

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

Link to Recording: [July ICC Meeting – Day 2 Zoom](#)

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Housekeeping Items

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

Roll Call

The roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda

The Family Panel presentation was postponed until October. Dr. Poulsen provided a review of the presentations given during yesterday's ICC meeting.

ICC Council Reports

California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child/Family Services – Ashley Franklin

The CDSS' Early Childhood and Systems Integration team continues work related to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) to better understand substance exposure in the early childhood population. CDSS has drafted an issue brief on FASD and the child welfare system in California; they hope to partner with DDS Early Start and the ICC on this and other issues and opportunities to support children and families.

Ms. Franklin shared information about the System of Care for Children and Youth and a recent webinar, "Neurosequential Model," with Dr. Bruce Perry. CDSS hopes to continue working with Dr. Perry on improving services to children and families who navigate within and across our systems. CDSS has been collaborating with DDS and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) agency to understand and address challenges and delays for children in foster care accessing Early Start services. The link to the System of Care website is <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/system-of-care/> and the link to Dr. Perry's webinar is <https://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/course/webinar-26-july-2023-neurosequential-model>.

Question from attendee:

- Yvette Baptiste asked for information on the new task force to change the approach to the system of mandated reporting.
 - Ms. Franklin provided a link to subscribe to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) Newsletter for more information related to updates on mandated reporting: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ocap/about-ocap/ocap-newsletter>

**California Department of Education (CDE) Homeless Education Preschool Services
– Leanne Wheeler**

Leanne Wheeler was absent.

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) – Maricris Acon

The ICC was notified that Ms. Acon would join later; DDS invited questions.

Question from attendee:

- Ms. Chasen asked if there is another option for updating the ICC about the Quality Improvement Indicator prior to the October meeting.
 - DDS staff explained that there has been a discussion with the Quality Assurance Section about having a meeting or training to provide updates.

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

In May, an information memorandum was released regarding engagement with the Office of Head Start and Tribal communities on how to determine eligibility. More information, resources, and tools can be accessed on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) platform at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>.

The Office of Head Start is also supporting programs and staff with training for family and community engagement using strength-based approaches. Community assessments are being conducted to determine training needs and promote training on infant mental health consultation and supporting school readiness and success for African American boys.

Questions from attendees:

- Pablo Velez asked if there will be training to support new staff in understanding procedures at the intersection between Early Start and Head Start.
 - Ms. Dove will be talking to the California Head Start Association to see if they could embed training and bring speakers to help bridge that gap.
- Samantha Hebermehl asked for information about services to children managed by CDE transitioning to CDSS, including whether services for low incidence children will be moved to DSS.
 - Ms. Franklin offered to provide information at a future ICC meeting.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) – Dr. Pamela Riley

A priority for the DHCS is to fill disparity gaps in maternal health care for Black and Native American populations in California. DHCS has launched the project “A Birthing Care Pathway” to outline the ideal pathway for birthing from conception to 12 months postpartum and will convene a member-focused workgroup to include Medi-Cal members in this process. Dr. Riley offered to provide a formal presentation of this project to the ICC.

Questions from attendees:

- Mr. Velez asked how rates may be updated so that therapeutic services are provided and maximized to 3 to 5-year-old children who are eligible for Medi-Cal.
 - This is something to keep in mind as this process develops.
- Julie Rems-Smario expressed concern about the lack of speech and language services for Deaf children and referred to the Desired Results Access Project

(DRDP) data from Senate Bill (S.B.) 210.

- Edyth Gallardo asked if services would include undocumented families.
 - Anyone who is enrolled in Medi-Cal program would be eligible.

California Department of Education (CDE) – Sarah Neville-Morgan

Leah Weichel, on behalf of Sarah Neville-Morgan, reported that CDE and DDS partnered to support the implementation of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) to align training, support, and services. CDE will be sharing information about options for inclusive preschool settings, supporting educators to employ evidence-based practices with preschoolers, and supporting transitions for children into preschool.

