

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Friday, April 21, 2023
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Link to Recording: [April ICC Meeting - Day 2 - Zoom](#)

Opening

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

Housekeeping Items

Zoom instructions and etiquette were reviewed.

Roll Call

The roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda. Dr. Poulsen provided a review of the presentations given during yesterday's ICC meeting.

ICC Council Reports

Ashley Franklin – California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Ms. Franklin reported that CDSS is offering case coaching sessions for those working with children who are served by multiple systems, including the regional center and the child welfare systems. CDSS also continues to work with DDS toward a solution for delayed access to Early Start for children in foster care. Ms. Franklin also shared that CDSS has participated in a workgroup for educational outcomes for children in foster care and has provided input specific to children ages birth to three. Finally, CDSS has partnered with the Center for Family Focused Practice to offer trainings on working with children ages birth to five years old and their families in the foster care system.

Susan Ducore – Indian Health Service

No updates at this time.

Suzanne Sherinian – Assistant Chief Council with the California Department of Managed Healthcare (DMHC) Help Center

Ms. Sherinian shared that since the last meeting, the focus of the Help Center has been on holding health plans accountable to provide timely access to mental and behavioral health care. Timely care is defined by law as two (2) or four (4) days from the request for urgent care, depending on prior authorization requirements, and 10 business days from the request for non-urgent care.

DMHC is currently addressing an issue with Kaiser Permanente not providing timely access to Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services for children under age six, and recently issued a fine against HealthNet for failing to accurately pay over \$1.2 million in provider claims.

Michelle Dove – Head Start/Child Development Director, Kings Community Action Organization

Ms. Dove reported that there is a new Head Start director, Kari Garbin. In January, Head Start removed the mask mandate for children and staff. Effective April 7, the vaccination requirement was lifted in Head Start programs. All programs are still following a COVID mitigation protocol. Ms. Dove also shared that they are feeling the shortage of therapists for referrals across Head Start programs, especially for children of migrant and seasonal workers.

Richard Olney, MD, MPH – Division Chief, Genetic Disease Screening Program, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Mr. Olney noted that there will be minor edits proposed to the January ICC meeting minutes related to the CDPH report about the early childhood home visiting collaborative. Mr. Olney also shared that CDPH continues COVID 19 surveillance efforts. The Genetic Disease Screening Program will be expanding its newborn screening panel in 2024 to include two new conditions that were recently added to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.

Maricris Acon – Deputy Director, Federal Programs Division, California Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Ms. Acon reported that last month, DDS issued a clarification on one of the six regional center performance measures, equity and cultural humility, which measures the percentage of service coordinators participating in training related to cultural and linguistic competency. Ms. Acon also shared that the Family Outcomes Survey is underway and will be available to all families on the DDS website.

Christi Krause - Education Programs Consultant, Special Education Division, California Department of Education (CDE)

Ms. Krause first shared updates from the Special Education Division. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be conducting a visit to provide Differentiated Monitoring and Support for California Part B programs in 2024-25 school year. Additionally, the Part B application is available for public written comments until May 1, 2023; comments can be sent to PartBApp@CDE.ca.gov. Finally, the annual determination letters for Local Education Agencies (LEA)s were sent out last month.

Ms. Krause also shared updates from the Early Education Division. California State Preschool Programs now have the option to offer extended learning and care services to children enrolled in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten programs, subject to the family meeting eligibility criteria (see Management Bulletin 23-05 here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb2305.asp>).

The division also recently issued guidance on the new requirement for collecting data on dual language learners in the State Preschool Programs (see Management Bulletin 23-03 here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/mb2303.asp>). Finally, the Family Language Instrument and Family Language and Interest Interview forms are posted on the CDE website in multiple languages (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/cspddltools.asp>).

