

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) ON  
EARLY INTERVENTION

# JANUARY MEETING PACKET

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## Meeting Dates and Times

**January 18, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**January 19, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



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**Additional materials can be found on our website at:**

[State Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) on Early Intervention Overview - CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

Public Notice  
Member Rosters  
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*The Interagency Coordinating Council is an open public meeting that may be recorded, provided it does not cause a disruption to the proceedings.*



# Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC)

## ICC Mission Statement

The mission of the ICC is to promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, who have, or are at risk for having, a disability, and their families, utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration.

## The History of the ICC

California has a long history of providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, and their families. In the 1960s and 1970s, special education services for infants and toddlers were provided in public schools and funded through various local, state, and federal sources. With the advent of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act) in 1969, California demonstrated its support of young children with prevention and early intervention services for infants with developmental disabilities through the regional center system. This was a huge effort and viewed as a major investment in California's children.

In 1988, the first ICC convened to provide advice and assistance to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding implementation of a coordinated early intervention system in California. In 1993, after five years of state and local planning activities in preparation for full implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Governor signed the California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA: Title 14, Government Code section 95000 et seq.) CEISA established state authority to enhance California's early intervention service system to meet the new federal requirements under Part C. CEISA assigned DDS as lead agency in collaboration with California Department of Education (CDE). Other collaborative partners involved in the ICC include Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), and First 5 California.

Although the early intervention landscape has changed over the years in California, the ICC has continued to follow, advise, and assist DDS on the state of the early intervention community. The changes have included amendments to CEISA that brought the addition of provision of family support services by Early Start Family Resource Centers (FRC). FRCs provide services such as parent-to-parent support, information dissemination and referral, public awareness, family-professional collaboration activities, and transition for families. CEISA also clarified state coordination and collaboration with families and communities, service coordinator competencies and caseload size, evaluation and assessment, parent rights, referral to local FRCs and monitoring efforts. Lastly, CEISA was amended to clarify that the Part C program is based on existing systems and how regional centers must comply with the Lanterman Act. This includes regulations related to vendorization and rate setting as long as the application of state law does not conflict with early intervention statutes.



## Interagency Coordinating Council Appointed Members

(\* denotes parent of a child with a disability)

Name	Composition	Email Address	Phone
Ashley Franklin (for Kim Johnson)	DSS	Ashley.Franklin@dss.ca.gov	(916) 214-5711
Doug Erber*	Parent/Autism Partnership Foundation	dougerber@hotmail.com	(310) 965-9050
Leanne Wheeler	Agency Rep/CDE Homeless Children	lwheeler@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0383
Maricris Acon (For Nancy Bargmann)	Agency Rep/DDS Early Intervention Services	maricris.acon@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-2250
Marie Kanne Poulsen	Personnel/Preparation Chair	mpoulsen@chla.usc.edu	(323) 361-3819
Michelle Dove	Agency Rep/Head Start	mdove@kcao.org	(559) 362-5629
Pamela Riley	DHCS	Pamela.Riley@dhcs.ca.gov	(916) 204-0055
Richard Olney	Agency Rep/CDPH Medi-Cal	richard.olney@cdph.ca.gov	(510) 231-7408
Sarah Neville-Morgan (For Tony Thurmond)	Agency Rep/CDE Preschool Services	SNevilleMorgan@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0900
Shanice Orum (for Kim Johnson)	Agency Rep/DSS	Shanice.Orum@DSS.ca.gov	(916) 215-2973
Susan Ducore	Indian Health Service	susan.ducore@ihs.gov	(916) 930-3981
Suzanne Sherinian (For Mary Watanabe)	Agency Rep/DMHC Health Care	suzanne.sherinian@dmhc.ca.gov	(916) 255-2391



## Interagency Coordinating Council Community Representatives

(\* denotes parent of a child with a disability)

