

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Thursday, October 20, 2022
Hybrid in-Person/Zoom Meeting
DDS HQ
1215 O Street
Sacramento CA, 95814
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording [October ICC Day One Meeting](#)

Opening

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

Housekeeping Items

Zoom Instructions and etiquette was reviewed.

Roll Call

The roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda & July Meeting Minutes

No changes were made to the agenda. The July meeting minutes were approved with corrections of *Robin Millar* and *Fran Chasen* should be marked as excused rather than absent.

Part C Literacy Article

[An Invisible Crisis: Early Childhood Homelessness – A Primer — Child Care Services Association](#) by Anna Sucsy

Approximately 1.3 million children under age 6 experience homelessness each year. Families with children account for an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the nation's homeless population. In fact, a person is more likely to experience homelessness in their first five years than at any other time in their life. Because families often stay with friends or extended family, stay in motels and hotels, sleep in cars, and stay in shelters rather than sleep on the streets, childhood homelessness is often hidden from public view. Because of its hidden nature, child and family homelessness is an overlooked policy problem.

This paper focuses on the negative effects of homelessness on the physical and mental health of children. The research paper discusses socio-economic disparities and difficulty providing support for homeless families. The paper also offers up solutions to building a system of care to support homeless children and families which includes having a uniform definition of homelessness across agencies so that data sharing is more accurate. The goal is that these children who are experiencing homelessness have access to early childhood programs and services to help them build resilience and mitigate some of the negative impacts that early childhood homelessness is having on their developing brains.

DDS Updates and Information – Maricris Acon

Maricris reports that in September of this year DDS had 55,700 Early Start cases that is a jump of 8.8% as compared to last year's data. 4,700 of those children are over 36 months the directive to extend EI services past the age of 3 just ended at the beginning of October. Status 0 children that are currently cued up for assessments we have seen a 22% jump compared to last year. Since the last ICC Meeting the department has issued a directive regarding Early Start eligibility. You can find updates regarding department guidance and directives here: [Department Directives - CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

DDS received American Rescue Plan funds which are being used for several projects and initiatives that will address the impact of COVID-19 and reinforce the effectiveness of Early Intervention services for children and their families. DDS is developing an interactive map which will allow parents and families to search for Early Start and transition related sources in their local area. DDS has also allocated ARP funds for provider training. DDS has used some ARP funds to help families get access to technology so they can access services through their local FRC.

Discussed the Family Outcomes Survey (Indicator 4) data that we are required to share with the Office of Special Education Programs. It is a requirement for our Part C funding, however, the intent is to use the information gathered to improve outcomes for children and families receiving Early Start services. [ECTA Center: Family Outcomes](#)

APR Data is available on the DDS Website: [Early Start Local Performance Materials - CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

The ICC asked when the website will be ready. Reyna Ambriz reports that it should be live within the next month barring any setbacks, we will keep you posted.

Angela McGuire of WestEd reminded the group that there is a current tool available on the California Early Intervention Technical Assistance Network website: [Central Directory | CEITAN Early Start \(ceitan-earlystart.org\)](#)

Voices from the Field

- *Statewide Screening Taskforce – Karen Moran Finello*
The last meeting was held September 15, 2022, by invitation of key members discussion was about next steps and shifting some the work to other organizations. California Department of Public Health confirmed that screening continues to be a priority topic. DDS is considering possibilities of maintaining and updating the screening collaborative website that was designed for primary care practitioners.

Top challenges identified in a Screening Collaborative survey were related to screening access for infants and toddlers needing behavioral health support.

Also lack of information about where to refer children. As well as a limited understanding of the need for behavioral health screening as it is not part of the developmental screening which is usually performed. There is also the challenge of the lack of resources due to workforce shortages; there needs to be efforts to recruit, educate, and maintain a skilled workforce. There is a need for improved data collection and data sharing. The collaborative recommends adoption of online screening tools Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ and the [ASQ-3](#)). Alaska is an example of a state that has had great success with this.

- *Infant Development Association of California – Fran Chasen*
[IDA](#) is a statewide organization that provides support, education and advocacy activities for individuals, providers, and families. Fran was grateful for the clarification around the rate model and how to apply for the Quality Incentive Program payments. There is a QIP Taskforce information located on the DDS website [Quality Incentive Program \(QIP\) - CA Department of Developmental Services](#) Questions regarding the QIP or the incentive payments may be directed to QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov

Fran also shared information about the [Little Hoover Commission](#) Hearing on the Developmental Disabilities System (Part 2) that was scheduled to take place on November 10, 2022. To be notified electronically of meetings, events, or when the review is complete, please subscribe to Little Hoover Commission updates: <https://bit.ly/LittleHooverNews>.

