

## **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention**

**Friday, August 2, 2024**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Link to Recording:** [Friday, August 2 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 quarter's theme is Early Access.

### **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 Developmental Services – Maricris Acon***

Ms. Acon provided an update on the US Department of Education's determination based on the state performance plan/annual performance report (SPP/APR). California received its determination in July and was downgraded in rating. The determination will be posted on the website shortly. One area of focus is the need to capture data on exit metrics.

DDS is working on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). SRI International is a subcontractor that is supporting these efforts, and three different advisory and constituency groups are contributing to the SSIP.

DDS received funding to reduce service coordinator caseloads. Caseloads are being tracked to ensure no coordinator has more than 40 Early Start cases, though the current average is closer to 54. Ms. Acon provided demographic statistics on caseloads and referrals and an overview of data completion rates for regional centers.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) pilots and projects will conclude in November 2024. One project that was funded was an interactive map to help families see all resources in their community available to help with transition from Early Start.

Ms. Acon provided a summary of the Early Start Partners Symposium in July in Berkeley, CA. Highlights included Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Director Valerie Williams as a keynote speaker, a panel of adults with disabilities who shared their experiences with the disability service system, and a new addition of a Service Coordinator Day held the day before the ESPS.

DDS was awarded an OSEP Part C grant amount of over \$57 million.

- Yvette Baptiste asked about the issues that led to a downgraded rating.
  - Ms. Acon explained that the determination downgrade was largely related to data collection, especially child outcomes exit data.
- Patty Moore asked whether the data reflect numbers of children who transition to Part B whose status is unknown.
  - Ms. Acon answered that there is a different data metric for transition, which California scored well on.
  - As a follow-up, Patty asked if the state is confident that timely transition takes place when there is still undetermined eligibility for Part B. Ms. Acon explained that exit outcomes do not impact timely transition or Early Start services. Patty again asked whether there are any mechanisms in place to track what happens with those children once they leave Early Start. Ms. Acon replied that this data comes from CDE, which DDS has a partnership with, but will take some time to analyze because CDE and DDS use different data processes.
- Patty Moore asked about the interactive map and how it can be accessed.
  - DJ Tomko answered that the demo is not yet open to the public as it is being refined. It is targeted to be released on the DDS website at the end of the month.

***California Department of Education, Special Education Division – Alberto Orellana***

In June, CDE and DDS conducted a webinar on strategies to support children and families as they transition from Part C to Part B. Once it is ready to be shared publicly, it will be on the DDS website.

CDE was granted \$700,000 in consultation with DDS to develop parent-friendly resources for families transitioning from Part C to Part B: a video, partly funded by a CalECSE grant, and a parent-friendly resource guide being developed by WestEd.

CDE launched a technical assistance website (CALTAN) with various partners to provide transition resources. Mr. Orellana promoted the family empowerment centers

(FECs) in California and a database for families to find FECs at Seeds of Partnership and CDE Parent Organizations sites.

- Yvette Baptiste asked how CDE is ensuring smooth transitions.
  - Mr. Orellana explained that many of the initiatives he talked about are intended to do just that. There are interagency agreements with DDS about monitoring DDS and LEA data. Partnership requires timely referrals from regional centers.
- Fran Chasen asked if CDE is acknowledging the 25% eligibility for Early Start.
  - Mr. Orellana answered that the eligibility criteria for the Early Start program does not apply to eligibility for services provided through LEA programs governed by CDE; however, some LEAs are adhering to the 25% eligibility through local agreements. LEA programs are held to the 33% eligibility requirement for services.

### ***Department of Social Services – Suada Sergio***

DSS recently released two provider information notices (PINs):

- [PIN 2410](#) regarding child abuse prevention and awareness.
- [PIN 2411](#) about guardian training and background check processes with accompanying webinars.

The next upcoming provider webinar is September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 pm, and more information will be available in an upcoming PIN.

Ms. Sergio provided statistics on newly licensed facilities and provided updates on staffing changes.

- Yvette Baptiste asked for an update on any childcare slots and access for children with disabilities to full day slots and appropriately trained staff.
  - Ms. Sergio did not have those details available but will follow up.
- Lisa Schoyer asked about the reach for 10% ratio in Head Start/Early Head Start programs.
  - Ms. Sergio replied that she does not have that information but will follow up.
- Pablo Velez asked how service provider licensure and regulation is occurring for independent service providers who may be discriminating against specific disabilities.
  - Ms. Sergio was saddened to hear that these barriers are happening and encourages everyone to report these cases to the department.

