

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) ON
EARLY INTERVENTION

AUGUST MEETING PACKET



Meeting Dates and Times

August 1, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

August 2, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



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Additional materials can be found on our website at:

[State Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) on Early Intervention Overview - CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

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The Interagency Coordinating Council is an open public meeting that may be recorded, provided it does not cause a disruption to the proceedings.



Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention (ICC)

ICC Mission Statement

The mission of the ICC is to promote and enhance a coordinated family service system for infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, who have, or are at risk for having, a disability, and their families, utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration.

The History of the ICC

California has a long history of providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers, ages birth to three years, and their families. In the 1960s and 1970s, special education services for infants and toddlers were provided in public schools and funded through various local, state, and federal sources. With the advent of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (Lanterman Act) in 1969, California demonstrated its support of young children with prevention and early intervention services for infants with developmental disabilities through the regional center system. This was a huge effort and viewed as a major investment in California's children.

In 1988, the first ICC convened to provide advice and assistance to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding implementation of a coordinated early intervention system in California. In 1993, after five years of state and local planning activities in preparation for full implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Governor signed the California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA: Title 14, Government Code section 95000 et seq.) CEISA established state authority to enhance California's early intervention service system to meet the new federal requirements under Part C. CEISA assigned DDS as lead agency in collaboration with California Department of Education (CDE). Other collaborative partners involved in the ICC include Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), and First 5 California.

Although the early intervention landscape has changed over the years in California, the ICC has continued to follow, advise, and assist DDS on the state of the early intervention community. The changes have included amendments to CEISA that brought the addition of provision of family support services by Early Start Family Resource Centers (FRC). FRCs provide services such as parent-to-parent support, information dissemination and referral, public awareness, family-professional collaboration activities, and transition for families. CEISA also clarified state coordination and collaboration with families and communities, service coordinator competencies and caseload size, evaluation and assessment, parent rights, referral to local FRCs and monitoring efforts. Lastly, CEISA was amended to clarify that the Part C program is based on existing systems and how regional centers must comply with the Lanterman Act. This includes regulations related to vendorization and rate setting as long as the application of state law does not conflict with early intervention statutes.



Interagency Coordinating Council Appointed Members

(* denotes parent of a child with a disability)

Name	Composition	Email Address	Phone
	DSS		
Doug Erber*	Parent/Autism Partnership Foundation	dougerber@hotmail.com	(310) 965-9050
Leanne Wheeler	Agency Rep/CDE Homeless Children	lwheeler@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0383
Maricris Acon (For Nancy Bargmann)	Agency Rep/DDS Early Intervention Services	maricris.acon@dds.ca.gov	(916) 654-2250
Marie Kanne Poulsen	Personnel/Preparation Chair	mpoulsen@chla.usc.edu	(323) 361-3819
Michelle Dove	Agency Rep/Head Start	mdove@kcao.org	(559) 362-5629
Pamela Riley	DHCS	Pamela.Riley@dhcs.ca.gov	(916) 204-0055
Sarah Neville-Morgan (For Tony Thurmond)	Agency Rep/CDE Preschool Services	SNevilleMorgan@cde.ca.gov	(916) 319-0900
Shanice Orum (for Kim Johnson)	Agency Rep/DSS	Shanice.Orum@DSS.ca.gov	(916) 215-2973
Susan Ducore	Indian Health Service	susan.ducore@ihs.gov	(916) 930-3981
Suzanne Sherinian (For Mary Watanabe)	Agency Rep/DMHC Health Care	suzanne.sherinian@dmhc.ca.gov	(916) 255-2391

Interagency Coordinating Council



Community Representatives

(* denotes parent of a child with a disability)