Name	Representation	Email Address	Phone
Amy Hansen	Easter Seals Superior California	amyh2@myeasterseals.org	(916) 679-3142
Ana Aragon *	Parent	miss.anav@gmail.com	(626) 343-0131
Aviril Apple Sepulveda	Nurture Collective	apple@mynurturecollective.com	(714) 883-2798
Christina Nigrelli	Zero to Three	cnigrelli@zerotothree.org	(213) 395-3901
Debbie Sarmento*	Parent/FRCNCA	debrasarmento@comcast.net	(916) 962-0832
Diana Maffei*	Parent/Early Start Service Coordinator	dmaffei@altaregional.org	(916) 978-6416
Diane Williams	Alta California Regional Center	dwilliams@altaregional.org	(916) 978-6417
Edyth Gallardo	Early Start Program Manager/Inland RC	egallardo@inlandrc.org	(909) 890-3000
Elena Bramble*	Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern CA Inc.	elenab@rfenc.org	(530) 209-3621
Felicia Ford*	Leap of Faith Family to Family Support	fefeford@gmail.com	(310) 420-9119
Fran Chasen	IDA Public Policy Liaison+-	fran.chasen@gmail.com	(310) 452-1142
Gayatri Mahajan	NBRC/Medical Director, Sutter Sacramento HRIF	gm050197@gmail.com	(707) 256-1100
Jazmine Blackman	Provider/Carousel Developmental Service	jazmine.blackman@carouseldev.com	(909) 496-2022
Jim Frazier	The Arc of California	jjimfrazier@gmail.com	
Julie Maier	California Deafblind Services	jmaier@sfsu.edu	
Julie Rems-Smario	CDE	JSmario@cddf-cde.ca.gov	(916) 262-7283
June Ursini	NBRC	juneu@nbrc.net	(707) 256-1117
Kathy Angkustsiri	UCD MIND Institute	kangkustsiri@ucdavis.edu	(916) 703 0235
Laurie Jordan*	Parent/Tri-Counties RC	ljordan@tri-counties.org	(805) 288-2544
Linda Landry*	Parent/FRCNCA	lindajoyla@aol.com	(323) 255-0354
Lindsay Crain*	Parent	craininla4@yahoo.com	(323) 573-6575
Lisa Schoyer*	Parent/ LA County Dept. of Mental Health	LSchoyer@dmh.lacounty.gov	(626) 676-7694
Lucero Irizarry	CAEYC Board Member	ecementor@gmail.com	(951) 323-3670
Marty Omoto	California Disability Community Action	martyomoto@att.net	(916) 757-9549
Michelle Oliver	Early Start Consultant	meoliver2021@gmail.com	(408) 506-5173
Nancy Sager	Retired CDE	ngsager@gmail.com	(530) 300-6979
Pablo Velez	Amigo Baby	pvelez@amigobaby.com	(805) 901-1237



Pam Chueh	Executive Director WarmLine Family Resource Center	Pam@warmlinefrc.org	(916) 455-9500
Patricia Moore*	Parent/Alpha FRC	pjmoore@alphasb.org	(805) 683-2145
Patricia Salcedo*	Parent/COE	psalcedo@napacoe.org	(707) 477-4570
Penelope Knapp	UC Davis Professor	pkknapp@ucdavis.edu	(916) 799-5341
Rachel Hagans	Retired CVRC	Rhagans226@gmail.com	(559) 786-3834
Robert Rochin	FRCNCA	robertr@frcnca.org	(626) 622-5169
Robin Millar	Early Intervention Provider	robin_millar@yahoo.com	(805) 338-3359
Rosalyn Daggs	ASAP Home Health	Rosalyn.d@asaphomehealth.com	(661) 678-3366
Samantha Hebermehl*	Parent	Samantha.heb@gmail.com	(702) 241-2352
Scott Turner	East San Gabriel SELPA	sturner@esgvselpa.org	(626) 966-1679
Season Goodpasture*	Parent	Season@acorns2oak.com	(760) 638-9668
Shan Chan	Kinder Speech and Language	shan@kinderspeechlanguage.com	(818) 280-9757
Sheri Farinha	NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	sfarina@norcalcenter.org	(916) 626-4928
Sheri Rosen	Sunny Days of California	srosen@sunnydays.com	(858) 432-4749
Stephanie Gomez	Infant Development Program/Help Me Grow Sacramento	sgomez@scoe.net	(916) 358-0074
Tamara Allen	SCOE Infant Development Program	tallen@scoe.net	(916) 803-7729
Tara Sisemore- Hester	Valley Mountain RC	tsisemore@vmrc.net	(209) 674-6509
Tony Anderson	Executive Director/Valley Mountain RC	tanderson@vmrc.net	(209) 955-3241
Virginal Reynolds	Retired WestEd	virginiainsac@me.com	(916) 712-6135
Wendy Morrison	Ascend Rehab Services, Inc.	wendy.morrison@gmail.com	(510) 757-4004
Yvette O. Baptiste*	Parent/Eastern LA FRC	ybaptiste@elafr.net	(626) 300-9171



