICC Meeting will be offered in a webinar format. You are invited to attend a Zoom meeting. Participants need to call into the teleconference line **AND** login with a computer to view any online materials.

To Connect with Audio:

Dial Toll-Free Number (in USA).
877 369 0926 US Toll-free
877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Day One
Meeting ID: 917 6708 3002

Day Two
Meeting ID: 962 7176 1147

To Connect with Web:

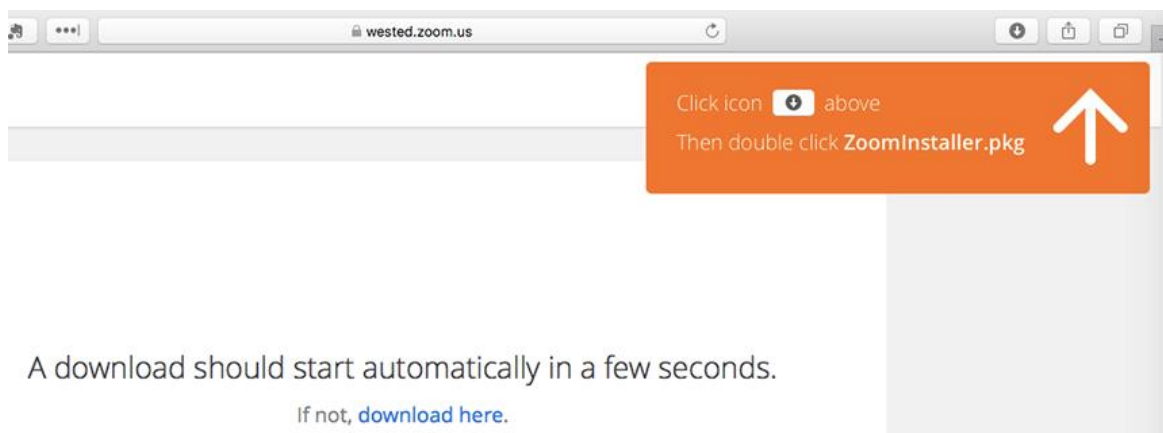
Join Zoom Meeting-Day One
<https://wested.zoom.us/j/91767083002>

Join Zoom Meeting-Day Two
<https://wested.zoom.us/j/96271761147>

The best way to join a scheduled meeting is by clicking the link you were provided when you either scheduled it or were invited to it (from email, calendar invitation, etc.)

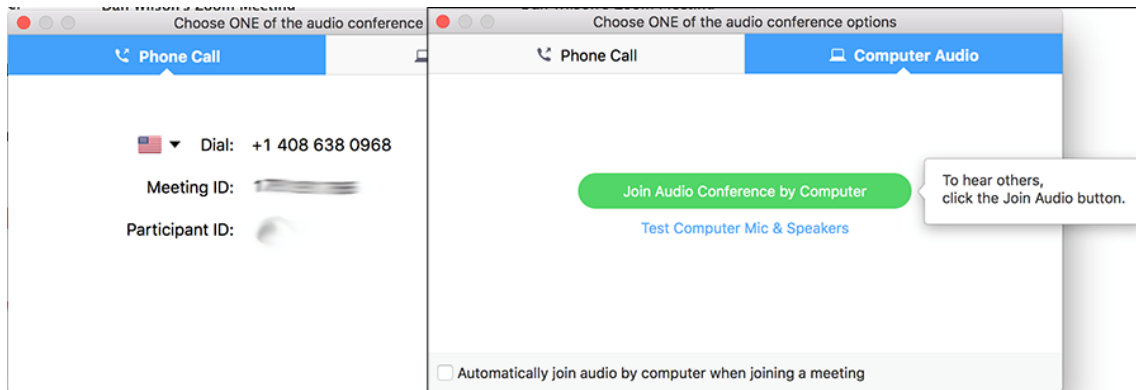
The link will launch Zoom and place you in the conference. This is true for all staff, as well as non-staff.

If you do not have the app, your browser will download the installer and prompt you to run it. Once the installer has run, it will ask for your name and then take you into the meeting.



Connect audio

Choose the **Join Audio Conference by Phone Call** tab and dial in using the provided information.



