

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Thursday, April 20, 2023
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording: [April ICC Meeting - Day 1 - Zoom](#)

Opening

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

Housekeeping Items

Zoom instructions, ASL/Spanish interpreter instructions and etiquette were reviewed.

Roll Call

The roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda and January Meeting Minutes

No changes were made to the agenda. Suzanne Sherinian, California Department of Managed Health Care, had changes to the January meeting minutes: page 24 of 32, co-presenter's last name is Loutan; second paragraph "medically necessary" should be added; "...unless the matter is urgent" to be added.

Suzanne Sherinian moved to approve the meeting minutes as corrected; Maricris Acon seconded. All members present approved.

Part C Literacy Article

[Long-term Outcomes of Early Intervention in 6-Year-Old Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) by Estes, Munson, Rogers, Greenon, Winter, and Dawson

Dr. Poulsen presented this research article examining the longer-term impact of the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) for early intervention, an evidence-based, comprehensive, play-based therapy for children with autism, in comparison to traditional community-intervention-as-usual, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, etc. Both approaches showed benefits in overall intellectual ability, adaptive behavior, symptom severity, and challenging behavior in children at the age of 6. Children who had received ESDM intervention services showed fewer core autism symptoms, such as challenges in social relatedness, play, and repetitive behaviors, and demonstrated better improvement of adaptive behaviors of socialization, communication, and self-help skills at age 6. This was the first study that examined the role of the ESDM behavioral intervention initiated below 30 months in altering the longer-term developmental course of autism.

A video providing an overview of child outcomes, part of Kathleen Hebbeler's presentation and created by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA), was played.

DDS Updates and Information – Maricris Acon and Reyna Ambriz

During the January ICC meeting, DDS reviewed data required as part of the Annual Performance Report (APR), which includes child outcomes data and performance indicators and targets. There is a current focus on child outcomes. Caseloads for Early Start for March 2023 totaled 58,900 (a 12.75% increase from March 2022), with 1,721 more referrals (21.4% increase over last year's total in March).

DDS has created an Early Start Intake Packet for all families interested in the Regional Center (RC) system, including information on eligibility. Versions will be posted on the DDS website, and the packet will be available next month.

On March 24, 2023, DDS finished drafting the annual Part C Grant Application; the public comment is open through May 23, 2023 on the DDS website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/annual-part-c-grant-application/>.

The Early Start Partners Symposium (ESPS) 2023 will be June 1 and June 2 at Sheraton Park Hotel in Anaheim, CA (see the Neighborhood site at <https://earlystartneighborhood.org/>). Reimbursement for registration fees will be available.

The April 2023 Early Start Newsletter will be posted to the DDS website soon. The ICC was invited to submit events or resources for future newsletters.

The "Blue Book" (Early Start Statutes and Regulations) was recently updated to reflect new regulations and is now available on the Early Start Neighborhood at <https://earlystartneighborhood.org/resources/resources-for-early-start-personnel/> and the DDS website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/laws-and-regulations/>.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are in revision. DDS is currently working on ways to update and enhance the Early Start portion of the DDS website to make it more user-friendly and accessible. Internal review and revision are complete and the final stages of coordinating with external stakeholders will conclude before a new site launches.

DDS received supplemental Part C funding, used for pilot projects and initiatives on the impact of COVID-19, access inequity, and increasing pathways to navigate systems. The Provider Training Initiative is so popular, that an increase of 5 million dollars is in process. DDS also received American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding for a Recruitment for Early Start Professionals initiative. DDS is partnering with Alta California Regional Center and the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center to increase the availability of culturally and linguistically diverse professionals. A culturally sensitive child find and outreach initiative to focus on families fearful of accessing services due to immigration status or homelessness is also underway.

ICC members were invited to ask questions. Pablo Velez asked about the targeted areas for the ARPA recruitment grant. Maricris Acon responded that vendors are working with 10 regional centers (RCs) all over the state. Mr. Velez shared that there is a concern about the lack of access to providers in Kern Regional Center, an area that may require a different strategy than regional centers in Los Angeles and the Bay area.

Voices from the Field

- ***Infant Development Association (IDA) – Frances Chasen***

Ms. Chasen shared that IDA conducted a survey about cancellations and absenteeism of families receiving early intervention services, an issue that has been magnified during COVID. Programs are experiencing up to a 30% increase in absences and cancellations. The survey revealed there are also concerns about new rate implementation.