## Interagency Coordinating Council Support Staff

Name	Agency	Email Address
Amy Wall	DDS	Amy.Wall@dds.ca.gov
Anne De Medeiros	DDS	Anne.DeMedeiros@dds.ca.gov
Cathy Schulze	DDS	Catherine.Schulze@dds.ca.gov
Dennis "DJ" Tomko	DDS	Dennis.Tomko@dds.ca.gov
Erin Paulsen Brady	DDS	Erin.PaulsenBrady@dds.ca.gov
Esteban Ortiz	DDS	Esteban.Ortiz@dds.ca.gov
Fanny Cano	DDS	Fanny.Cano@dds.ca.gov
Hilda Jimenez	DDS	Hilda.Jimenez.dds.ca.gov
John Knight	DDS	John.Knight@dds.ca.gov
Jorge "JJ" Fernandez	DDS	Jorge.Fernandez@dds.ca.gov
Maricris Acon	DDS	Maricris.Acon@dds.ca.gov
Omari Smith	DDS	Omari.Smith@dds.ca.gov
Reyna Ambriz	DDS	Reyna.Ambriz@dds.ca.gov
Ryan Digman	DDS	Ryan.Digman@dds.ca.gov
Angela McGuire	WestEd	mccguir@wested.org
Jennifer Driver	WestEd	jdriver@wested.org
Rebecca Halpern	WestEd	rhalper@wested.org
Ross Adams	WestEd	radams@wested.org



## Instructions for joining remotely for the ICC Meeting

The ICC Meeting will be online via Zoom. Register by clicking the links below.

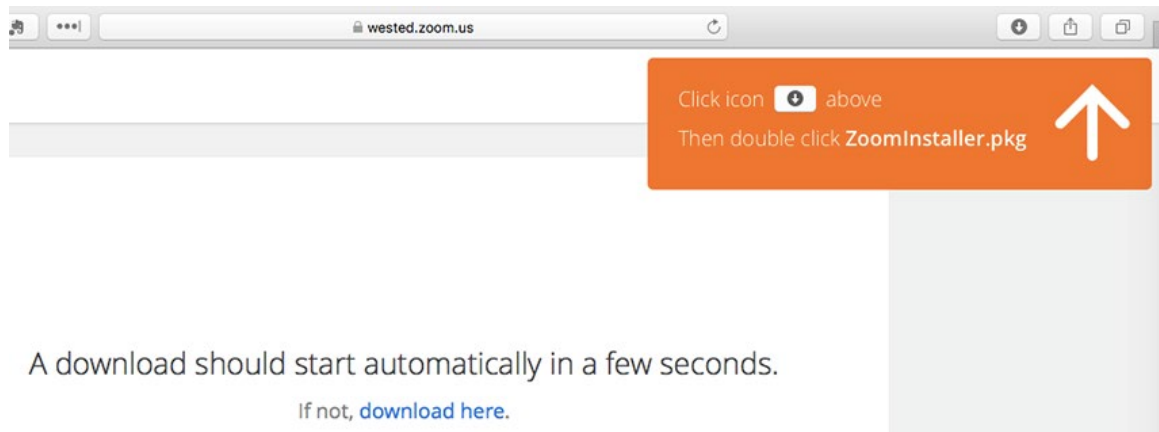
[Register Here for Day 1](#) (9 am to 4:30 pm)

[Register Here for Day 2](#) (9 am to 1:00 pm)

The best way to join a scheduled meeting is by clicking the link you were provided when you either scheduled it or were invited to it (from email, calendar invitation, etc.)

The link will launch Zoom and place you in the conference. This is true for all staff, as well as non-staff.

If you do not have the app, your browser will download the installer and prompt you to run it. Once the installer has run, it will ask for your name and then take you into the meeting.



Join with computer audio or phone





## **Participant Courtesies**

1. Use a landline, if possible, for the least static interference.
2. Avoid cellular and cordless phones. The potential static and poor or broken connections reduce the sound quality for all conference call participants. If you must use a cell phone, find a quiet location with excellent reception and limit moving around during the call.
3. Know your phone features and how to use them. Do not wait until the call to figure them out.
4. Turn off call waiting. It is very disruptive to the call. Most call waiting features can be deactivated by pressing 70# or \*70 before dialing the conference number. (Check with your carrier.)
5. Use the speaker feature on your phone only if the room is quiet and others in the room are participating on the call with you. Speakerphones can add to the overall noise of the teleconference and create a hollow sound on the call.
6. Choose a quiet location. Avoid background noises such as a radio, TV, pets, or side conversations with others.
7. Stay focused and participate on the call. Avoid using this time to answer email, eat, clear off your desk, file papers, or talk to others.
8. Be on time.
9. Introduce yourself when you join the call. If you join the call late, wait for a break in the conversation to announce that you have joined or until the moderator asks who joined.
10. Introduce yourself each time you speak. Not everyone will be familiar with your voice.
11. Mute your phone (\*6) if you are not participating at the time, need to talk to someone else, or need to leave the call for any reason. Unmute your phone (#6) when you are able to return to the call.
12. Never put the call on hold. Either mute your phone (\*6) and unmute your phone (#6) to rejoin or hang up and call in again if you must leave the call.

