

**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Laws and Regulations Workgroup
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Zoom Meeting
Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Welcome and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Introductions were made and roll call was conducted.

Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Continue Workgroup Discussion from ICC Meeting on 1/19/23 and 3/7/23

- The Laws and Regulation workgroup of the ICC's Improving State Systems Subcommittee continued their discussion on the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) rate study.
- The following items were discussed in the workgroup:
 - All regional centers were included in the rate study but perhaps a closer look into possible equity impacts between metropolitan areas compared to rural areas is needed. There may be differences in the quality of services.
 - The distance involved between clients is something to consider for vendors due to travel time reimbursements.
 - Bringing early interventionists and therapists into rural communities can be a challenge.
 - Geographic distance is also an important consideration compared to population size. Travel might be more of an issue than the number of families served. The pandemic has highlighted the significant impact of travel time.
 - Maybe a closer look into each service code to examine administration costs such as travel time and mileage is needed.
 - There was mention that Early Start services are intended to be provided in a very specific way and are very different from the medical model as they are specialized.
- The workgroup asked the following questions to facilitate further discussion:
 - What data is available to verify these issues?
 - Are connections being made at the vendor and regional center levels?
 - How do programs report cancellations, travel time, and other administration items? The possibility to cancel a session is very high for some families and a possible solution would be adding the ability to bill for canceled visits as well as travel time.
 - Is state travel time being considered for vendored programs?
 - What are the requirements in California for what needs to be funded?
 - Perhaps the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) needs to be involved in these conversations and would it be possible for them to join the ICC?
- The workgroup also discussed the topic of teletherapy from outside the state as having an impact on the delivery of services, the consideration of waivers for

graduate students to work with children and families in Early Start with a provisional license, and loan forgiveness or easier path to certification

Finalize "Next Steps" for Action Plan

- The Laws and Regulation workgroup discussed the following recommendations as next steps:
 - Involve someone from DCA
(<https://www.speechandhearing.ca.gov/applicants/index.shtml>)
 - Involve someone from DDS who is an expert on waivers (maybe the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS))
 - Involve someone from Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
(<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html>)
 - Connect with a federal level worker who is responsible for California
 - Nate Taleon to investigate how other states access funds like EPSDT
 - Find a subject matter expert on the federal requirements for loan forgiveness
 - [HCAI - Department of Health Care Access and Information](#) is trying to advance loan forgiveness
 - Possibly invite a representative from DHCS
 - Invite someone from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Member Assignment

No members were assigned a task at this meeting.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Community Members Present

Elena Bramble
Pablo Velez

DDS

Nate Taleon
Reyna Ambriz

WestEd

Ross Adams