The Part C American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) interagency agreements are moving through the process as agreed upon with DDS. The Budget Act of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 includes a \$6 million contract for the Golden State Teacher Grant Program that is currently moving through the approval process.

Patty Salcedo, Desired Results Access Project, added that her project at the Napa County Office of Education (NCOE), as part of the SPDG, will be working with the Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNC) on transitions from Early Start and family support for parents of preschoolers.

Questions from attendees:

- Ms. Hebermehl asked how parents get their children into preschool if they are not currently receiving Early Start services.
 - Dr. Alberto Orellana, CDE, explained the process of assessment before the child turns 3 to identify needs and services once a child moves into Part B programs.
- Ms. Rems-Smario commented that assessment “according to the child’s needs” is an issue because the assessment is often completed by professionals who don’t understand Deaf children and may not identify the appropriate services needed by the Deaf child.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Childcare Licensing – Shanice Orum

Water testing for lead is a recent requirement for licensed childcare centers, and CDSS has worked with the Water Resources Board and childcare center operators to test over 1,600 childcare facilities for excess lead. CDSS is producing literature to spread information on testing the water for lead, specifically in centers caring for children from birth to age 3.

The CDSS continues to produce materials around infection-control practices, safe and healthy environments for children in CDSS childcare facilities, and other guidelines for childcare providers and programs. CDSS is shifting focus to joint guidance regarding symptoms and illnesses that prevent children from continuing to be served in childcare.

Assembly Bill (A.B.) 2827 promoted inclusive practices in education programs to allow children with exceptional needs to be served safely in placements with their non-disabled peers, including outdoor play spaces, and to streamline the process of implementing inclusive practices. Written directives for centers and childcare providers are in development.

Indian Health Service (IHS) – Susan Ducore

IHS collaborates and provides training and technical assistance to programs working with tribal communities serving young children and families. Through Medicaid, community health workers in different programs serving Tribal Communities can now receive reimbursement for some of their services that promote education and screening to support identification of children who may be eligible for Early Start services. For questions, resources, and/or collaboration for American Indian and Alaska Native services, contact susan.ducore@ihs.gov.

California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) – Suzanne Sherinian

[DMHC 2022 Annual Report](#) was recently published along with an [infographic](#). The report includes information about the Help Center's work, with case stories and data about the independent medical review process. The infographic addresses assistance with complaints about managed care service plans that DMHC licenses and regulates.

Senate Bill ([S.B. 238](#)) would allow any person up to age 26 who has been denied mental health care or substance use disorder treatment to automatically appeal that denial through DMHC's independent medical review process.

In June, Kaiser Permanente was fined for violating member confidentiality by sending over 300,000 mailings containing protected information to potentially outdated member addresses.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Robert Rochin asked if there are guidelines for wait times for families to receive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.
 - There are “timely access to care” standards. For specific cases, please contact Ms. Sherinian directly or [Timely Access to Non-Emergency Health Care Services](#) for state regulations.
- Dr. Baptiste commented that the Lucile Packard Foundation is funding research about families' access to care for specialty services. There is a long wait for ABA services, particularly for children between ages 3 and 5. Clarity is needed about the timeline for access and whether regional centers can provide those services while families in Early Start wait.
 - Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center will host a community discussion around equity and kindergarten readiness and share updates on the transition process from Early Start to preschool at their [Annual Virtual Town Hall](#) on August 8, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Ms. Salcedo commented that there is a new mandate to include 5% of children with disabilities in California State Preschool Programs (CSPP); children coming from Part C are automatically eligible for the CSPP.
- Shari Farinha (NorCal Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) commented that because preschool is not mandated in California, children with disabilities may not receive needed services. She asked the ICC subcommittees to consider the issue.

Comments and questions from the chat:

- Ms. Hebermehl asked if the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) is available to all children, who determines a child's eligibility, and how a parent

deems a program appropriate. [This question was not answered; SPDG is a grant to states, not to families of individual children.]

**** BREAK ****

Dr. Poulsen and Ms. Acon announced Matt Chesnut's decision to resign from the ICC. A certificate will be sent to acknowledge his service. Ms. Chasen will send a card signed by ICC members expressing gratitude for his participating in the ICC.