Easy Tips for Successful Web Conferencing and Conference Calls*

Participant Courtesies

1. Use a landline if possible, for the least static interference.
2. Avoid cellular and cordless phones. The potential static and poor or broken connections reduce the sound quality for all conference call participants. If you must use a cell phone, find a quiet location with excellent reception and limit moving around during the call.
3. Know your phone features and how to use them. Do not wait until the call to figure them out.
4. Turn off call waiting. It is very disruptive to the call. Most call waiting features can be deactivated by pressing 70# or *70 before dialing the conference number. (Check with your carrier.)
5. Use the speaker feature on your phone only if the room is quiet and others in the room are participating on the call with you. Speakerphones can add to the overall noise of the teleconference and create a hollow sound on the call.
6. Choose a quiet location. Avoid background noises such as a radio, TV, pets, or side conversations with others.
7. Stay focused and participate on the call. Avoid using this time to answer email, eat, clear off your desk, file papers, or talk to others.
8. Be on time.
9. Introduce yourself when you join the call. If you join the call late, wait for a break in the conversation to announce that you have joined or until the moderator asks who joined.
10. Introduce yourself each time you speak. Not everyone will be familiar with your voice.
11. Mute your phone (*6) if you are not participating at the time, need to talk to someone else, or need to leave the call for any reason. Unmute your phone (#6) when you are able to return to the call.
12. Never put the call on hold. Either mute your phone (*6) and unmute your phone (#6) to rejoin or hang up and call in again if you must leave the call.

Facilitator/Chairperson Courtesies

1. Be familiar with the audio controls.
2. Start—and end—at the scheduled time.
3. Have an agenda—preferably one that has been distributed prior to the conference.
4. Identify yourself when you first connect to the conference call.
5. Identify yourself each time you speak. Others may not know your voice. Speak clearly and at a moderate speed.
6. Take roll call at the conference start so that everyone knows who is involved and listening.
7. Review the rules of etiquette and ask that each participant identify him or herself before speaking.
8. Allow only one individual to speak at any given time during the conference.
9. As much as possible, when appropriate, address questions to individuals by name.
10. Mute the microphone or speakerphone (*6) if you must speak to others in the room with you during the conference. Unmute by pressing #6.
11. Address agenda items in their specified order.

*Thank you to the Family Resource Center Network of California, the source for many of these tips, for sharing its teleconference etiquette.

January 20-21, 2022

AGENDA

ICC Meeting Agenda (Day One)		Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022 Time: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Room: Zoom
AGENDA ITEMS		RESPONSIBILITY
9:00—9:15 Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introductions/Roll Call • Review Agenda • Announcements 	Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair	
9:15—9:45 Indian Health Svcs-Overview/Purpose Outreach *Maternal and Child Health-Part C	Susan Ducore	
9:45—10:15 Rate Model Implementation	Caroline Castaneda, DDS	
10:15—10:30 BREAK		
10:30—1:00 Committee Meetings	Communications and Outreach Improving State Systems	

ICC Meeting Agenda (Day Two)	Date: Friday, January 21, 2021 Time: 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Room: Zoom
AGENDA ITEMS	
9:00—9:15 Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introductions/Roll Call • Review Agenda • Approve October Meeting Minutes • Part C Literacy—Data and Funding Gaps in Tribal Early Care and Education 	Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair
9:15—9:30 Committee Reports	Communications and Outreach Improving State Systems Darby’s Legacy Adhoc
9:30—9:45 Public Input	
9:45—10:15 APR/SSIP	January Crane, DDS
10:15—10:30 Early Start Outreach with Tribal Communities	Leinani Walter, DDS
10:30—10:45 BREAK	
10:45 —11:45 Department and Council Member Reports Representatives will provide a summary allow for discussion, questions and answers	Shanice Orum, Dept. of Social Services Lisa Witchey, Dept. of Social Services Susan Ducore, Indian Health Service Maricris Acon, Dept. of Developmental Services Heather Calomese, California Dept. of Education (CDE), Special Education Leanne Wheeler, CDE, Homeless Education Suzanne Sherinian, Dept. of Managed Health Care Stephanie Welch, CHHS Child Mental Health Michelle Dove, Head Start Agency Richard Olney, Dept. of Public Health
11:45—12:20 Voices from the Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero to Three • Statewide Screening Task Force • Infant Development Association of California • The Arc • California Disability Community Action Network 	Christina Nigrelli Karen Moran Finello Fran Chasen Teresa Anderson Marty Omoto
12:20—12:30 Family Resource Center Network of California (FRCNCA)—Report	Yvette Baptiste

October 14-15, 2021
Past Meeting Minutes

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Thursday October 14, 2021
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

The roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Announcements

- Suzanne Sherinian will be replacing Matt Chestnut as the co-chair of the Improving State Systems Committee.
- Michelle Dove will be taking the place of Doug Erber in the Communication and Outreach Committee meeting.