Name	Representation	Email Address	Phone
Amy Hansen	Easter Seals Superior California	amyh2@myeasterseals.org	(916) 679-3142
Ana Aragon*	Parent	miss.anav@gmail.com	(626) 343-0131
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Diane Williams	Alta California Regional Center	dwilliams@altaregional.org	(916) 978-6417
Edyth Gallardo	Early Start Program Manager/Inland RC	egallardo@inlandrc.org	(909) 890-3000
Elena Bramble*	Rowell Family Empowerment of Northern CA Inc.	elenab@rfenc.org	(530) 209-3621
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June Ursini	NBRC	juneu@nbrc.net	(707) 256-1117
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Lucero Irizarry	CAEYC Board Member	ecementor@gmail.com	(951) 323-3670
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Pablo Velez	Amigo Baby	pvelez@amigobaby.com	(805) 901-1237

Pam Chueh	Executive Director WarmLine Family Resource Center	Pam@warmlinefrc.org	(916) 455-9500
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Sheri Farinha	NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing	sfarinha@norcalcenter.org	(916) 626-4928
Sheri Rosen	Sunny Days of California	srosen@sunnydays.com	(858) 432-4749
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Yvette O. Baptiste*	Parent/Eastern LA FRC	ybaptiste@elafr.net	(626) 300-9171



Interagency Coordinating Council Support Staff

Name	Agency	Email Address
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Instructions for Joining Remotely for the ICC Meeting

The ICC Meeting will be online via Zoom. Register by clicking the links below.

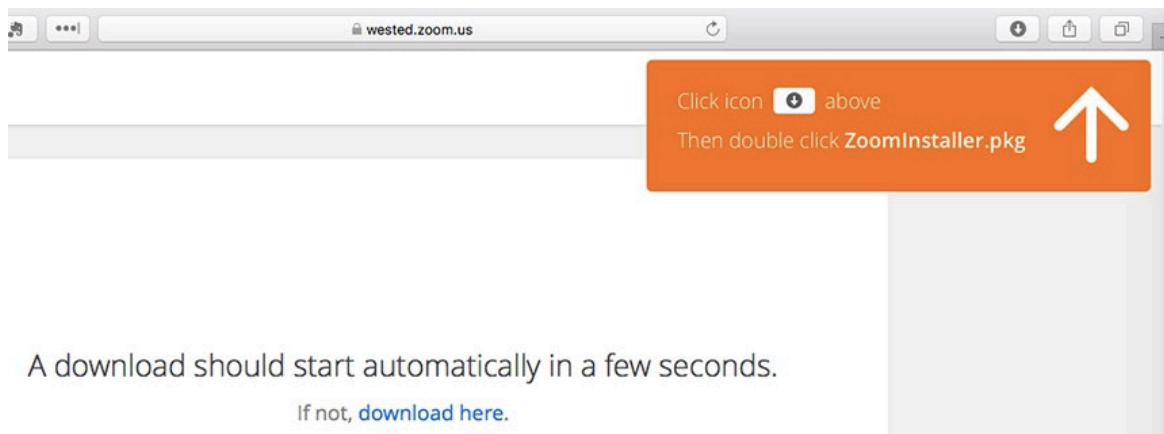
Click on the following hyperlink to [Register Here for Day 1](#) (9 am to 4:30 pm)

Click on the following hyperlink to [Register Here for Day 2](#) (9 am to 12:30 pm)

The best way to join a scheduled meeting is by clicking the link you were provided when you either scheduled it or were invited to it (from email, calendar invitation, etc.)

The link will launch Zoom and place you in the conference. This is true for all staff, as well as non-staff.

If you do not have the app, your browser will download the installer and prompt you to run it. Once the installer has run, it will ask for your name and then take you into the meeting.