## **Facilitator/Chairperson Courtesies**

1. Be familiar with the audio controls.
2. Start—and end—at the scheduled time.
3. Have an agenda—preferably one that has been distributed prior to the conference.
4. Identify yourself when you first connect to the conference call.
5. Identify yourself each time you speak. Others may not know your voice. Speak clearly and at a moderate speed.
6. Take roll call at the conference start so that everyone knows who is involved and listening.
7. Review the rules of etiquette and ask that each participant identify him or herself before speaking.
8. Allow only one individual to speak at any given time during the conference.
9. As much as possible, when appropriate, address questions to individuals by name.
10. Mute the microphone or speakerphone (\*6) if you must speak to others in the room with you during the conference. Unmute by pressing #6.
11. Address agenda items in their specified order.

\*Thank you to the Family Resource Center Network of California, the source for many of these tips, for sharing its teleconference etiquette.



## ICC Meeting Agenda (Day One) In-Person Meeting (with Zoom Option)

Zoom Link:

[https://cal-dds.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYIc--sqTMqGddiWMOB0jLY55\\_kJWPc6yJV#/registration](https://cal-dds.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYIc--sqTMqGddiWMOB0jLY55_kJWPc6yJV#/registration)

**Date:** January 18, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Alta California Regional Center  
2241 Harvard Street Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95815

*The order in which agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Public comment will be taken as part of the meeting on both days. Prior to making your comments, please state your name for the record and identify any group or organization you represent. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to speak, the facilitators may establish specific time limits on comments.*

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter
<p>(9:00-9:20) <b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Housekeeping Items/Zoom Instructions</li> <li>• Introductions/Roll Call</li> <li>• Review Agenda</li> <li>• Approval of the Minutes</li> <li>• Review of ICC Mission and Purpose, and Theme of Meeting: <b>Family Guided Early Intervention</b></li> <li>• Part C Literacy Article: Mediating Parent Learning to Promote Social Communication for Toddlers with Autism: Effects from a Randomized Controlled Trial</li> </ul>	<p>Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair</p> <p>DJ Tomko, DDS</p>
<p>(9:20-10:20) <b>DDS Updates and Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions and Answers (10 minutes)</li> </ul>	<p>DDS</p>
<p>(10:20-10:45) <b>Presentation:</b> DDS Autism Services Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions and Answers (5 minutes)</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Lauren Libero, DDS</p>
<p>(10:45-11:00) <b>Break</b></p>	



<p>(11:00-11:25) <b>Presentation:</b> Annual Performance Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions and Answers (5 minutes)</li> </ul>	<p>Nathaniel Taleon, DDS</p>
<p>(11:25-11:45) <b>Voices from the Field</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infant Development Association of California</li> <li>• The Arc</li> <li>• California Disability Community Action Network</li> <li>• FRCNCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions and Answers (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Fran Chasen Jim Frazier Marty Omoto Yvette Baptiste</p>
<p>(11:45-12:00) <b>Public Input</b></p>	
<p>(12:00-1:00) <b>Lunch</b></p>	
<p>(1:00-2:00) <b>Presentation:</b> 5 Public Policy Arguments for Parent Implemented Autism Intervention Models: From Clinical Practice to Research to Statewide Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions and Answers (10 minutes)</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Richard Solomon</p>
<p>(2:00-2:10) <b>Announcement of Committee Composition and Goals</b></p>	<p>DJ Tomko, DDS</p>
<p>(2:10-4:30) <b>Committee Meetings</b></p>	<p>Improving State Systems Communications &amp; Outreach</p>



## ICC Meeting Agenda (Day Two) In-Person Meeting (with Zoom Option)

Zoom Link:

<https://cal-dds.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tf--hrDIjHNZOsnrrtFhr7iWapv7iPyOO#/registration>

**Date:** January 19, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Alta California Regional Center  
2241 Harvard Street Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95815

*The order in which agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Public comment will be taken as part of the meeting on both days. Prior to making your comments, please state your name for the record and identify any group or organization you represent. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to speak, the facilitators may establish specific time limits on comments.*

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter
<p>(9:00-9:20) <b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Housekeeping Items/Zoom Instructions</li> <li>• Introductions/Roll Call</li> <li>• Review Agenda</li> <li>• Review of Previous Day's Agenda</li> <li>• Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme</li> </ul>	<p>Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair</p> <p>DJ Tomko, DDS</p>
<p>(9:20-10:20) <b>Presentation:</b> Engaging and Supporting Families in Early Intervention Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions and Answers (15 minutes)</li> </ul>	<p>FRCNCA</p>
<p>(10:20-10:45) <b>Break</b></p>	
<p>(10:45-10:50) <b>Video:</b> Family Testimonials &amp; Stories</p>	<p>DJ Tomko, DDS</p>