Action Item-2022 Proposed Meeting Dates:

Suzanne Sherinian moved to approve the 2022 proposed meeting dates; Matt Chestnut seconded the motion. The responses were placed in chat, no objections were offered.

Optimizing Language Opportunities for Deaf Infants and Young Children:

Julie Rems-Smario, CDE

Ms. Rems-Smario presented on the challenges that children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing are facing and what steps can be taken to increase awareness of the issues. She shared that language deprivation in the early years is a concern in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Under SB 210, CDE and community stakeholders developed a series of language milestones for children ages 0-5 who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. These milestones are available on the CDE website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ss/dh/sb210langmilestones.asp>.

Ms. Rems-Smario also highlighted the importance of including Deaf professionals when providing services Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families.

Early Start Outreach and Child Find Recovery Activities and Services

Angela McGuire, WestEd

WestEd is working with DDS to provide new and updated Early Start outreach materials. The first portion of this work is to improve the outreach and child find resources that the department has been using. To meet the needs of outreach partners, WestEd solicited input from Family Resource Center staff and other Early Start professionals. Materials are still in the design phase and will be part of a larger media collection that will provide user guidance on how the materials should be used. Hard copies of the resources will be available through an online ordering platform and will be free. They will also be available for direct download.

To support dissemination efforts, WestEd is asking the members of the ICC to provide lists of local partners and community contacts. Please share contact information with Angela McGuire at amcguir@wested.org. Some members of the ICC recommended including religious institutions in outreach efforts. Additional useful comments were entered into the meeting room chat.

Committee Meetings

The following ICC Committee met for breakout sessions:

- Communications and Outreach
- Improving State Systems

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matt Chestnut
Sharon DeRego
Michelle Dove
Susan Ducore
Marie Kanne Poulsen
Richard Olney
Shanice Orum
Suzanne Sherinian
Lisa Witchey

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Douglas Erber*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Norayma Cabot
Sally Grevemberg
Alma Martinez*
Sarah Neville-Morgan
Stephanie Welch
Leanne Wheeler

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Anderson
Kathy Angkustsiri
Yvette O. Baptiste*
Jazmine Blackman
Elena Bramble*
Shan Chan
Fran Chasen
Sheri Farinha
Karen Finello
Felicia Ford*
Edyth Gallardo
Samantha Hebermehl*
Katie Hornberger
Leah Howley
Laurie Jordan*
Linda Landry*
Gayatri Mahajan
Diana Maffei*
Wendy Morrison
Sheri Rosen
Patty Salcedo*

Debbie Sarmento*
Tara Sisemore-Hester

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABSENT

Brigitte Ammons
Tony Anderson
Brenda Baldeon
Maurine Ballard-Rosa
Florence Bracy*
Pam Chueh
Wanda Davis
Rachel Hagens
Amy Hansen
Lucero Irizarry
Jordan Lindsey
Robin Millar
Patricia Moore*
Christina Nigrelli
Michelle Oliver
Marty Omoto
Julie Rems-Smario
Robert Rochin
Maria Ruiz-Merroth
Nancy Sager
Scott Turner
Pablo Velez
Diane Williams

DDS

Maricris Acon
Reyna Ambriz
January Crane
Jessica Dailey-Keithline
Desmond Fang
Mai Moua
Marcy Okada
Townley Saye
Catherine Schulze
Omari Smith
Nathaniel Taleon
Shay Willis
Emily Woolford

WESTED

Jennifer Driver-Teykaerts
Angela McGuire
Ian Ratliff
Virginia Reynolds
Laura Romero

Jeff Williams

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Ader

Annie Baccay

Sonya Bingaman

Heather Calomese

Pete Cervinka

Lucia Da Silva

Leslie Fox

Claudia Guzman

Carlene Holden

Sidney Jackson

Alexandra Parma

Sharon Perez

Rosie Rios

Patricia Roth

Margarita Salazar

*Parent

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Friday October 15, 2021
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Roll Call

The roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Approve July Meeting Minutes

Leanne Wheeler moved to approve; Suzanne Sherinian seconded. An amendment was offered to the July meeting notes to change “them” to “health plans.” This amendment was approved by Suzanne Sherinian.