Join with computer audio or phone

Participant Courtesies

1. Use a landline, if possible, for the least static interference.
2. Avoid cellular and cordless phones. The potential static and poor or broken connections reduce the sound quality for all conference call participants. If you must use a cell phone,



- find a quiet location with excellent reception and limit moving around during the call.
3. Know your phone features and how to use them. Do not wait until the call to figure them out.
 4. Turn off call waiting. It is very disruptive to the call. Most call waiting features can be deactivated by pressing 70# or *70 before dialing the conference number. (Check with your carrier.)
 5. Use the speaker feature on your phone only if the room is quiet and others in the room are participating on the call with you. Speakerphones can add to the overall noise of the teleconference and create a hollow sound on the call.
 6. Choose a quiet location. Avoid background noises such as a radio, TV, pets, or side conversations with others.
 7. Stay focused and participate on the call. Avoid using this time to answer email, eat, clear off your desk, file papers, or talk to others.
 8. Be on time.
 9. Introduce yourself when you join the call. If you join the call late, wait for a break in the conversation to announce that you have joined or until the moderator asks who joined.
 10. Introduce yourself each time you speak. Not everyone will be familiar with your voice.
 11. Mute your phone (*6) if you are not participating at the time, need to talk to someone else, or need to leave the call for any reason. Unmute your phone (#6) when you are able to return to the call.
 12. Never put the call on hold. Either mute your phone (*6) and unmute your phone (#6) to rejoin or hang up and call in again if you must leave the call.

Facilitator/Chairperson Courtesies

1. Be familiar with the audio controls.
2. Start—and end—at the scheduled time.
3. Have an agenda—preferably one that has been distributed prior to the conference.
4. Identify yourself when you first connect to the conference call.
5. Identify yourself each time you speak. Others may not know your voice. Speak clearly and at a moderate speed.
6. Take roll call at the conference start so that everyone knows who is involved and listening.
7. Review the rules of etiquette and ask that each participant identify him or herself before speaking.
8. Allow only one individual to speak at any given time during the conference.
9. As much as possible, when appropriate, address questions to individuals by name.
10. Mute the microphone or speakerphone (*6) if you must speak to others in the room with you during the conference. Unmute by pressing #6.
11. Address agenda items in their specified order.

*Thank you to the Family Resource Center Network of California, the source for many of these tips, for sharing its teleconference etiquette.



ICC Meeting Agenda (Day One) Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Zoom Link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Date: August 1, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

The order in which agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Public comment will be taken as part of the meeting on both days. Prior to making your comments, please state your name for the record and identify any group or organization you represent. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to speak, the facilitators may establish specific time limits on comments.

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter
(9:00-9:20) Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">WelcomeHousekeeping Items/Zoom InstructionsIntroductions/Roll CallReview AgendaApproval of the MinutesReview of ICC Mission and Purpose, and Theme of Meeting: Early AccessPart C Literacy Article: "2024 California Children's Report Card"	Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair DJ Tomko, DDS
(9:20-9:40) Family Testimonial <ul style="list-style-type: none">Questions and Answers (10 minutes)	Janneth Suarez, Parent
(9:40-10:00) DDS Updates and Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">Questions and Answers (5 minutes)	Maricris Acon, DDS
(10:00-10:15) Break	
(10:15-11:30) Presentation: Assent Based Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">Questions and Answers (10 minutes)	Liz Lefebvre, Octave Training



(11:30-12:00) Voices from the Field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant Development Association of California • California Disability Community Action Network • FRCNCA • Questions and Answers (5 minutes per presenter) 	Fran Chasen Marty Omoto Ana Seda
(12:00-1:00) Lunch	
(1:00-2:10) Presentation: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions and Answers (10 minutes) 	Dr. Lucy Esralew, DDS
(2:10-2:25) Public Input	DJ Tomko and Marie Poulsen
(2:25-2:30) Announcement of Committee Composition and Goals	DJ Tomko, DDS
(2:30-4:30) Committee Meetings	Improving State Systems Communications & Outreach

ICC Meeting Agenda (Day Two) Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Zoom Link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Date: August 2, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

The order in which agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Public comment will be taken as part of the meeting on both days. Prior to making your comments, please state your name for the record and identify any group or organization you represent. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to speak, the facilitators may establish specific time limits on comments.