<p>(10:50-11:50) <b>ICC Council Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates by ICC Council Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions and Answers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Ashley Franklin - Dept. of Social Services  Leanne Wheeler - CDE Homeless Education  Maricris Acon - Dept. of Developmental Services  Michelle Dove - Head Start Agency  Pamela Riley - Dept. of Health Care Services  Richard Olney - Dept. of Public Health  Sarah Neville-Morgan - CDE Preschool Services  Shanice Orum - Dept. of Social Services  Susan Ducore - Indian Health Care  Suzanne Sherinian - Dept. of Managed Health</p>
<p>(11:50-12:25) <b>Committee Reports &amp; Approval for Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions and Answers (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Communications and Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions and Answers (5 minutes)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Improving Systems Committee   Communications and Outreach Committee</p>
<p>(12:25-12:40) <b>Public Input</b></p>	
<p>(12:40-12:50) <b>Approval of Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 18-19, 2024</li> <li>• August 1-2, 2024</li> <li>• October 17-18, 2024</li> <li>• January 16-17, 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair</p>
<p>(12:50-1:00) <b>Recap and Closing Remarks</b></p>	<p>Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair</p>



**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**  
**In-Person Meeting (with Zoom Option)**  
**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Link to Zoom Recording:** [October ICC Meeting – Day 1 Zoom](#)

**Opening**

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Dr. Poulsen thanked staff at San Diego Regional Center (SDRC), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and WestEd for supporting these meetings.

**Housekeeping Items**

DJ Tomko reviewed housekeeping procedures for Zoom and in-person participants. Zoom instructions, ASL/Spanish interpreter instructions, and meeting etiquette were also reviewed.

**Roll Call**

The roll call was conducted by Mr. Tomko.

**Review Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**Approval of July’s Meeting Minutes**

All members present approved July’s minutes.

**Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme of Meeting**

Dr. Poulsen reviewed the mission and vision of the ICC; the theme of this month’s meeting is Child Find.

**Part C Literacy Article**

[Return to School Roadmap: Child Find, Referral, and Eligibility Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) by OSEP

Dr. Poulsen presented this article, which provides best practices for a child find system, referral, and eligibility; ICC is only focusing on the child find aspect for this meeting. Part C requires each state to have a comprehensive child find system for the purpose of identifying and locating infants and toddlers who may be eligible for early intervention/Early Start services.

The authors define a comprehensive child find system as including an outreach program to inform parents about developmental screening through public awareness programs, an approach to coordination with state agencies, written policies and procedures to support on-going effective communication with referral agencies such as neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), and a data system that provides methods for identifying underserved populations. Other recommendations for child find include screening for social and emotional development, in addition to other developmental domains and ensuring that families of those children who



are determined ineligible for Part C are provided information about community resources for surveillance.

## **DDS Updates and Information – Maricris Acon and Reyna Ambriz**

### ***DDS Updates***

Ms. Acon shared a number of recent regulation changes affecting Early Start, including:

- updating eligibility criteria to lower the threshold for delay, specify “receptive communication” and “expressive communication” as developmental domains, and recognize fetal alcohol syndrome as a risk factor;
- reducing service coordinator caseload ratios to no more than 40 families; and,
- outlining new requirements to support transition from Part C to Part B.

Ms. Acon reported on Early Start caseloads and referrals. Early Start caseloads have doubled from 2013 to 2023, and Hispanic families are the largest demographic represented. The average age of children served in Early Start is 2 years and 3 months and DDS has the goal to lower that average age. Additionally, there has been an overall increase of 68% in referrals year-over-year, and the average age of a child at intake is 22 months.

Ms. Acon also updated the ICC about the distribution of the Family Outcomes Survey used to collect data for the Annual Performance Report. Families may complete the survey anytime and access it on the DDS webpage at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/>.

Ms. Acon also shared updates about the State Systemic Improvement Plan and noted that the Early Start newsletter is posted on the DDS website and is shared with families and professionals on a quarterly basis.

Finally, Ms. Acon shared that Max Turns Three, a video story about transitioning out of Part C services, was developed with feedback from ICC. The video can be found at <https://earlystartneighborhood.org/resources/videos/max-turns-three/> and is available in English and Spanish on the Early Start Neighborhood, with American Sign Language (ASL) and Mexican Sign Language (MSL) interpretation video insets

### ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Updates***

Ms. Ambriz shared that ARPA funding was used for several statewide and local projects dedicated to increasing access and equity in Early Start programs. This funding has been extended through November 2024. Key projects at the state level include updating the *Effective Early Childhood Transitions Guide*, developing videos about navigating the Early Start system for families of children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and evaluating the local pilot initiatives for success and efficacy.

