

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Friday, October 20, 2023
In-Person Meeting (with Zoom Option)
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Link to Recording: [Zoom recording](#)

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Housekeeping Items

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

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Review of Previous Day's Agenda

Dr. Poulsen reviewed yesterday's agenda and observed that all presentation materials will be posted on the DDS ICC website.

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme

This month's theme is Child Find.

ICC Council Reports

Department of Social Services – Ashley Franklin

Ms. Franklin was not present.

California Department of Education (CDE), Homeless Education – Leanne Wheeler

Ms. Wheeler was not present.

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) – Maricris Acon

Ms. Acon stated that all updates for the Department were given yesterday and yielded time to others.

Head Start Agency – Michelle Dove

October is Head Start Awareness month. Ms. Dove highlighted some ways that Head Start supports the mission of ICC and Early Start, including conducting developmental screenings and coordinating with early intervention service providers to provide services in the Early Head Start program.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) – Pamela Riley

Ms. Riley was not present.

Department of Public Health (DPH) – Dr. Richard Olney

Dr. Olney reported that DPH requires newborn genetic screening programs and pre-natal screening programs to identify at-risk babies as early as possible. For both screening programs, DPH will be expanding the conditions screened for in 2024.

CDE, Preschool Services – Leah Weichel

Ms. Weichel reported that the Partnerships for Effective Practices in Transition and Inclusion is a five-year project funded by the State Personnel Development Grant to support inclusion and improve learning and development outcomes for children in preschool. The three focus areas are: embedded instruction framework of effective practices, family-guided transitions, and interagency collaborations. Implementation began in 2023.

The CDE Special Education division will complete the expansion of the family empowerment centers at the end of 2023.

The Impact Inclusion Work Group developed the inclusive early education resources web page located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/op/ieeresources.asp>.

California Department of Social Services (CDSS) – Suada Sergio

The Community Care Licensing Division recently published two provider information notices about upcoming webinars to support licensed provider improvement efforts and to guide providers through utilizing the guardian system.

Ms. Sergio also provided updates on recent legislation affecting licensed childcare centers, including [AB 605](#) (requiring the creation of a single childcare license) and [AB 2827](#) (permits licensees to allow children with exceptional needs to safely use outdoor play equipment with nondisabled children without a waiver).

Indian Health Services (IHS) – Susan Ducore

IHS provides technical assistance and training to service providers at Tribal and urban sites in California. Ms. Ducore reported that IHS is planning the Best Practices Conference for May 2024 (tentative) and invited anyone interest in presenting to contact her directly.

Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) – Suzanne Sherinian

DMHC recently announced a historical settlement agreement with Kaiser Permanente to make improvements on its delivery of mental health care services. This settlement included a \$150 million penalty, and another \$150 million to invest in improvement of delivery and care.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Robin Millar asked whether the Kaiser Permanente settlement applies to ages birth to three.
 - Ms. Sherinian responded that it does.
- Marty Omoto asked how ICC can ensure the Early Start community receives the help they need.
 - Ms. Sherinian advised ICC to promote the complaint and medical review process.

**** BREAK****

Presentation – Service Access & Equity (SAE) Awarded Projects

Parenting Black Babies – Ardena Bartlett and Imani Shelton, Access Nonprofit Center

Ms. Bartlett provided an overview of the Center's three initiatives: Parenting Black Babies, Parenting Black Children, and Parent Leadership and Advocacy Training. Access Nonprofit Center has received the SAE grant from DDS for four consecutive years, and partners with Inland and San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Centers. Ms. Shelton shared the story of one of the Center's staff members about her son's diagnosis of autism and her family's experience trying to access information and services.

The Parenting Black Babies Screening Education and Referral Initiative addresses the significant disparities in diagnosis and access to health and early intervention services for Black babies who are at risk of a developmental delay or disability. The program targets parents, hospitals with NICU and developmental clinics, and regional centers. Staff provide families with screening and information about accessing services for their child. The program also works with hospitals and regional centers to increase representation of Black staff members. Another goal of the initiative is to develop an annual symposium that addresses the state of the Black community in early intervention.

