

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Friday, January 19, 2024
In-Person Meeting (with Zoom Option)
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Dr. Poulsen thanked DDS, WestEd, and Alta Regional Center for supporting the meeting.

Housekeeping Items

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

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme

This month's theme is Family Guided Early Intervention.

Review of Previous Day's Agenda

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

Presentation – Engaging and Supporting Families in Early Intervention Services

Yvette Baptiste, Executive Director of the Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center and Chair of the Family Resource Centers Network of California

This presentation invited the ICC to reflect on what is needed to ensure parents are full partners in intervention practices.

Dr. Baptiste described two components of effective family engagement: trust and vulnerability. She noted that trust requires vulnerability, and shared Dr. Brene Brown's video framing vulnerability as courageous. Dr. Baptiste also proposed that partnership requires equality and shared obligations; she shared a number of strategies for developing effective partnerships.

Questions and comments from participants:

- Nancy Grosz Sager commented that many Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) families do not always feel supported by family resource centers (FRC), and wondered how to improve that perception.
 - Dr. Baptiste noted that funding for FRCs to hire appropriately trained staff to serve families of children with low-incidence disabilities such as hearing loss is inadequate; capacity needs to increase to improve outcomes overall.
 - Victoria Berrey, from Family Focus Resource Center, shared information about a project that specifically helps families who did not get a newborn hearing screening; its success has been based on being able to get funding for sign language experts.
 - Diane Storman, Family Resource Center Network of California, shared her successes with working with families whose children are DHH and establishing trust with them.
 - Robert Bertine, Family Resource Center Network of California, goal of the presentation was to provide solutions and skills and processes for case management.
- Michelle Oliver, Community Representative, acknowledged the need for constant reminders of relationship-building and suggested that the same principles are required for coaching. She suggested ARPA funds go toward ongoing training on coaching and relationship-building with families. She encouraged everyone to try reaching out to county programs to support families of children who are DHH. She asked whether there is still funding for a DHH support person at regional centers.
- Marty Omoto, Father and sibling of family members with developmental disabilities, agreed that there is a need for regular reminders of partnership-building skills, particularly around vulnerability. Mr. Omoto shared personal experiences with needing that trust when advocating for his own son and sister.

- Samantha Hebermehl, Parent Representative, shared a parent's perspective of how exhausting it is to have to be vulnerable, and how violating it feels to have your own expertise of your child questioned.
- Julie Rems-Smario, California School for the Deaf Representative, commented to emphasize the importance of language services and noted that many Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DHH) children are not receiving those services.
- Jacqui Knudsen, Family Resource Center Network of California, went on to share information about an ARPA pilot project to increase parent awareness and participation in the ICC through outreach, recruitment, and incentives. This is crucial to develop true partnerships with parents in state and local advocacy work. There will be participants from this project at the April's 2024 ICC meeting.
- Victoria Berrey, Director of the Family Focus Resource Center, shared an effort to convene a local group of parents in Antelope Valley to become more involved in FRCs and ICC work.

****BREAK****

Video: Family Testimonials and Stories – DJ Tomko, DDS

DJ Tomko shared a video from San Diego Regional Center portraying family experiences with the regional center as a result of targeted outreach activities to provide information and access to Early Start for non-English speaking families.

Comments from participants:

- Pablo Velez reminded the group to use culturally appropriate practices and approaches within the child find system.
- Patty Moore, parent and Director for Help Me Grow, agreed that how Early Start professionals communicate and respond within child find efforts is so important to families. Yvette Baptiste added on to the last two comments about the impact of outreach efforts
- Yvette Baptiste, reiterated the support for rethinking how to do outreach.

ICC Council Reports

Department of Social Services – Ashley Franklin

Ms. Franklin was not present.

California Department of Education (CDE), Homeless Education – Karmina Barrales

Ms. Barrales shared that CDE is in a new cycle of Education for Homeless Children and Youth grants to support McKinney-Vento Act. A Request for Applications was announced in November 2023, and they are due March 7, 2024. Applications were sent to districts and county offices of education to support connecting educational services to unhoused populations. Through ARPA funds, there was money set aside to fund homeless education technical assistance centers (HETAC) within three county offices. CDE and HETAC will be hosting the Statewide Homeless Education Conference from May 8–10, 2024, in San Diego.

Head Start Agency – Michelle Dove

Ms. Dove shared that Head Start recently released a notice of proposed rulemaking on changes to performance standards. The proposed revisions include a request for clearer federal requirements on wages and benefits, better integration of mental health into all levels of programming, and enhanced standards in other service areas to promote quality improvement (e.g., caseloads, promoting child safety, testing for lead in water and paint at facilities). Head Start also wants to identify barriers to program attendance.

Ms. Dove also shared that there are concerns about under-enrollment in Head Start and encourage continued partnership with Early Start for identification and screening.

Department of Health Care Services – Pamela Riley

Ms. Riley was not present.

Department of Public Health (DPH) – Richard Olney

Mr. Olney was not present.