ARPA Initiatives Updates

ICC Diversification Pilot – Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA)

Robert Rochin provided an overview of the 2021 ARPA-funded project and reviewed project activities, strategies, and implementation to establish ICC representation in communities underrepresented on the ICC by conducting outreach activities, recruitment, and leadership training. Incentives and other innovative strategies will be provided to parents and community members to participate in ICC activities.

Yvette Baptiste acknowledged the support received from DDS, Early Start, and the National Center for Systemic Improvement at WestEd. Dr. Baptiste invited feedback from the ICC members to identify extended participants to reconnect them to the work and get more parent input. A list of possible groups to contact was distributed to the members present in the room and included in Dr. Baptiste's PowerPoint presentation for those attending online.

Mr. Rochin presented leadership curriculum topics to be approved by DDS and noted the use of a "training the trainer" model. Activities will start in August and September. At the end of the program, a report will be provided to DDS and the ICC to recommend a model for implementation of the training statewide, a post-training mentoring plan for new family and community representative members of the ICC, and continued support and mentoring from Early Start Family Resource Centers (FRCs).

Jacqui Knudsen reported that funding to FRCs for Strategies closed on July 14, 2023. Next steps will include presenting the curriculum to DDS and the ICC for review, creating a video to be used in new member orientation, developing resources for identified local areas, and delivering final recommendations to DDS and the ICC at the end of the project.

Family Wellness Pilot – Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC)

Dr. Claire Lazaro, Clinical Director, provided an overview of the project and its approach to group-parent support and family counseling. Matt Threet described the approach for conducting the parent support group and community outreach activities. Weston Perry presented results from a general interest survey administered as the team was promoting the project. Family testimonials were presented, and the team plans to provide more information in the future about the data they gather. The project is currently in Phase III. Components of Phase IV include Measure Outcomes, Dissemination, Sustainability Plan, and Scale-Up Plan. As the team moves on to Phase IV, they will use

data from patient questionnaires to look at outcomes.

[A video testimonial from the first parent participant](#) may be watched in different languages, with closed captions in English or Spanish.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Ms. Farinha asked about the cost to families for the counseling services and how the program is being funded.
 - All services are offered free of charge through funding from ARPA.
- Dr. Baptiste asked if the regional center will be funding this in the future and requested information about their sustainability plan.
 - The funding ends when the project is over. The plan for sustainability is to seek funding from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and other sources, and to continue collaboration with stakeholders and parent groups.
- Dr. Baptiste commented that for families with children in foster care who have access to therapy, intern therapists leave after a year, which contributes to feelings of trauma and loss. This project provides the opportunity for more stable relationships with practitioners who understand the population and have experience.
 - Dr. Lazaro responded that for the purposes of data collection, the project lasts 10 weeks (plus pre- and post-treatment data collection sessions). If at the end of that time, counseling needs to continue, counseling will continue until it's decided that the therapeutic relationship can be paused or stopped.
- Dr. Baptiste suggested DDS consider a different approach to using Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to sustain projects like this.

Committee Reports

Communications and Outreach – Tara Sisemore-Hester

Ms. Sisemore-Hester reported that the committee is getting the word out to the community about the ICC to increase parent membership and have more family representation in the committees. The committee suggests holding ICC meetings in different parts of the state to increase access for families.

New member orientation and mentorship: Discussed including a video as part of new members' orientation, establishing ICC mentors for new members, updating, and digitizing the existing binder of materials.

The committee discussed the development of a standard dissemination plan for outreach materials such as *Darby's Legacy*. The committee asked if *Darby's Legacy* has been translated. The committee plans to meet in between ICC meetings and use an action plan template to work on all goals before the next quarterly meeting.