Questions and Comments from ICC Members and Community Representatives

In response to the DMHC update, Yvette Baptiste suggested a more coordinated effort around helping families access timely ABA services. In response to the CDSS update, Ms. Baptiste commented that there is a state advisory group looking at issues of concern for parents with intellectual or developmental disabilities who have their children removed through child welfare service agencies. Ms. Baptiste noted that in Los Angeles County, there is only one agency that provides support to these parents. Dr. Poulsen added that the ICC is still looking for someone with community mental health expertise to participate.

In response to the DDS update, Patty Salcedo noted that the DR Access Project has training videos to help families understand the purpose of the Family Outcomes Survey.

Review of Previous Day

Dr. Poulsen gave a brief overview of the activities and discussions that occurred during Day 1 of the ICC meeting.

Presentation – Naturalistic Behavior Interventions for Part C Programs – Dr. Aubyn Stahmer, UC Davis Health MIND Institute

Dr. Stahmer provided a definition of evidence-based practices from the American Psychological Association (APA), which is a combination of research evidence, clinical expertise, and patient experience. Dr. Stahmer then described the types of approaches generally considered to be research evidence and introduced Natural Developmental Behavioral Intervention (NDBI) as a current best practice. Finally, Dr. Stahmer provided detailed examples of NDBIs in the Project ImPACT and Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) approaches.

Dr. Stahmer concluded by announcing that the MIND Institute is conducting a Project ImPACT study and that an ESDM study will happen soon once funding becomes available.

Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input

Michelle Oliver asked if those present will be able to receive the different presentations and handouts that have been presented. DJ Tomko pointed attendees to the DDS site where all materials are posted.

Sheri Rosen commented that she is struggling with the length of the Project ImPACT training period. Ms. Rosen shared it is financially difficult to put someone through training due to staff attrition and length of training period. Dr. Stahmer agreed and is trying to develop a train-the-trainer model to help with continuity of service. Dr. Stahmer encouraged participants to use the strategies even without formal training/certification.

Dr. Gayatri Mahajan asked if patients or providers are the subjects of the Project ImPACT study. Dr. Stahmer replied the subjects are the training providers.

Pablo Velez asked if organizations can be certified to provide Project ImPACT trainings, as opposed to individual providers, given the rates of attrition. Dr. Stahmer was not able to directly answer but thanked Mr. Velez for the suggestion.

Marty Omoto asked about the experience of children who have sight and/or hearing needs, and/or if their parents have sight and/or hearing needs with this training. Dr. Stahmer will follow-up.

Shan Chan wanted to know if training was available for non-English speaking providers. Dr. Stahmer responded that training itself is only available in Spanish and English, but providers would be able to deliver the intervention in whatever language their client needed.

Committee Reports

Communications and Outreach Committee – Michelle Dove reported that the committee established 3 goals for the upcoming year: 1) increase the diversity of community member representation of ICC, using a survey to determine current representation; 2) provide onboarding and support materials for new members, including a video, new member orientation, and mentorship program for new members; and 3) develop a standard dissemination plan for outreach materials.

The committee also discussed the need for a centralized shared folder to store copies of committee materials. Additionally, the committee members reviewed the DDS “placemat” resource for ICC parent outreach and will add the resource to the dissemination plan.

Improving State Systems Committee – Frances Chasen reported that the Systems Committee is divided into three working groups: Children and Families, Regional Centers and Vendors, and Laws and Regulations. Each working group has its own goals.

The Children and Families group is compiling a survey to be administered through FRCs to gather data about challenges families encounter in our system. They are also looking at statewide initiatives that have been developed to support families to identify gaps in support that may exist.

The Regional Center and Vendor group is looking at ways to support a qualified workforce for early intervention services. One way to do this is by exploring pathways to

recruit early intervention practitioners through community colleges and internship programs. This group also recommended reviewing the Early Start Personnel Manual to verify current best practices in service implementation.