### ***Quality Incentive Program***

Shirley Chan, with the DDS Office of Quality Assurance, was joined by Josh Sudarma. Ms. Chan provided an overview of the Quality Incentive Program (QIP), which is designed to improve consumer outcomes, provider performance, and quality of services at regional centers. QIP will transition from making incentive payments in the current fiscal year of 23-24



to becoming part of the vendor rate in fiscal year 25-26. For early intervention, this QIP measure is still being developed.

Ms. Chan provided proposed QIP measures for upcoming fiscal years such as workforce capacity, prevention and wellness, employment access and capacity, informed choice and user satisfaction, and services delivered within 45 days (to be 31 days in 2024-2025).

Questions:

- Pablo Velez asked how incentive programs will take into consideration equity for under-resourced geographic areas and how the rate study can be updated to reflect soaring costs of living since 2019.
- Mr. Sudarma acknowledged that the QIP still needs to be developed for Early Start and code 805 to determine the best way to implement and operationalize measures. The Rates Team is strategizing how to address the concerns raised. An update will be given at the January ICC meeting.
- Ms. Acon provides more context on rate models.
- Fran Chasen asked how the “timeliness of service” for quality indicators is defined.
- Ms. Acon answered that this is still in development.

**Voices from the Field**

- ***Infant Development Association of California (IDA) – Fran Chasen***

Ms. Chasen reported that IDA conducted a survey of 100 providers on QIP measures, and results indicated that there is still confusion about the quality indicator, particularly around recruitment, the impact of cancellations, and the status of rate implementation. IDA has also received questions about ARPA funding eligibility for providers. Increasing rates and wages is also a critical issue for IDA.

IDA is celebrating its 50-year anniversary, and Ms. Chasen shared details about their celebration event and the January 2024 policy update event.

- ***The Arc of California – Jim Frazier***

Mr. Frazier informed that increasing quality providers is a critical need for Early Start. On the heels of minimum wage increases for healthcare workers and fast-food workers, Mr. Frazier noted the need to organize to raise wages for early intervention service providers.

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

Mr. Omoto acknowledged how much support his son and family received, and how much progress has been made towards equity in the last several years but noted that wages and rates need to continue to improve equity. Mr. Omoto encouraged ICC members to better understand how [SB 805](#), regarding qualifications for autism service providers, impacts families. Mr. Omoto also shared his disappointment about the gubernatorial veto on [SB 635](#), which would have required insurance providers to provide hearing aids to children under 21.

- ***Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) – Janice Hinton***

FRCNCA is searching for an Executive Director. Robert Rochin has a new role managing





education and professional development activities for the organization. Mr. Rochin reviewed some of the trainings and resources provided to the organization from community partners. He also shared that the FRCNCA has been selected as an ambassador for All Children Thrive (ACT) and sits on the Equity Advisory Committee. Jacqui Knudsen shared an overview of the ICC Community Engagement Project to increase ICC capacity and diversity participation. FRCNCA will be launching leadership trainings for parents to serve on statewide and local councils.

**\*\* BREAK\*\***

**Presentation: Child Find and Outreach – Margaret Gillis, SRI Education, DaSy Center**

Ms. Gillis provided an overview and definition of child find, and the requirements of a child find system. Ms. Gillis reviewed why child find is so critical, especially since COVID-19 impacted states' child find systems and early intervention (EI) enrollment. Widespread outreach is needed to ensure equity in access to EI – particularly for populations that do not have consistent access to pediatricians or healthcare providers.

States are required to report the percentage of children served with individualized family services plans (IFSPs), ages 0-1 and 0-3, and these are considered “results” indicators that are based on state targets. Ms. Gillis reviewed approaches to setting these targets, then shared California’s 2018-2021 data for these indicators as well as a comparison to other states with similar eligibility criteria.

Ms. Gillis concluded by encouraging ICC members to support child find efforts and provided some approaches for how to do so.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Edyth Gallardo asked why the data is based on children served, and not the children who are referred but for whatever reason never get to the IFSP stage. She asked where that information was collected.
- Ms. Gillis responded that the state likely collected referral data, which can be compared to IFSP rates.
- Diane Williams asked how therapy services are counted in “service delivery,” and how that can be compared and monitored.
- Ms. Gillis agreed this analysis needs to be done, but that data is not available on a widespread basis.
- Sarah Neville-Morgan noted the low childcare and Head Start referrals and wondered if there are different trends in other states.
- Ms. Gillis indicated that DaSy plans to administer surveys to childcare providers to better understand this occurrence.
- Linda Landry encouraged parent mentorship through regional centers and family resource centers (FRCs) to increase referral and participation rates.
- Ms. Gillis shared that states with similar models show success.
- Mr. Velez noted that that each data point is a child and family, and recommended that California set goals to match Massachusetts, which has the highest rates of EI



- participation in the country.
- Michelle Oliver reiterated that a big shift has occurred since 2009 when requiring insurance caused early intervention services to shift to a therapeutic model. She wondered whether families are being served by qualified service providers who can act as a primary service provider.
  - Mr. Omoto emphasized the need to review family-centered outcomes along with these numbers.
  - Apple Sepulveda highlighted partnerships with home visiting programs to leverage Title V funding.

