

**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2024**  
**San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center and Zoom Conference Call**  
**Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Link to Zoom Recording:** [Thursday, October 17 Zoom Recording](#)

**Opening**

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Dr. Poulsen expressed gratitude for all council members, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), WestEd, and community members for their attendance.

**Housekeeping Items**

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

**Roll Call**

The roll call of appointed members was conducted by DJ Tomko.

**Review Agenda**

Dr. Poulsen reviewed the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve by Doug Erber. Seconded by Susan Ducore. Motion passed.

**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.

**Announcements and Updates from ICC Chair**

Dr. Poulsen invited ICC members to join one of five Master Plan Work Groups that is relevant to them. Dr. Poulsen presented five preliminary issues that have come up from these work groups.

Dr. Poulsen announced Leanne Wheeler's departure from California Department of Education (CDE) to become an associate director of [the National Center for Homeless Education](#). Karen Cheng will be the designee from CDE following Ms. Wheeler's departure.

Finally, Dr. Poulsen observed that the Inclusive Education Expansion Program has grown to include several more school districts throughout the state.

**Part C Literacy**

[Child Find Self-Assessment: Section II Best Practices](#) by OSEP

OSEP, with the collaboration and support of several national TA centers, developed a voluntary self-assessment tool to assist states in meeting regulations and implementing best practices related to child find. Dr. Poulsen highlighted a few of the best practices that resonated with her.

### **Family Testimonial – Silvia Torrico, Parent at San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center**

Ms. Torrico is the mother of Evelyn, who qualified for early intervention at two years old through an evaluation at the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center. A teacher encouraged Ms. Torrico to take Evelyn for evaluation, Evelyn was eventually diagnosed with autism and approved for behavioral, occupational, and speech therapy. The regional center referred Ms. Torrico to Parents Place Family Resource Center, which Ms. Torrico credits with her ability to support Evelyn's progress and growth. At age four, Evelyn was able to begin some general education classes with her peers and continued to receive services through the regional center. Though Evelyn continued to struggle with peers, the regional center and FRC services assisted Ms. Torrico and Evelyn's development, resulting in Evelyn's maintaining a 3.8 GPA throughout high school and living an independent and fulfilling adulthood.

- Ardina Bartlett, parent representative, thanked Silvia for her story and echoed the need for a village, of which the RCs and FRCs are a big part .
- Robin Millar, community representative, thanked Silvia and Ardina for sharing their stories.
- Families at ELARC thanked regional centers for all their support and sources of inspiration from these family stories.
- Samantha Hebermehl, parent representative, shared a Māori word, *takiwatanga*, to describe autism as “in his/her own time and space.” She acknowledged how much effort it takes for children to become successful and wished for a better way to close the gaps children experience.

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

### **Transition Guide Update – Jennifer Driver, WestEd**

Ms. Driver shared key changes and updates and clarified the request for input for *The Guide to Effective Childhood Transition* (the “Transition Guide” or just “The Guide”). The Guide was last published in 2013, and needed revisions to address regulatory and procedural changes, to align visually with other professional development resources, and to include other transition-related resources developed about transition.

The revision process included identifying needed edits, engaging a writing team of content experts, multiple rounds of review from CDE and DDS, and mocking up the content for accessibility. The revision is currently in the stage of getting ICC review and input, and the next step is to finalize and publish the resource as a standalone guide and as a resource to the Service Coordination Handbook Chapter 8 by October 31, 2024.

Ms. Driver provided a summary of changes:

- Content changes were driven by guidance from OSEP around notification and referral, the establishment of provisional eligibility, and recently implemented requirements for assessment for Lanterman services.

Organization and design changes better aligned the Guide with the *Transition from Early Start* online course, separated some sections and combined others, and updated the design to align with the *Service Coordination Handbook*.