Ms. Bartlett concluded with a call to action that focuses on access and equity, intentional and targeted outreach, encouraging equitable representation at the decision-making table, and strengthening both intake and awareness. To learn more about Access Nonprofit Center, please visit <https://accessnonprofit.org/about-us>.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Dr. Poulsen thanked Ms. Bartlett for a meaningful presentation.
 - Ms. Bartlett acknowledged the comment.
- Michelle Oliver thanked Ms. Bartlett for her presentation and mentioned the importance of discussing equity, especially for families who have a baby in the NICU, and the importance of connecting them with resources and support before they go home.
- Pablo Velez commented that his agency works with Latino minorities and some of the families served by his agency face similar equity challenges as the ones reported by Ms. Bartlett in her presentation.
- Benita Shaw thanked Ms. Bartlett for her presentation and for representing Black babies and their parents through her organization.

Harley's Hope Project – Season Goodpasture, Acorns to Oak Trees

Ms. Goodpasture shared the story of her daughter, Harley, and her family's journey with Early Start. The goal of the Harley's Hope Project is to reduce service disparities in Tribal communities by increasing awareness and reducing stigma of intellectual and developmental disabilities and promoting interagency partnerships. Project accomplishments include creating a culturally relevant developmental milestone tracker for families and developing a toolkit for families navigating the *Individualized Family*

Service Plan (IFSP) process. Ms. Goodpasture shared that Acorns to Oak Trees recently became the first regional center vendor on Tribal Land.

Ms. Goodpasture concluded stating that the work they are doing in Tribal Land will change generations to come. They see the change and California is setting the bar. To read more about Acorns to Oak Trees, please visit <https://www.acorns2oak.com/>.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Dr. Poulsen thanked Ms. Goodpasture for sharing the story of her daughter and incredible vision.
 - Ms. Goodpasture acknowledged the comment.
- Ardena Bartlett commended Ms. Goodpasture for the work she is doing.
 - Ms. Goodpasture acknowledged the kind words.
- Patty Moore encouraged Ms. Goodpasture to mention her new role with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - Ms. Goodpasture shared she was just chosen as the CDC's Tribal Ambassador for "The Learn the Signs. Act Early" Program.
 - One of her first goals (hitting it) is to present materials to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) - Office of Tribal Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) which meets quarterly.
 - She is going to provide the TAC committee with "The Learn the Signs. Act Early" materials along with culturally tailored developmental milestone trackers and ensure distribution to all the IHSS and Tribal Child Welfare programs.
- Pablo Velez commended Ms. Goodpasture for the amazing work she is doing. He acknowledged that providing telehealth services can be more convenient than finding providers who are willing to work with families in rural communities. He also suggested that her organization should consider looking into school loan forgiveness program for the providers.
 - Ms. Goodpasture replied that because the program is more rural, she has to pay herself and her providers more due to the distance her families live. This is a real concern. However, being a non-profit she has acquired multiple grants to help offset those expenses.

Committee Reports

Improving State Systems Committee – Fran Chasen

Ms. Chasen welcomed Susan Ducore as the Committee co-chair. The Committee is split into three working groups:

- Children and Families is developing a survey to collect information from families on challenges they have faced since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Regional Center and Vendors is fine-tuning recommendations about updating the Early Start Personnel Manual.
- Laws and Regulations continues to work on action items.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Doug Erber

Mr. Erber reported that the Committee discussed creating a survey to ensure all demographics (race, parents, expertise) are represented on the ICC and developing a distribution list to share the Darby's Legacy publication. Mr. Erber also shared that the

Committee will be supporting the Family Resource Centers Network of California's (FRCNCA) project to mentor and train parents to participate in the ICC and other advisory bodies.

Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input

Dr. Poulsen invited public input from parents.

Laurie Jordan shared that Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center put on a Down Syndrome Awareness walk for Down Syndrome Awareness Month. More than 200 individuals signed up, and it was made possible due to community partners including Parks and Recreation and the DMHC, among others.

Cathy Hickinbotham expressed appreciation for how the ICC meetings are conducted. Ms. Hickinbotham also asked about activities to prevent some of the developmental disabilities due to environmental factors that have increased in number over the last 20 years. Dr. Poulsen will incorporate this suggestion at the next strategic planning meeting.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Dr. Poulsen concluded with dates for next year's ICC meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.