### **Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input**

Dr. Poulsen invited public input from parents.

Lisa Hooks shared instances of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color) parents opting out of Early Start services because they find the program too overwhelming, or because follow-up calls and/or services didn't happen in a timely fashion. Ms. Hooks emphasized that outreach needs to be culturally sensitive and considerate of the barriers that BIPOC families face.

Dr. Poulsen invited public input from other attendees.

Mr. Velez commented that there is a state of emergency for speech therapy providers because of the barriers for out-of-state providers getting certified in California. The shortage of providers creates very long wait times for accessing speech services.

Dr. Jenna Lu shared some successes of NICU staff making referrals to Early Start, where initial intake occurs while an infant is still in the hospital. Dr. Lu reported that 100% of referred families go on to receive Early Start services.

Lisa Schoyer recommended developing checklists about crisis intervention that service coordinators can give to parents that support health and safety throughout the child's life.

Robin Millar asked if there a list of other states that include at-risk as an eligibility category for Part C, and where California ranks on that list.

**\*\*LUNCH BREAK\*\***

### **ARPA Initiatives Updates**

#### ***RC-County Screening Partnership – South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC)***

Kiara Lopez and Erika Bermudez described the Connections Program at SCLARC, which includes nine community partners conducting early developmental screening using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screening tool and making referrals directly to the regional



center. Ms. Lopez and Ms. Bermudez mentioned that the Connections staff work alongside their community partners to review ASQ results with caregivers, make appropriate referrals, and suggest age-appropriate activities to support development. SCLARC staff also attend resource fairs and provide presentations to the community about the ASQ and early intervention resources.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Nancy Grosz Sager asked when the regional center decides to refer to the school district.
- This occurs on a case-by-case basis and is usually dependent on the age of the child.
- Shan Chan asked if the screening occurs when parents ask for an Early Start evaluation.
- No; if the parent comes to the regional center, evaluation is provided at the regional center, but if the parent is coming from a partner organization or from a community event, the ASQ screening is offered first.
- Ms. Ambriz confirmed that any child referred to a regional center must be evaluated and assessed.

### ***Outreach and Education – San Diego Regional Center (SDRC)***

Representatives from SDRC shared information about their initiative to target outreach activities to families experiencing homelessness and immigration issues. SDRC identified their program leads who coordinate and track activities, contract with Early Start providers to conduct screenings, identify agencies that serve families who are unhoused and/or fearful of accessing services due to their immigration status, and provide information about Early Start to families at community events. The presenters also described the regional center's Tribal Outreach initiative to identify service gaps in Tribal communities and increase the capacity of providers on the unique needs of tribal communities.

Questions and comments from attendees:

- Robin Millar thanked presenters for these projects to promote equity and diversity.

### **Announcement of Committee Composition and Goals**

Mr. Tomko provided a brief overview of the purpose of the subcommittees and provided instructions for the groups to meet.

### **Subcommittee Meetings**

Meeting of the whole adjourned at 2:19 p.m. ICC committees met separately.

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



**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 historic settlement agreement with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. to make improvements to its delivery of behavioral health services. This settlement included a \$50 million fine and a requirement that Kaiser make investments totaling \$150 million over five years to improve the delivery of behavioral health care services to all Californians and not just Kaiser members.

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 independent 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.

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





**MEETING ATTENDEES**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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Douglas Erber	Michelle Dove	Shanice Orum
Maricris Acon	Richard Olney	Susan Ducore
Marie Poulsen	Sarah Neville-Morgan	Suzanne Sherinian

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

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Ashley Franklin	Leanne Wheeler	Pamela Riley
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**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

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Apple Sepulveda	Laurie Jordan	Penelope Knapp
Debbie Sarmento	Linda Landry	Robert Rochin
Diane Williams	Lindsay Crain	Robin Millar
Edyth Gallardo	Lisa Schoyer	Season Goodpasture
Elena Bramble	Marty Omoto	Shan Chan
Fran Chasen	Michelle Oliver	Sheri Farinha
Gayatri Mahajan	Nancy Sager	Yvette Baptiste
Jim Frazier	Pablo Velez	
Julie Maier	Patricia Moore	
Julie Rems-Smario	Patricia Salcedo	

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT**

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Amy Hansen	Lucero Irizarry	Tamara Allen
Christina Nigrelli	Pam Chueh	Tara Sisemore-Hester
Diana Maffei	Rachel Hagans	Tony Anderson
Felicia Ford	Rosalyn Daggs	Virginal Reynolds
Jazmine Blackman	Samantha Hebermehl	Wendy Morrison
June Ursini	Scott Turner	
Kathy Angkustsiri	Sheri Rosen	