Ms. Driver clarified that because the content and design have already been extensively reviewed by DDS and CDE, the only comments about the Transition Guide requested from ICC are “fatal errors” such as incomplete or incorrect summaries of regulations or legal citations or glaring omissions from statewide required policies or procedures. All edits or comments should be sent to Ms. Driver by October 25, 2024 at

[jdriver@wested.org](mailto:jdriver@wested.org)

- Yvette Baptiste asked if referrals to FRCs are included in the guide?
  - Ms. Driver answered that these referrals are mentioned in the Guide to be conducted at intake but will need to follow-up to verify full alignment to the regulatory requirement.
- Ms. Baptiste asked Dr. Poulsen and Doug Erber to encourage families who are transitioning to Lanterman services to think about their goals as early as possible.
- Lisa Schoyer shared concern about the length of this Guide for service providers and wondered if it is possible to provide an abridged version.
  - Ms. Driver explained this resource is for service coordinators and must contain legal and regulatory information that is difficult to pare down. Only 30 pages are the regulations and guidelines, the rest includes resources like fillable forms and useful tools for service coordinators.
- Ardina Bartlett asked if there’s anywhere in the document that talks about appeals or advocacy processes. Ms. Bartlett also agrees with the need for a “cheat sheet” or summary version.
  - Ms. Driver explained because this resource focuses on transition, there is not information about the appeals process. She also advised that there is a family-friendly resource being developed.
- Michelle Oliver requested clarity in “The Guide” around transition conferences. Ms. Oliver confirmed that the option for families to decline the transition conference still requires the service coordinator to conduct it. Ms. Oliver also asked for clarification on some terminology between required and recommended timelines, which Ms. Driver clarified. Ms. Oliver referenced a one-page resource guide developed by San Andreas Regional Center.
- Angela McGuire assured Ms. Baptiste and FRC colleagues that a package of updates was submitted to DDS about referrals to FRCs in a variety of professional resources WestEd develops. Ms. McGuire also reiterated that “The Guide” will be included as an resource to chapter eight of the *Service Coordination Handbook* related to transition conferences as a service coordinator responsibility. She also advised that there are chapters in the *Service*

*Coordination Handbook* dedicated to procedural safeguards and the appeals process.

## **ICC Council Reports**

### ***Department of Developmental Services – Anne De Medeiros***

Ms. De Medeiros shared the following updates:

- DDS administration selected Pete Cervinka as the acting director for DDS following Nancy Bargmann's retirement. Kim Johnson is the new Health and Human Services Agency Secretary following Mark Ghaly's retirement.
- SSIP updates: Advisory groups and constituency groups have been meeting and developing a new SSIP plan.
- Family Outcomes Survey: The annual survey was sent on October 7 and to date has received over 100 responses. Send questions to Hope Beale at [Hope.Beale@dds.ca.gov](mailto:Hope.Beale@dds.ca.gov)
- ARPA updates: Supplemental Part C funding was granted to increase service access and equity in early start and improving transition services. Some of the projects funded by these ARPA funds included the Transition Guide update and an Interactive Map to find information on early childhood and transition resources.

### ***California Department of Education, Early Childhood Support Unit – Alberto Orellana***

Mr. Orellana provided the following updates:

- Parent Transition Workbook: Stakeholder representatives have been convened to provide input on the development of a statewide resource for families with children who are transitioning from Part C to Part B. This workbook is different from the professional guide as it is parent-friendly and informed by parent stakeholders. Next meetings are November 7, 12-1:30; December 5, 12-1:30; , and late January/early February, time TBA. The goal is to have workbook finalized by May 21, 2025.
- Impact Inclusion Workgroup: Stakeholders from different CDE departments, local representatives, regional centers, tribal childcare centers, parents, technical assistance providers, and institutes of higher education share challenges, barriers, and best practices for inclusion of children with exceptional needs in early learning and care settings.
- California Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten Learning Foundations: This resource for early education and childcare providers introduces and describes the knowledge and skills that most children need to have acquired between the ages of three and five, and provides guidance about the development and implementation of high quality programs.

Questions:

- Elena Bramble asked how to participate in the workgroup? Mr. Arellano explained that WestEd sent invitations and the membership was set.
- Erica Whitt also shared interest in participating.
  - Interested parties are encouraged to email Jennifer Driver at [jdriver@wested.org](mailto:jdriver@wested.org)

### ***Head Start – Michelle Dove***

Head Start is receiving new performance standards that are giving updated guidance on the workforce, mental health, and other areas to support staff workloads.

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

Ms. Sergio shared that the Department reviewed a statute that requires licensed childcare centers to test their water for lead contamination every five years. The Department has been awarded over \$8 million to test drinking water in priority childcare centers across the state. Recently received additional \$5.3 million to fund lead testing and remediation, available through March 2027.