Department of Social Services (CDSS) – Shanice Orum

Ms. Orum reported that the Community Care Licensing programs have the capacity to serve over one million children in homes and childcare centers with over 21 regional offices across the state and over 400 staff. CDSS recently put on an event to engage licensees and families to promote inclusive settings and environments. They are working to implement a key piece of legislation, AB 605, that allows more flexibility for licensees to better address child needs. CDSS is also working on implementing AB 2827, which allows the department to write directives for children with exceptional needs to use the same outdoor play spaces as non-disabled children without a special waiver.

- Michelle Oliver wondered if a childcare setting is on a school campus, are districts still not allowing joint use of a playground?
 - Ms. Orum answered that this is specific to the district to understand why they are disallowing this and who has oversight authority. Written directives are needed and are being developed.
- Edyth Gallardo asked if there will be consideration for assisting with funding for specialized equipment on shared playgrounds?
 - Ms. Orum reported there was some funding released for those purposes.
 - Alberto Orellana agreed and believes that LEAs will release some money for renovation funds. The Childcare Development Division has a renovation and repair grant available.

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) – Nancy Bargmann

Ms. Bargmann provided an overview of the Governor's proposed budget, including:

- overall increases to support higher caseloads,
- the projected growth in caseloads due to provisional eligibility,
- a proposed change to the implementation date of the provider rate reform.

Ms. Bargmann also shared updates regarding the development of an external-facing provider directory, funding for access to social recreation and camping, and training stipends for direct service providers.

Finally, Ms. Bargmann announced that the development of a DDS Master Plan is underway.

Questions and comments:

- Yvette Baptiste remarked that developing a master plan is very difficult and that the FRCs will be available to assist in any way.
- Pablo Velez commented on the continued increase of cost of living in California and the difficulty of hiring qualified service providers. He encouraged DDS to remember this when negotiating budgets and master plans.

- Fran Chasen shared concerns about delays in master planning because funding for providers is not available, especially as caseloads rise.
- Marty Omoto reminded the ICC that the budget undergoes a series of steps before approval, so things can and likely will change before May.

Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) – Suzanne Sherinian

Ms. Sherinian shared some examples of how DMHC assists families in accessing the care they need and reminded the ICC that they are there to handle consumer-provider complaints. DMHC launched a new website (<https://www.dmhc.ca.gov/>) designed to improve user experience, making it easier and more accessible to file complaints.

California Department of Education (CDE) – Alberto Orellana

Mr. Orellana shared that CDE offers a Supporting Inclusive Practices grant to increase opportunities for students with disabilities ages 3-22 to meaningfully participate in the least restrictive environment. The grant provides training, website, and technical assistance to LEAs.

CDE also received funding to develop parent-friendly resources around the transition process.

- Patty Moore asked how CDE will be collaborating with local communities to develop the parent-friendly resources.
 - Mr. Orellana shared that having this resource in multiple languages is the goal, and community collaboration is the first step in the development of this resource.

Indian Health Services (IHS) – Susan Ducore

Ms. Ducore announced the [healthcare best practices conference](#) and sought input from providers. The conference will be held May 20-23, 2024 in Sacramento and is the first face-to-face gathering since COVID.

Committee Reports and Approval for Projects

Improving State Systems Committee – Fran Chasen

Ms. Chasen shared updates from the three workgroups of the Improving State Systems Committee:

- Children and Families is a work in progress with a goal to develop a survey for parents to address systems issues.
- Laws and Regulations is making a suggestion to the chair that a variety of presentations might be considered (e.g., information regarding the Early and Periodic Screening, Detection, and Treatment program, children with low-incidence disabilities, outreach to consumer affairs licensing process, and information related to waivers).
- Regional Centers and Vendors group requested approval of a recommendation to move forward with revising the Early Start Personnel Manual. Michelle Dove so moved, and Susan Ducore seconded the motion. Roll call was performed to confirm approval. The recommendation was approved.

An interim meeting of the Improving State Systems committee will be held on February 27, 2024 to fine tune priorities.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Doug Erber

Mr. Erber, Parent representing Development Association and serving as Co-Chair of the Communications Outreach Committee, requested approval of the Committee's three goals: to increase diversity and representation on ICC by disseminating a survey, to develop a dissemination plan for the Darby's Legacy resource, and to develop orientation materials and a mentorship program for new ICC members.

Michelle Dove so moved; Susan Ducore seconded. Roll call was conducted to vote. The request was approved.

Public Input

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Lisa Schoyer advocated for adding crisis prevention planning to IFSPs.

Kathy Hickenbotham asked: When it comes to testing newborn babies' blood at certain intervals, is private insurance required? Is there any follow up on blood tests for lead? Is this something that comes up in Early Start?

Approval of 2024 ICC meeting dates

Dr. Poulsen proposed a motion to approve the following future ICC meetings dates: April 18-19, 2024; August 1-2, 2024; October 17-18, 2024; and January 16-17, 2025. Maricris Acon so moved, and the motion was seconded by Doug Erber. Roll call was conducted for approval. The dates were approved.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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