The Laws and Regulations group is investigating ways to support a better, stronger, and greater workforce by looking at licensing regulations and timelines, investigating the rate model, and examining the impact of Senate Bill (SB) 635 to require home visit services funded by local dollars to use the Ages and Stages screening tool. Public comments on SB 635 are open until May 23.

Discussion About In-Person/Hybrid vs. Virtual ICC Meetings

Dr. Poulsen held an informal polling of preferences for an in-person (hybrid) or virtual ICC meeting for the next meeting in July.

Michelle Oliver shared that discussions have become less substantial since meeting virtually.

Yvette Baptiste noted that rules around reimbursements for parents are a barrier to accessing in-person meetings. Reyna Ambriz agreed and added that DDS is looking at ways to improve the reimbursement procedures. Samantha Hebermehl encouraged DDS to do so, as meeting in-person feels “magical” for parents who don’t usually get access to the individuals on the committee. Patty Salcedo pointed out that virtual ICC meetings are much more attended than in-person and asked the ICC to consider who might be lost if moving to an in-person model.

DDS Videos

DDS shared two videos that highlight specific intervention approaches. These videos were on the Early Start Denver Model and the importance of high-quality data collection.

Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input

Samantha Hebermehl brought up an issue with the Deaf Mentor Program, designed to pair deaf adults with families of deaf children for role modeling and mentoring. Because mentors are not certified teachers, there is undue red tape getting this service on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Ms. Hebermehl asked the ICC for help clearing the red tape. Michelle Oliver asked whether the issue was funding, or where to put the service on the IFSP. Ms. Hebermehl clarified the issue is with both; how to classify as a service and how to get funding. Ms. Oliver suggested adding it to “non required service” and “family priorities” section of IFSPs.

Crystal Perez read a letter from a parent having difficulty getting their child re-evaluated for early intervention services after returning to California. Yvette Baptiste noted that families are having trouble accessing behavioral services through their insurance and are sitting on waiting lists for months. Dr. Gayatri Mahajan, a pediatrician, agreed that most eligible kids she sees are not receiving services.

Pablo Velez commented that changes in regulations for transition programs have not been well-received from parents and service coordinators. Mr. Velez noted that these changes add no value for families and no improvement in child outcomes. Mr. Velez also echoed concerns about the lack of providers for state funded insurance holders. Additionally, Mr. Velez shared that the requirement for quarterly reviews that function like full IFSP reviews is a paperwork burden that is burning out coordinators.

Jennifer Bloom added that the Early Start Discipline Group has collected quarterly review protocols and each regional center conducts them a little differently. DDS shared that the Department is looking into a Title 19 template which is easy to use.

Pablo Velez went on to share concerns that school districts aren't being held accountable for IEPs creating pathways to track students out of necessary services. Flora Martinez reminded the ICC that there are CDE complaints that can be filed and many school districts have Alternative Dispute Resolution processes that can be implemented without attorneys. Yvette Baptiste also reminded the group that parents do have access to support in Part B through several different family support organizations. CDE has recently expanded funding for Family Empowerment Centers so that there is one available in every county in California. There are due process procedures for students with IEPs and parents don't have to hire an attorney.

Nancy Grosz Sager informed the group that hearing aid coverage for children is being cut from \$10 million to \$1.7 million a year. Samantha Hebermehl provided a statistic that the cost for hearing aids can be between \$2000 and \$5000.

Robin Millar shared that she appreciates how much time is dedicated to public input but notices that families and kids are falling through the cracks. Ms. Millar asked if the ICC can figure out a better way to have families access services. We need to come up with more strategies to diminish "fall out" while we still celebrate the outcomes we're generating.

Patty Moore made statements of appreciation for work on recruitment and retention efforts.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Dr. Pouslen agreed with Patty Moore that the FRCNCA is a real partner to the ICC and proposed an ad-hoc committee to develop steps to petition the Governor's Office to include the FRCNCA as a council member. Dr. Pouelsen also thanked everyone for their input and comments.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**** END OF DAY 2 ****