**DDS STAFF PRESENT**

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Amy Wall	John Knight	Norma Salazar
Anne De Medeiros	Josh Sudarma	Omari Smith



Catherine Schulze  
Charlene Li  
Cristina Tsuji  
DJ Tomko  
Erin Brady  
Hilda Jimenez  
JJ Fernandez

Juliana Margil  
Lauren Libero  
Lisa Gonzales  
Marcy Okada  
Matthew Harnetz  
Nancy Chen  
Nathaniel Taleon

Reyna Ambriz  
Ryan Digman  
Sarah Yang  
Shirley Chan  
Stefanie Callori  
Wesley Roberson

### WESTED STAFF PRESENT

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Angela McGuire  
Ross Adams

Jennifer Driver

Rebecca Halpern

### OTHERS PRESENT

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Alexandria Green  
Ana Elvia Sanchez  
Ana Barranco  
Andrea-Lisa King  
Angie Luu  
Ardena Bartlett  
Arezou Salamat  
Benita Shaw  
Bonnie Boek  
Breanna Gatti  
Brenda Gonzales  
Carrie McKiddie  
Cathy Hickenbotham  
Cecilia Rideout  
Cindy Jimenez  
Crystal Perez  
Debbie Gibson  
Diana Dominguez  
Dulce Flores  
Elisa Hill  
Ericka Bermudez  
Erica Snell

Eulalia Apolinar  
Gary Simon  
Gina Stabile  
Hannah Michaelson  
Hillary Martinez  
Janice Hinton  
Jacqui Knudsen  
Jennifer Bloom  
Johana Caicedo  
Karen Harrison  
Kathryn Sinelli  
Kel Avila  
Kim Pierce  
Kiara Lopez  
LaWanna Blair  
Leah Weichel  
Linda Thrift  
Lisa Hooks  
Lowell Ens  
Mahnaz Ehsan  
Marc Gutierrez  
Margaret Gillis

Martha Ornelas-Cruz  
Matt Chesnut  
Melanee Cottrill  
Niaisha Gonzalez  
Nick Lutton  
Olivia Hinojosa  
Patricia Roth  
Paula DiMuro  
Rachel Edwards  
Randy Olson  
Sarah Costa  
Sarah Franco  
Sarah Ramos  
Stephanie Gomez  
Suada Sergio  
Sue Digre  
Tamica Fouts-Rachal  
Teresa Anderson  
Thao Tran  
Tumboura Hill  
Victoria Berrey



**MEETING ATTENDEES**  
**Friday, October 19, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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Maricris Acon	Richard Olney	Susan Ducore
Marie Poulsen	Sarah Neville-Morgan	Suzanne Sherinian

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

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Ashley Franklin	Leanne Wheeler	Pamela Riley
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Jazmine Blackman	Samantha Hebermehl	Wendy Morrison
June Ursini	Scott Turner	
Kathy Angkustsiri	Sheri Rosen	

**DDS STAFF PRESENT**

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Amy Wall	John Knight	Norma Salazar
Anne De Medeiros	Juliana Margil	Omari Smith



Catherine Schulze  
Cristina Tsuji  
DJ Tomko  
Erin Brady  
Hilda Jimenez  
JJ Fernandez

Lauren Libero  
Lisa Gonzales  
Marcy Okada  
Matthew Harmetz  
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Nathaniel Taleon

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Stefanie Callori  
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Ross Adams

Jennifer Driver

Rebecca Halpern

### OTHERS PRESENT

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Alejandra Serrano  
Alexis Bermudes  
Ana Elvia Sanchez  
Angie Luu  
Ardena Bartlett  
Arezou Salamat  
Benita Shaw  
Breanna Gatti  
Cathy Hickenbotham  
Cecilia Rideout  
Christopher Yager  
Crystal Perez  
Dulce Flores  
Elizabeth Vega  
Emani Shelton

Flor Parra Morales  
Flora Martinez  
Gary Simon  
Gina Stabile  
Hannah Michaelson  
Hillary Martinez  
Janice Hinton  
Jacqui Knudsen  
Jennifer Bloom  
Kathy Liang  
Katharyn Sinelli  
Kel Avila  
LaWanna Blair  
Leah Weichel  
Linda Thrift

Mahnaz Ehsan  
Margaret Crawford  
Margaret Gillis  
Matthew Harmetz  
Melanee Cottrill  
Nick Lutton  
Olivia Hinojosa  
Rachel Edwards  
Sarah Franco  
Sarah Ramos  
Savannah Endres  
Suada Sergio  
Sue Digre  
Tamica Fouts-Rachal  
Tumboura Hill