Improving State Systems Committee – Fran Chasen

Ms. Chasen reminded the ICC that the Systems Committee has divided into three working groups: Children and Families, Regional Centers and Vendors, and Laws and Regulations. Each working group has its own goals:

- Children and Families focused on and drafted a plan for developing a survey to gather data from families about challenges they encounter with our system.
- Laws and Regulations reviewed in detail what had been discussed previously to identify and create a timeline, both short and long term, and prioritize actions that are doable and functionally less problematic.
- Regional Centers and Vendors identified the need for collaborative approaches to creating interest in the field of early intervention and discussed ways to support providers/vendors to stay open, maintain staffing, and provide quality services.

Questions from the attendees:

- Dr. Baptiste asked about the rules related to committees meeting between quarterly ICC meetings and how this can happen more effectively.
 - DDS will share the applicable rules for public meetings with the group.

Video/Stories:

Mr. Tomko introduced a video created in collaboration with many other agencies by the Desired Results Access Project: "[Supporting Children by Improving Family Outcomes.](#)" The video highlights how families who received early intervention benefitted and is a companion piece to the video "Child Outcomes: Step by Step." The intended audience is program staff, leaders, and families from all programs serving young children, such as Early Care and Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Early Intervention, Childcare, and Head Start.

Public Input

Ms. Hebermehl: Asked about Early Start [sic] services transitioning from CDE to CDSS. She requested information about these changes and asked that CDE and CDSS provide updates and clarifications about the reorganization at future ICC meetings.

Robin Millar gave kudos to DDS for their use of ARPA funds for the pilot projects presented and wondered about funding for DDS to continue such projects.

Tony Anderson (VMRC) asked for grace in meeting the new staff caseload ratios. People are being hired but require time to get to full caseloads. Help is needed to train new hires.

Nancy Grosz Sager commented that over 10 state legislators have signed on to co-author [S.B. 635](#) and over 50 organizations support the bill. California needs to do a better job providing appropriate services to children by six months of age, such as hearing aids, American Sign Language (ASL) instruction, teachers of the Deaf, Deaf coaches, parent to parent support, etc. She will send a fact sheet to DDS for distribution.

Scott Turner provided updates on [S.B. 354](#), a bill sponsored by Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) directors and now in Assembly. The bill provides a standardized definition of inclusive practices that includes access to peers for individuals from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Also, the California Early Childhood Special Education Network (Cal-ECSE) will have its [inaugural conference in San Diego March 7-8, 2024](#). More information can be found at [calecse.org](#).

Patty Moore acknowledged the work that ICC leadership and partners are doing and

commented that there needs to be a change in law to allow for the FRCNCA to be recognized as a voting member of the ICC. Ms. Moore recalled the invitation to members of the ICC to volunteer to create an ad hoc committee to develop steps to petition the Governor's Office to include the FRCNCA as a council member.

Ms. Hebermehl asked for the dates of the ICC meetings for 2023-2024. DDS responded that the next ICC meeting is on October 19-20, 2023.

Michelle Oliver inquired about the timeline to discuss proposing ICC meeting dates for 2024. DDS responded that they will soon provide the proposed dates for 2024.

Pablo Velez: It is challenging to meet the demand for early intervention services with the change in eligibility criteria from a 33% to a 25% delay. He noted the need for support to help smooth the process and recognized DDS's leadership, work, advocacy, and use of the ARPA funds for training in partnership with WestEd to build Early Start staff capacity.

Additional comments from the chat:

- Nurture Collective screens caregivers for depression and connects moms to their own providers.
- [Postpartum Support International](#) has a **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**warm line.
- Michelle Oliver shared a link to A.B. 3032 on maternal mental health: <https://paclac.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/AB3032.pdf>
- DDS has the following link to the Regional Center Performance Outcomes: https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/RCPM_handout_12132022.pdf
- Ms. Chasen shared the link mentioning the IDEA Full Funding Bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4519/text>
- Regarding the [Community Navigation Program](#): DDS has a PDF listing of all agencies. The [FRCNCA](#) site has the contact information for all the agencies that would be on the list.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Dr. Poulsen acknowledged the rich agenda and everyone's input and highlighted the hope received from the ARPA initiatives that show what can be done and how quality pays off. Dr. Poulsen also thanked everyone for their care for the work and for making things happen.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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