

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Friday, April 19, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:06 p.m.

Link to Recording: [Friday, April 19 Zoom Recording](#)

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Dr. Poulsen thanked DDS and WestEd 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 All About Language.

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](#).

ICC Council Reports

Department of Social Services – Ashley Franklin

Ms. Franklin was not present.

California Department of Education, Homeless Division – Leanne Wheeler

Ms. Wheeler was not present.

Head Start Agency – Michelle Dove

Ms. Dove was not present.

Department of Health Care Services – Pamela Riley

Ms. Riley was not present.

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

Ms. Neville-Morgan was not present.

Department of Public Health (DPH) – Richard Olney

Mr. Olney was not present.

Department of Social Services (CDSS) – Shanice Orum

Ms. Orum was present, but no report was given.

California Department of Education (CDE) – Alberto Orellana

Mr. Orellana was not present.

Indian Health Services (IHS) – Susan Ducore

Ms. Ducore was not present.

Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) – Suzanne Sherinian

Ms. Sherinian reported that DMHC is looking at proposed new legislation involving health care. [AB 3260](#) sets a deadline for grievance resolution. New regulations were issued implementing [SB 855](#), which requires mental health substance use disorder coverage to require plans to have an adequate network of substance use providers within time and geographic standards. Ms. Sherinian anticipated publishing the annual report for 2023. If any ICC members would like a Department member to speak to staff, Ms. Sherinian is happy to coordinate a speaker.

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) – Nancy Bargmann

Ms. Bargmann presented on the Master Plan for Developmental Services. The vision for the Master Plan is to improve services both inside and outside of DDS by looking at individuals and families using a “whole-person” approach. The Plan will consider other public programs and agencies that provide services to individuals who are served by the regional centers, such as MediCal and CDE. A committee of 37 members of self-advocates and family members is helping to prioritize needs for equity, inclusion, and access. The committee report is expected in March of 2025. The committee meets monthly in person with virtual options. Roundtables and focus groups will happen for ICC stakeholders.

Ms. Bargmann mentioned that DDS worked with Secretary Ghaly (California Health and Human Services) to address increased numbers of individuals being served by regional

centers due to eligibility changes to identify 3- and 4-year-olds. She reviewed a number of new initiatives and programs that have increased access and equity.

Ms. Bargmann also reported that standardizing the vendorization process across regional centers is a priority and there is more to come on this topic. A state-level directory and incentive programs will be part of this priority.

Finally, Ms. Bargmann announced a public meeting on April 25, 2024 to review the standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP) template. Once the standardized IPP is established, the next task will be to do the same for the IFSP. Ms. Bargmann said that the Department wants ICC participation in the review of a standardized IFSP template.

Questions and comments:

- Marty Omoto asked, can ICC be part of a community engagement meeting for the Master Plan? Can there be a subcommittee of the Master Plan focusing on Early Start and young children?
 - Ms. Bargmann responded that she will take these recommendations back to the internal team and will follow up with Dr. Poulsen on how to best integrate ICC input.
- Patty Salcedo mentioned the need for inclusion of children with multiple disabilities and low-incidence disabilities.
- Yvette Baptiste asked how provisional eligibility is working. Regional centers don't seem to have enough guidance from DDS about how to manage that.
 - Ms. Bargmann clarified that provisional eligibility does allow for authorizing services, not only monitoring. She reiterated that 3- and 4-year-olds are Lanterman-eligible under provisional eligibility.
- Dr. Poulsen asked that anyone who wants to participate in the Master Plan focus groups to email her.

****BREAK****

Presentation – Prelinguistic Development

Anne Davis, MS, CCC-SLP, Professional Child Development Associates

The focus of the presentation was on prelinguistic development to “break open” the idea of how language develops. The infant brain develops in response to what it experiences. What do we do when a child is not responding in the way we expect them to? Language is an ability, not a skill; thought and language are built on sensory experiences. First spoken words are not the beginning of communication, and non-speaking is not the same as non-verbal. Reinforcing spontaneous behaviors helps develop the intrinsic desire to communicate.

Ms. Davis reviewed and described the DIR approach and introduced Functional Emotional Developmental Capacities (FEDC).

- Apple Sepulveda asked, what are your thoughts about regional centers denying speech therapy services under the age of 15 months because they are not cognitively ready for speech? Could the ICC think about whether there should be a change of when speech therapy should start?
 - Ms. Davis replied that the Hanen program supports parents' understanding of speech development. Children need to be ready for the services to benefit from them. Ideally, all early intervention providers would consult with speech and language development specialists. She pushed back on how "cognitive age" is measured; 18 months used to be the threshold because of the "first word milestone", but she noted we are moving away from that way of thinking. There is no state or federal guidance preventing provision of language services at any age.
- A parent at ELAFRC asked, at what age can I ask for these services and specifically what type of therapy do I have to ask for? The parent referred to their son, who is about to turn 5 years and has just a few words.
 - Ms. Davis replied: The parent may seek services now and should ask at her son's school. She suggested meeting with the therapist, explaining concerns, and asking how the parents can support their son at home. She also advised that some insurance providers may provide extra services if medically indicated.
- A parent at ELAFRC asked about her 10-year-old daughter who can repeat things heard (in videos, for instance) but cannot establish a conversation. Is it good for her to be repeating the same thing?
 - Ms. Davis answered: Does she repeat as she's watching (videos) or after? There isn't one answer for this. If the child gets on a loop that's difficult to interrupt, that could be helpful to work on. She suggested paying attention to the emotion in the video and what part she is repeating to better learn what is important and interesting to the child.

Committee Reports and Approval for Projects

Improving State Systems Committee – Robin Millar

The Committee meeting looked at the eight identified priorities and started identifying actions for the committee. The first priority of the Committee is finding ways to fiscally support Early Start direct service providers to deal with cancellations and absenteeism by families.

The Committee also intends to send out a previously developed survey to get feedback from stakeholders about system challenges.

- Question from Maricris Acon: Is the rate of cancellations by the family much higher than typical pre-COVID?
 - Ms. Millar responded: Many providers are reporting a higher rate of cancellations, sometimes as high as 35%. She also said that data based on e-billing is still needed.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Robert Rochin

The Committee has successfully finalized a comprehensive, inclusive survey to inform the recruitment and outreach efforts of ICC to achieve and enhance diverse representation. The intent of the survey is to get a snapshot of where we are and where we need to go. DDS will oversee distributing the survey to current ICC members and community representatives.

Additionally, the Committee is focusing on developing an outreach plan to disseminate Early Start resources.

Public Input

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Elise Holder, parent in Central Coast, shared a story of how impactful Early Start services have been for her daughter with Down Syndrome. Early intervention and dedicated, tailored therapies have set up her daughter for success.

Patty Moore with Help Me Grow Santa Barbara urged a discussion around addressing natural environments as we continue to provide services to families post-COVID.

Samantha Hebermehl, parent representative, thanked ELAFRC for encouraging parents to join the ICC meeting. She asked whether the next ICC meeting will be held hybrid or online.

Robin Millar thanked DDS and the ICC chair for setting up this month's learning opportunity about language. She asked if the chat will be available as there was a lot of information shared there.

Yvette Baptiste thanked the parents at ELAFRC for participating in the ICC "watch party" and the ICC for allowing the opportunity for increased parent participation.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS EXCUSED

MEMBERS ABSENT

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABSENT

DDS

WESTED

OTHERS PRESENT

*Parent