California legislature recently passed AB 2317, which requires social services to establish a policy for childcare personnel to develop procedures for during a medical emergency resulting from anaphylaxis.

Questions:

- Yvette Baptiste asked if there is any information available about the funding for lead remediation that can be distributed to community providers?
  - There is not at this time but it would be useful.

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

No updates at this time.

### ***Department of Managed Health Care - Suzanne Sherinian***

Ms. Sherinian shared two actions DMHC has taken to hold insurance plans accountable.

- Improvement to LA Care operations to ensure timely access to medically necessary health care services.
- Fined Anthem Blue Cross of CA a total \$8.5 million for failing to address claims payment disputes, which has now committed to a corrective action plan.

Ms. Sherinian also announced the DMHC partnership with [Health Consumer Alliance](#), a network of 10 consumer assistance programs. The department provides legal aid

organizations with grants to provide free legal assistance to individuals who need help accessing healthcare.

## **Voices from the Field**

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

Ms. Chasen asked all program providers in attendance if they've submitted their data to the state directory that's being developed and is close to completion. Directory data will be used to inform the 10% change in rate setting. Ms. Chasen encouraged ICC members to participate in Master Plan workgroups.

Ms. Chasen announced that January 21 is the virtual 10<sup>th</sup> annual IDA policy update. February 24<sup>th</sup> is Vivian Weinstein Leadership Day at the California Endowment on current research in various disciplines.

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

Mr. Omoto announced the full implementation of regional center-funded provider rate reform goes into effect January 1. It is important ICC reviews those directives and the impact on people served and providers. He encouraged ICC to invite those providers and families to speak about how the new rate implementation is working.

- ***Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) – Ana Seda***

Ms. Seda shared the conclusion of a 2-day virtual training on standards of quality for family strengthening. FRCNCA is looking into implementing this training statewide.

FRCNCA completed the support group facilitator training and will be hosting them again early in 2025 to train Early Start FRC staff on conducting support groups.

FRCNCA is developing a partnership with UC Davis to develop a comprehensive curriculum for a community navigator certification course, to create a pipeline for trained and certified community navigators to enter the workforce.

FRCNCA will be presenting and have a booth at the upcoming CalECSE conference.

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

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Laurie Jordan, Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center reminded attendees that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Encourages caregivers to take care of themselves by getting their necessary screenings. Not only women get breast cancer!

A parent representative at ELAFRC asked if regional centers would consider the difficulty of getting speech therapy through insurance because there were no providers nearby.

Patty Moore, director of Help Me Grow Santa Barbara, observed duplications of efforts and encourages more coordination and collaboration to provide clear messaging to families. There is still stigma and fear around concerns about child development.

Lorena Hernandez, parent at Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center, shared a story of her 26-year-old son with autism. Ms. Hernandez is now staff at the FRC because of the advocacy she had to do with her son. Encourages parents to never stop advocating, speak up, and use FRCs for support.

Yvette Baptiste, Executive Director of ELAFRC, reminded the group to encourage parents to attend ICC meetings. Dr. Baptiste summarized a comment from a parent about difficulty accessing language therapy services and a delayed diagnosis.

Lisa Schoyer, parent representative, echoed support for FRCs in providing necessary emotional support for families.

Ardina Bartlett, parent representative, commended ICC for focusing on NICU families. Ms. Bartlett is aware of difficulties families are having during transition which may decrease if NICU families are more supported while in Early Start, or potentially even before giving birth. Urged a more concerted emphasis on NICU families.

- Dr. Poulsen agrees we do a good job supporting babies, but not as good a job supporting the families. Family support should be a component of an IFSP.

Ana Ragon, family representative and member of California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC), shared her own transition struggles as her daughter turns three. Shared stories that parents don't know extensions are possible for children who turn three over the summer and can continue to receive services before the school year begins. CPQCC are taking applications to join the California NICU Family Advisory Council.

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

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

DJ Tomko provided a summary of committee composition and goals. He reminded everyone that only ICC members and community representatives are members of committees.

**Subcommittee Meetings**

Meeting of the whole was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.; committees met separately.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABSENT**

**DDS**

**WESTED**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

\*Parent