

**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Friday, October 18, 2024
Pomona San Gabriel Resource Center and Zoom
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Link to Recording: [Friday, October 18 Zoom Recording](#)

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 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 by DJ Tomko.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme

This quarter's theme is Child Find.

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](#).

Approval of ICC Dates for 2025

- January 16 and 17
- April 17 and 18
- July 17 and 18
- October 16 and 17

Motion for approval by Doug Erber. Seconded by Suzanne Sherinian. Motion passed.

Presentation – NICU Engagement: Early Start Intake Standardization

Erin Brady, DDS; Ruth Jenka, North Los Angeles County Regional Center

The goal of the project is to improve the referral process from NICU healthcare providers, and to reduce geographic and ethnic disparities in NICU referrals. Presenters provided an overview of the challenges with Early Start intakes generated from NICU physician referrals, along with specific outcomes to address these challenges.

Ms. Jenka provided an overview of the first phase of this project, which involved the creation of two workgroups of clinicians and regional center Early Start personnel. The physicians group identified the most common medical conditions and well-recognized medical conditions known to result in a high probability of delay. ARCA Physicians Group will continue to maintain the list of established conditions and add when necessary. The regional center staff group developed a standardized referral and intake form which includes a physician's signature and consent from the family.

Presenters asked ICC for feedback and recommendations on project outcomes and deliverables.

- Yvette Baptiste asked if the referral form is available and where it will be found.
 - Once it is finalized with stakeholder feedback, a directive/guidance will be issued to RCs and the form will be made available.
- Robert Araiza asked if the correct terminology is Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)?
 - Terminology in statute is FAS but it's outdated. The current terminology used is FASD.
- Debbie Davis asked, is prenatal drug exposure on the diagnostic list in addition to FASD?
 - Those are high-risk environmental risk factors.
- Mika Harris asked, have service coordinators had the opportunity to provide feedback and receive guidance?
 - Resources and guidance will need to be developed in future phases.
- Patty Salcedo asked, aren't LEAs responsible for children with SLI and not counties? Asked to clarify the language under Sensory Conditions about the LEAs responsibility and not local policy.
 - Yes, children with solely low incidence disabilities are served by the LEAs; children with multiple disabilities, including sensory disabilities, such as those affecting the senses of hearing and vision, are dually-served.
- Lisa Schoyer asked if there is any collaboration with High-Risk Infant Follow-up Programs?
 - Worked on a local level with LA Children's Hospital HRIFP.
 - Ms. Schoyer also asked about including DiGeorge syndrome on the list and wants to bring those rare conditions to light.
- Yvette Baptiste pointed out the need for additional training and support for physicians and regional center staff to be able to do differentials for rare conditions.
- Janice Hinton asked if NICU social workers were included in the workgroups?
 - In this phase, no, but the next phase will include them.
- A parent of a NICU baby asked if NICU referrals are possible through outpatient clinics?
 - Yes, any qualified healthcare professional can make referrals.
- Marty Omoto asked if child- and family-centered outcomes are included in this phase of the project?
 - This will be part of future phases.

- Pablo Velez asked for clarification of established risk for prematurity under 28 weeks?
 - It needs to be combined with another high-risk factor. A licensed healthcare provider's informed clinical opinion can establish eligibility. Presenters reminded everyone that this list is not exhaustive and is being reviewed by ARCA Physician's Group.
- Michelle Oliver asked for clarification of inclusion of respiratory diagnoses that do not require intubation or ventilation in the list of eligible criteria?
 - It is not just limited to intubation.
- Lisa Schoyer said "failure to thrive" was once included in the eligibility criteria and if it was discussed in the workgroups?
 - Presenters believe it's a high-risk factor but will need to follow up for specifics.

Presenters moved on to next phase of the project and engaged participants in a brainstorming activity about the challenges of Early Start intakes.

Presentation – ARPA Child Find and Outreach Initiatives

Jennifer Sanchez, Noemi Silva, Sonia Griffin, and Bernadette Boren - San Diego Regional Center

SDRC staff presented their Child Find Activities funded by ARPA to target outreach to homeless, undocumented, and tribal families through a network of community partnerships and collaborations. The project team developed a brief and family-friendly screening tool during intake that looks at all areas of development. The screening program utilizes collaborations with many community partners for outreach events. Ms. Boren explained the Tribal Engagement position she holds at SDRC to specifically target outreach and intakes for tribal communities. Ms. Sanchez provided an overview of the role of vendors during outreach events and strategies to overcome barriers such as languages, transportation, and cancellations. Presenters shared a video testimonial.

****BREAK****

Kiara Lopez, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

Ms. Lopez presented on the SCLARC Connections Program, an ARPA-funded program to provide outreach and perform screenings in the community. Funding allowed for the hiring of seven new staff to support these efforts. The program enlists 10 partner community organizations that have trained staff to administer Ages and Stages Screening Questionnaires. Ms. Lopez presented the numbers of families who have been referred and eventually designated eligible for services.

- Arushie Nugapitiya asked if consent is received before screening?
 - Yes.

- Alia Hochgesang asked for the date range about the numbers and statistics provided about referrals? What is the process for establishing new community partners?
 - Those referrals are for Early Start ages.
 - It isn't difficult to get community partners on board when just asked/approached. The regional center and potential community partner have an initial meeting with ideas and, so far, everyone has been excited and responsive. Quarterly meetings are conducted with partners to evaluate the partnerships.

Committee Reports and Approval for Projects

Improving State Systems Committee – Fran Chasen

Systems Committee is in process of identifying various priorities and how to resolve them around Child Find and access. Two big areas to focus on are:

- 1) Review and revision of the Early Start Personnel Manual. Committee will work with the paid group of people who will do that.
- 2) Survey to go out to early start families to determine impact of COVID. Content has been approved but a distribution timeline needs to be established. Ms. Chasen asked for assistance from ICC to disseminate the survey.

Committee identified the need to address the lack of services for NICU population and foster care children, and they are in the process of determining how the Committee can contribute to alleviate these barriers.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Doug Erber

Robert Rochin has been appointed as co-chair. The committee reviewed results of the survey to improve representation on the ICC and is in the process of developing action steps.

Public Input

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Doug Erber noted that a question on the ICC representation survey asked if ICC members would be willing to be a mentor to new members. Mr. Erber would like to have a meet-and-greet events at RCs or FRCs outside of ICC meetings to foster relationships.

Fran Chasen expanded on Mr. Erber's suggestion to have mentors to orient and welcome new ICC members.

Michelle Oliver read a statement from a NICU family who received a regional center referral in appreciation of Early Start staff and services.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS EXCUSED

MEMBERS ABSENT

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABSENT

DDS

WESTED

OTHERS PRESENT

*Parent