### ***Indian Health Care – Susan Ducore***

Ms. Ducore continued to recognize challenges in screening and referrals. As a response to that, Season Goodpasture presented at the Provider Best Practices conference to raise visibility of Early Start services.

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

The Department's mission is to ensure consumer healthcare rights. DMHC has its 2023 [annual report](#) available. Some work includes improving mental health care delivery with Kaiser and assessed its highest overall fines for providers not in compliance.

***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.

**Presentation: Provisional Eligibility Questions and Answers**

***Marcy Okada, DDS; Kiara Lopez and Laschell Miles, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center***

The presenters provided an overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the regional center system in California. They described Early Start eligibility standards and available services as well as eligibility for services under the Lanterman Act. Lanterman Act services provided through provisional eligibility are intended to bridge the gap for those exiting Early Start services. The presenters described provisional eligibility criteria within Lanterman eligibility with the goal of minimizing necessary assessments and facilitating more services through age five.

Kiara Lopez shared outreach strategies used by SCLARC to increase referrals for provisional eligibility.

Laschell Miles described the provisional eligibility process.

- Hanna Michaelson asked if SCLARC housed the provisional eligibility cases in Early Start or in a different unit?
  - Ms. Miles answered they are in the Status U Children's Unit and held there until they are 90 days before turning 5.
- An anonymous attendee asked if any of those provisional kids are under age 3 and are still receiving Early Start services?
  - Ms. Miles answered that after 3 years old, those services stop and go to a different unit where they are eligible for Lanterman services.
- Mika Harris asked how provisional eligibility is being assessed younger in Early Start cases, such as age one year or 18 months, in a way that it differs from a child eligible under Early Start. She also asked whether the children's units are then having 1:40 caseloads?
  - Ms. Miles answered they are under normal Early Start at that age. Provisional eligibility begins during transition out of Early Start. Caseloads are maintained at 1:40 or under.
- Yvette Baptiste noted that DDS and regional centers need to be clearer with families about this program.
  - Ms. Miles mentioned that SCLARC helps monitor and navigate services through the school system and health insurance.
- An anonymous attendee asked how to ensure that an assessment has been conducted in a timely manner (i.e., no later than 90 days prior to the third birthday) if a child is not being referred until 90 days prior to the third birthday?
  - Ms. Miles answered SCLARC monitors cases these cases so there is time to receive an assessment and get some benefits of provisional eligibility.

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

## **Committee Reports and Approval for Projects**

### ***Improving State Systems Committee – Fran Chasen***

The Improving State Systems Committee is looking to address concerns within the implementation of the Early Start system. The Committee's two priorities are: 1. Add to the ICC chair's growing list of presentation options and request an update on Early Start monitoring; 2. Conduct a survey, in partnership with the FRNCA, to get input from families and caregivers related to challenges that resulted from COVID-19. On behalf of the committee, Ms. Chasen asked the Council to approve the survey and requested help in the distribution of that survey. The survey is intended to get background information about how families are or are not being supported.

Suzanne Sherinian moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Doug Erber. Council members voted on approval of dissemination of survey. The motion was passed by the Council.

The Systems Committee also reviewed Master Plan documents and came up with several areas to consider in their discussions, such as equal access to services across the state and pathways for transition.

### ***Communications and Outreach Committee – Doug Erber***

The Communications committee held an interim meeting on July 11 to work on finalizing the survey to enhance the diverse representation of the ICC. Another interim meeting on August 29 is scheduled to finalize the survey with plans to distribute it in early September. The committee hopes to present the results at the October ICC meeting.

The Communications committee also discussed DDS Master Plan workgroup representation. Mr. Erber announced the resignation of the co-chair and extended an invitation to fill that role.

Future work of the committee will include complying with a new Federal rule that websites and digital content must be compliant with Section 508 to ensure all communications are accessible.

Fran Chasen suggested a coordination of survey distribution so as not to overwhelm participants. Mr. Erber agreed.

### **Public Input**

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Nelva Salgado, parent representative, thanked the Council for giving parents this space for learning about resources and networking with other families. With this help, her daughter has been able to get services she needs.

Samantha Hebermehl asked for the location for the next ICC meeting. DJ Tomko answered that the location has not yet been decided. DDS is looking for a location that can support a hybrid environment. As soon as it is determined, everyone will be notified.

Tony Anderson shared that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) held a Partners in Policymaking event with Patty Moore and graduated 80 self-advocates and parents ready to advocate for disability issues.

Janis Connallon, director of Family Voices of California, thanked the meeting organizers and applauded the great work of Patty Moore and Yvette Baptiste to alleviate referral and transition issues. Ms. Connallon stated interest in contributing to parent participation on the ICC.

### **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