Part C Literacy – Helping Parents Cope in the NICU

Dr. Poulsen shared an article about the experience of doctors who had a child in the NICU. The article's focus was on their experience as patients and how they experienced birth-related PTSD, anxiety, or prolonged grief. Parents often have conflicting emotions; the authors recommend supporting parents without judgment and being careful of comments that seem callous to a nonprofessional. Each family is unique, and professionals should do as much as they can to get to know the families and their unique situations.

Committee Reports

Communications and Outreach Committee

Michelle Dove reported:

- The committee drafted a purpose statement and reviewed and discussed the draft and discussed the input they will provide on the outreach materials and strategies for dissemination of these materials and the PSAs.

Improving State Systems Committee

Fran Chasen reported:

- The committee welcomed their new chair, reworked their Jamboard, and watched a presentation about COVID-19 vaccinations and the impact of the vaccine mandate on Early Start.

Adhoc Committee - Darby's Legacy: Best Practices Serving Families with Infants and Toddlers

who are Medically Fragile

Linda Landry provided an update:

- The committee held monthly meetings, and the workgroups reviewed the subgroup's recommendations for a best practices document. They will return to present to the ICC in January.

Public Input

Comments offered:

- From Nancy Sager: The report on Transition from Part C to Part B addressed the disparate impact of racism but did not include examples of autism or ableism.

Presentation: Part C to B Report

Maricris Acon, DDS; Annie Baccay and Noelia Hernandez, CDE; and Jennifer Driver Teykaerts, WestEd, presented.

- SB 75 required that CDE and DDS convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations to improve the state's ability to meet federal transition requirements and improve the experiences of children and families during the transition from Early Start. This workgroup generated its recommendations from May 2020 – April 2021 and was guided by a steering committee consisting of representatives from both state agencies.
- The final report was submitted to the Legislature and the California Department of Finance on Oct 1st. The report includes the following recommendations:
 - Improve the state's capacity to support the continuous improvement of Part C and Part B programs to facilitate smooth and equitable transitions for children with disabilities and their families.
 - Streamline eligibility criteria and eligibility determination policies and practices of programs receiving children who exit Part C, at age three.
 - Improve the state monitoring and support system to build local programs capacity for facilitating smooth transitions for children and families.
 - Link existing data systems and receive data-sharing policies and practices to promote timely sharing of information across Part C and Part B programs.
 - Increase access to developmentally appropriate services and inclusive education settings for three-year-old children with disabilities to ensure a seamless transition of services from Part C to Part B.
 - Improve family engagement and support practices for transition.
 - Improve state and local interagency agreements to strengthen collaboration policies and practices for transition.

The final report is available to the public at <https://www.partctobforcakids.org/>.

- Presenters noted that the ICC is a critical partner and can support the state agency as they implement these recommendations by giving input and supporting the changes to the policy.
- During the Q&A session, ICC members asked about streamlining eligibility, provisional Lanterman eligibility, and caseloads for Early Start service coordinators and Part B providers.

Council Member Reports

Maricris Acon, DDS

- Caseload data is returning to the pre-pandemic levels. The current caseload is 20% higher than 2020 but only 3% higher than 2019. DDS also shared targeted efforts in certain parts of the state to increase child find and referral efforts.

- DDS has increased social media engagement and other outreach efforts, including several PSAs that include families. DDS recently worked with WestEd to create an animation about families in Early Start and added FAQs about Early Start on the DDS website.
- DDS is serving 16% fewer children over the age of three, past regular transition, as the transitions are proceeding more smoothly than last year. DDS and CDE are working to improve this process.
- Recent changes in statute allowed for IFSP meetings to be done remotely until June 2022; this option will continue to be available to families.
- DDS requested ideas for the dissemination of the family outcomes survey to increase the response rate.
- DDS workgroups are addressing implicit bias training, the rate model implementation, and Lanterman transition goals and expansion. Additionally, outreach is being conducted to families of children who missed services during the pandemic to inform them about the transition to Part B.