- *The Arc – Teresa Anderson*
[The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration](#) co-sponsored Senate Bill 82 along with ARCCA Association of Regional Center Agencies and United Domestic Workers Local 3930. It is about improving interactions between law enforcement and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Also, they were able to participate in the Peace Officer Standard Training Commission update and redesign of their public dispatcher development training.

[The Arc National Convention](#) November 10-12, 2022

The workforce issue, recruitment and retention are some of the issues that are going to be discussed. It is a concern across the board from Early Intervention to Senior Services.

They are focused on advocacy and outreach assisting consumers and families. Another issue they are working on is increasing affordable housing opportunities.

Presentation- ARPA Initiative on Diversifying the ICC- Robert Rochin, Yvette Baptiste, FRCNCA

Robert reports that they are working in partnership with Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center, Care Parents Network, Parents Helping Parents. They are identifying resources and connections for leveraging outreach to underrepresented communities

that are not involved in the ICC. The plan is to engage in local outreach activities to inform selected communities.

Also working to develop resources to recruit providers, community representatives, and families to participate in ICC statewide or with the local ICC. Will develop a report of recommendations to present to the ICC and DDS to support recruitment, engagement, family friendliness and mentorship of new members.

Yvette reports they are working on training and development modules for families and providers in the community to ensure successful and meaningful participation in ICC activities statewide and locally. Teaching interested parties in the community how their participation and engagement can affect change in policy. The intent is to make these modules easy to access online and something that is sustainable. The plan is to leverage the resources of the local FRCs to identify underrepresented communities and to develop focus groups or key informants.

Marie Poulsen added that there is a need for parents in appointed positions.

Presentation- Bunker Babies- Review of Preliminary Research on the Effects of Covid-19 on Young Children’s Development-Tracy Tasker MBA, MA, CCC/SLP
tetaskerslp@gmail.com

Tracy presented information which included international data that was collected by the University of Calgary in Canada which compared developmental screening using ASQ3 of 1,623 1-year-old infants born between April 2020 to November 2020 to infants born pre-pandemic [Increased risk for developmental delay among babies born during the pandemic](#) (Giesbrecht et al. 2022)

- Infants born during the pandemic had lower mean scores relative to pre-pandemic infants in all domains except problems-solving.
- Infants had a significantly higher risk for developmental delay in the communication and person-social domains for scoring 2 standard deviations below the mean.

Columbia University Irvine Medical Center study of 255 infants born between March and December 2020, parents completed a 6-month ASQ-3 assessment. [Association of Birth During the COVID-19 Pandemic With Neurodevelopmental Status at 6 Months in Infants With and Without In Utero Exposure to Maternal SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#) (Shuffrey et al. 2022)

- “If our data were to generalize to all the babies born during the pandemic, that could mean something like a triple increase in babies that need to be referred for intervention” -Dani Dumitriu, Columbia University.

Southern Illinois University assessed (6, 12,18, 24, and 36-month intervals) pre-pandemic and post-pandemic ASQ-3 scores for 1,024 children distributed among 2

pediatric practices. [The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on infant and toddler development](#) (Imboden et al. 2021)

- There were **statistically significant differences in domain scores by age**
- Post-pandemic problem-solving scores decreased among 6-month-olds while increasing among 24-month-olds

Brown University study of 39 children enrolled in longitudinal study prior to the pandemic (January 2019) to 188 children born after July 2020 using Mullen Scales. [The COVID-19 Pandemic and Early Child Cognitive Development: A Comparison of Development in Children Born During the Pandemic and Historical References](#) (Deoni et al. 2021)

- Cognitive scores were significantly reduced during the pandemic by 27 to 37 points (almost 2 standard deviations)
- Significantly reduced verbal, motor, and overall cognitive performance

Tracy went on to say that children missed out on getting screened during the pandemic as well as had some difficulty with development due to social distancing and masking which delayed development of facial processing/recognition and social referencing and emotional recognition.

Parental stress and socio-economic disparities were also a factor in delayed development.

Maternal stress and depression affected infant brain development. [Prenatal Maternal Distress During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Associations With Infant Brain Connectivity](#) (Manning et al. 2022)

She also talked about Epigenetic and Transgenerational Trauma where later generations are affected by extreme stress. [Maternal and infant NR3C1 and SLC6A4 epigenetic signatures of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown: when timing matters](#) (Provenzi et al. 2022)

Disruption of daily routines, not going to school, more screen time, lack of exercise, less sleep also affected development. She encouraged the group to share this information with the families they serve, how important it is to read to your children for language development. Most important thing that parents can do for brain development and language is work on reciprocity.

Public Input

Yvette Baptiste shared a story about overhearing a couple of mothers talking about Early Intervention Services and the benefits of it.

Announcement

Sub Committee Composition and Goals-DJ Tomko reviewed how DDS would support the subcommittees with agenda development, notetaking, and tracking action items.

Committee Meetings

The following ICC Committees met for breakout sessions:

- Communications and Outreach
- Improving State Systems