The Little Hoover Commission released a report (2022) on services being delivered in California through the regional center service system (see site <https://lhc.ca.gov/report/system-distress-caring-californians-developmental-disabilities>). Recommendations were made and included in a new bill, AB 1147 (see site <https://disabilityvoicesunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/AB1147-Fact-Sheet-for-Self-Advocates-and-Families.pdf>).

IDA will be presenting an update on the state budget at a webinar on May 22nd. IDA is celebrating its 50-year anniversary on May 4th.

- ***The Arc of California – Jordan Lindsey***

Teresa Anderson has accepted a new position with the California Policy Center; Jordan Lindsey is the new Executive Director for The Arc of California.

The authority to provide remote services ends soon. The Arc of California urged the Early Start community to consider options to make locations for providing services as flexible as possible.

Mr. Lindsey observed that there is an elongated budget season in California this year because of tax delays, making budget decisions uncertain.

- ***California Disability Community Action Network – Marty Omoto***

Mr. Omoto underscored that the May budget revision is different this year because of the tax delays and anticipates a status quo budget until late summer or fall when the bigger revenue picture is clearer. The projection is a 25-million-dollar budget shortfall.

Mr. Omoto suggested including several updates for future ICC meetings agendas: rate increases with an eye on the impact on families; Systems Committee workgroups; and gaps in Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). Finally, Mr. Omoto recommended that the ICC should have a

representative on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Early Childhood Policy Council.

- **Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) – Robert Rochin**
Mr. Rochin reported that many FRCNCA members have attended professional development webinars, thanks to funding through recent initiatives.

FRCNCA also recently coordinated a radio interview for Living Better in San Diego to promote Early Start services.

The Community Navigator Program is wrapping up its first year; 21 leads identified languages and priorities. The goal is to have one full-time Community Navigator in each catchment area.

****BREAK****

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

Mr. Rochin and Ms. Baptiste discussed an ICC-contracted program for community engagement to expand and diversify participation in the ICC. They reviewed a Leading by Convening engagement framework that is being used for this project. Mr. Rochin and Ms. Baptiste asked meeting attendees to consider “extended participants” and engaged the group to brainstorm potential ICC members from professional networks.

Presentation – Indicator C3: Child Outcomes, The Data, The Challenges – Kathleen Hebbeler, SRI International Senior Researcher

Ms. Hebbeler provided background information on the history of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requirements on child outcomes data, the overall rationale for collecting child outcomes data, and where that data is published (APR). Ms. Hebbeler also introduced 3 of the specific outcomes measured as part of that data, presented the outcomes, and explained how progress is measured and reported. Ms. Hebbeler concluded by identifying the characteristics of quality data.

Questions from attendees:

- Are there data for children who were referred late?
- Are children in the “b” category those who are following their own trajectory and need continued intervention?
 - Ms. Hebbeler responded that it’s not that services aren’t effective, there is no right or wrong trajectory. It may be necessary to “drill down” into the data to examine the degree of disability to answer that question.
- Can the data be drilled down to the provider-level?
- Is the variation in outcomes due to the different ways this data is captured by each Regional Center?

- Ms. Hebbeler confirmed that yes, some are due to different assessment tools.
- Does any of the data collected focus on children served through the California Department of Education/Local Education Agencies (CDE/LEAs) – those that are considered low incidence and not served by RCs?
 - Ms. Hebbeler believes CDE data is rolled into state data.
- Biggest cities show lower results. What’s the correlation on that?
 - Ms. Hebbeler responded that one would need to really “dig into” the data, but we don’t currently know.

Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input

Pablo Velez commented that there are major barriers to accessing speech therapy. The California Speech Pathology, Language, and Audiology Board takes almost 4 months to approve new therapist licenses, compared to a 2-week average in other states. New therapists are leaving the state because they can’t get licensed. This seems to be an issue specifically for this board.

- Michelle Oliver added to Mr. Velez’s comment. If someone is coming from out-of-state, or awaiting approval with an issued credential, DDS or CDE should be able to accept that.
- Michelle Rogers commented that there seems to be a huge lack of knowledge about the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) coming to Early Start providers. Can that be part of an ICC discussion? There is a great deal of pressure on providers with regard to cancellation rates, which are very high and staying high. Can ICC agendize a discussion about cancellation rates and how we might work the same way childcare providers work to establish excused absences?

**** LUNCH BREAK ****

Announcement of Committee Composition and Goals

DJ Tomko reviewed how DDS would support the committees with agenda development, note taking, and tracking action items.

Committee Meetings

The following ICC Committees met for breakout sessions:

- Improving Systems
- Communications

Meeting of the whole adjourned at 1:31 p.m. ICC committees met separately.

**** END OF DAY 1 ****