Leanne Wheeler, CDE, Homeless Education

- CDE received \$98 million for education programs for homeless children and youth. Ninety-eight percent went to current grantees, and the rest will be going out to all school districts. CDE will establish three county offices of education (COEs) to be special homeless education centers: Los Angeles COE, San Diego COE, and Contra Costa COE. CDE expects funds to be available in November and grantees have until 2024 to implement activities.
- Over 1000 people joined the Department's first conference on homeless education, inclusive of a youth panel with children from San Bernardino County.
- California is one of the states that is seeing an influx of families immigrating from Afghanistan. As they might be classified as homeless, CDE has developed services and materials in Farsi.
- A participant asked about strategies to identify families who lose secure housing. CDE hopes that the COEs will be required to have a contact within Early Start.
- There was a request for a presentation to the ICC on the topic of homeless youth.

Suzanne Sherinian, DMHC

- The pandemic spotlighted the inequities and disparities in healthcare, and the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) has established a workgroup to come up with standards and rules. Today is the final deadline to apply to be on the committee, which will start in March and will report in September 2022.
- DMHC has posted information on the website regarding assistance to healthcare providers to be paid promptly. The information can be found [here](#). Participants are invited to reach out to Ms. Sherinian if families are having issues with their health plans.

Michelle Dove, Head Start Agency

- Head Start has implemented a vaccine mandate for staff; January 22 is the deadline to vaccinate all staff.
- American Rescue Plan funding is being used to update facilities, purchase Personal Protective Equipment, hire additional staff, focus on staff wellness, and provide professional development in topics such as trauma-informed practices.
- Head Start is also working closely with the health department and the licensing analysts to increase family enrollment.

Richard Olney, CDPH

- Concerning the Delta variant and COVID vaccinations, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is waiting for clinical trials of vaccinations for children to be concluded. In preparation for vaccines for 5–12-year-olds, CDPH is seeking community-based and other agencies to partner with to get vaccinations to children. In August, CDPH sent an email to say that providers should provide vaccinations to pregnant people, and the CDC recently strengthened this guidance.
- The newborn screening program has seen a drop in the birth rate in the past year, matching with data from other states.

Lisa Witchey and Shanice Orum, CDSS

- CDSS is working with the California Inclusion Behavior Consultation Network to create a staff professional training plan for the 19 regional offices, including equity, trauma-informed care, and anti-bias training, and other areas of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiative.
- CDSS has been working with DDS to add Early Start information to their website and thanks DDS for that partnership.
- They continue to work with CDE to address licensing issues and barriers.
- CDSS supports inclusion and encourages anyone that sees an issue with a licensed facility to contact the regional licensing office.
- Since COVID-19 began, CDSS has seen 18,000 COVID-19 positive cases, and this information is updated on their website. They are trying to inform and explain the importance of masking to their service providers.

Voices from the Field

Statewide Screening Task Force, Karen Moran Finello:

- The Statewide Screening Task Force is focused on updating resources on the website. The final webinar (in January) on working with Tribal communities will focus on Tribal and council elders and the issues with working with sovereign nations.

Infant Development Association of California, Fran Chasen:

- The Infant Development Association (IDA) has been giving early intervention service providers opportunities to brainstorm with each other and problem-solve new ways to continue to support families and children using telehealth solutions.
- IDA produced and disseminated suggested protocols for serving families during the COVID-19 pandemic, including informing families and providers about vaccines and other COVID-19 information and addressing vaccine hesitancy.

California Disability Community Action Network, Marty Omoto:

- Noted the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) criteria for more holistic and person-centered outcomes; this translates to child-centered outcomes in Early Start. The DHHS principles are guidance for every agency on the ICC, with the exception of CDE. Also noted that DHHS has a data exchange workgroup that will identify shared data elements for all departments under the DHHS umbrella.
- Shared that the governor signed SB 65, a bill that will respond to the disparities in health care surrounding pregnancy and maternal health.
- Encouraged members to attend several workgroups that DDS is hosting in the near future so that Early Start is represented in Department initiatives.

Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA), Robert Rochin:

- Early Start FRC staff were able to attend a workshop on inclusion and belonging.
- Monthly calls for directors and leadership address increasing referrals, COVID-19, wildfires, and a standard information packet.
- FRCNCA was awarded DDS funding for transition services for Black and Latinx communities. Five FRCs will conduct five local transition summits to improve services for Black and/or Latinx 2–8-year-olds in these regional center catchment areas: Tri-Counties Regional Center (only Santa Barbara), Inland Regional Center, Valley Mountain Regional Center, San Andreas Regional Center, and Westside Regional Center.
- Members are encouraged to contact Mr. Rochin if they are interested in information about the Community Navigators' Program.

Presentation: American Rescue Plan Funds (ARP)

Maricris Acon and January Crane DDS

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) provided \$24 million in supplemental federal funding for Early Start. These funds must be used by January 2024 and consistent with current IDEA PART C regulatory requirements. DDS will use the funds to improve access to services, improve families' experiences, and increase collaboration between state and local agencies. The proposed investments include:
 - A mobile application specific to Early Start.
 - Piloting early intervention assessment tools and screening devices for children and providing technology equipment to families for remote access to assessment and services.

- Targeted outreach to communities that are underrepresented in Early Start, including a partnership to train professionals in public assistance programs to increase awareness of the program and conduct risk screenings.
- A family wellness pilot program to support families facing challenges associated with a child's diagnosis of a developmental disability, aiming to prevent negative health/wellness outcomes and adverse childhood experience (ACEs).
- Enhancing services that are culturally and linguistically sensitive through training to Early Start providers.
- A scholarship and education stipend program to increase the availability of providers that reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community.
- Comments were offered around how the funds should be allocated; some recommended the funds to go to transition navigators, and others proposed it be used for the initiatives that are going on in the NICU.

Closing Comments:

- Marie closed the meeting by wishing everyone a happy holiday season.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matthew Chestnut
 Sharon DeRego
 Michelle Dove
 Susan Ducore
 Marie Kanne Poulsen
 Richard Olney
 Shanice Orum
 Suzanne Sherinian
 Stephanie Welch
 Leanne Wheeler
 Lisa Witchey

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Douglas Erber*

MEMBERS ABSENT

Norayma Cabot
 Sally Grevemberg
 Alma Martinez*
 Sarah Neville-Morgan

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Anderson
 Tony Anderson
 Kathy Angkustsiri
 Yvette O. Baptiste*
 Jazmine Blackman
 Elena Bramble*
 Shan Chan

Fran Chasen
Roselyn Daggs
Sheri Farinha
Karen Finello
Felicia Ford*
Edyth Gallardo
Katie Hornberger
Leah Howley
Lucero Irizarry
Laurie Jordan*
Linda Landry*
Diana Maffei*
Gayatri Mahajan
Robin Millar
Wendy Morrison
Michelle Oliver
Marty Omoto
Julie Rems-Smario
Robert Rochin
Sheri Rosen
Nancy Sager
Patty Salcedo*
Debbie Sarmento*
Tara Sisemore-Hester
Pablo Velez
Scott Turner
Diane Williams

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABSENT

Brigitte Ammons
Brenda Baldeon
Maurine Ballard-Rosa
Florence Bracy*
Pam Chueh
Wanda Davis
Rachel Hagans
Amy Hansen
Samantha Hebermehl*
Jordan Lindsey
Patricia Moore*
Christina Nigrelli
Maria Ruiz-Merroth

DDS

Maricris Acon
Reyna Ambriz
Andrew Cavagnaro
January Crane
Jessica Dailey-Keithline

Desmond Fang
Lauren Libero
Marcy Okada
Townley Saye
Catherine Schulze
Omari Smith
Nathaniel Taleon
Shay Willis
Emily Woolford

WESTED

Jeffri Brookfield
Jennifer Driver-Teykaerts
Angela McGuire
Ian Ratliff
Virginia Reynolds
Laura Romero
Jeff Williams

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Adèr
Annie Baccay
Karmina Barrales
Jennifer Bloom
Laura C
Johana Caicedo
Gina Donatoni
Leslie Fox
Noelia Hernández
Carlene Holden
Sidney Jackson
Liliana McDonough
Andrew Olenik
Alexandra Parma
Rosie Rios

*Parent