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter
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<p>9:00 9:20 Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Housekeeping Items Zoom Instructions • Introductions/Roll Call • Review Agenda • Review of Previous Day's Agenda • Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme 	<p>Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair</p> <p>DJ Tomko, DDS</p>
<p>(9:20-10:20) ICC Council Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates by ICC Council Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions and Answers 	<p>Ashley Franklin - Dept. of Social Services Leanne Wheeler - CDE Homeless Education Nancy Bargmann - Dept. of Developmental Services Michelle Dove - Head Start Agency Pamela Riley - Dept. of Health Care Services Sarah Neville-Morgan - CDE Preschool Services Shanice Orum - Dept. of Social Services Susan Ducore - Indian Health Care Suzanne Sherinian - Dept. of Managed Health</p>
<p>(10:20-11:20) Presentation: Provisional Eligibility Questions and Answers (10 minutes)</p>	<p>Marcy Okada, DDS</p> <p>Kiara Lopez & Laschell Miles, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center</p>
<p>(11:20-11:30) Break</p>	
<p>(11:30-12:00) Committee Reports & Approval for Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions and Answers (5 minutes) • Communications and Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions and Answers (5 minutes) 	<p>Improving Systems Committee</p> <p>Communications and Outreach Committee</p>
<p>(12:00-12:20) Public Input</p>	<p>DJ Tomko and Marie Poulsen</p>
<p>(12:20-12:30) Recap and Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair</p>



Improving State Systems Agenda

Date: August 1, 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: Zoom

Agenda Items	Facilitator
(2:30-2:45) Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Introductions/Roll Call• Housekeeping Items• Review of Agenda	Committee Co-Chairs
(2:45-2:55) Updates from Committee Co-Chairs	Committee Co-Chairs
(2:55-3:20) Research Relating to Top 4 Committee Priorities	Committee Co-Chairs
(3:20-3:35) Finalize language for Priority #1	WestEd & Committee Co-Chairs
(3:35-3:55) Review Family Survey- Propose Distribution Plan	Committee Co-Chairs
(3:55-4:15) DDS Master Plan Discussion	Committee Co-Chairs
(4:15-4:25) Public Input	DDS
(4:25-4:30) Next Steps	Committee Co-Chairs



Communications & Outreach Committee Agenda

Date: August 1, 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom
Zoom Link: [Register Here](#)

Agenda Items	Facilitator
(2:30-2:40) Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">WelcomeIntroductions/Roll CallHousekeeping ItemsReview of Agenda	Committee Co-Chairs & DDS
(2:40-2:50) Updates from Committee Co-Chairs	Committee Co-Chairs
(2:50-3:20) Review and finalize updated ICC Survey	WestEd & Committee Co-Chairs
(3:20-3:40) DDS Master Plan Discussion	Committee Co-Chairs
(3:40-3:55) Public Input	DDS
(3:55-4:00) Next Steps	Committee Co-Chairs



April ICC Meeting Minutes

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
Thursday, April 18, 2024
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording: [Thursday, April 18 Zoom Recording](#)

Opening

Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Dr. Poulsen expressed gratitude for all council members, WestEd, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), 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 Maricris Acon. Seconded by Suzanne Sherinian.

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 All About Language.

Dr. Poulsen announced that Rep. Wendy Carillo's [Assembly Bill 2383](#) to address needs of medically fragile infants and young children, which cited *Darby's Legacy* has passed its first committee.

She also announced California's \$200 million investment in the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program. The program increases access to inclusive early care and education programs for young children with disabilities.

Part C Literacy

[Preverbal Skills: The Skills Your Baby Develops BEFORE Talking](#) by Sholeh Shahinfar, MC, CCC-SLP, RYT

This article discusses the importance of preverbal skills in supporting later language acquisition. The author explains why these skills are important, what preverbal skills are, warning signs and other challenges to developing these skills, and which professionals may be able to support a baby's development of preverbal skills.



DDS Updates and Information – Maricris Acon and Reyna Ambriz

DDS Updates

Ms. Acon presented data on Early Start caseloads and referrals. Referrals have decreased 26.5% since last year, but data is still being reviewed as there have been some system issues that may have compromised the data. Caseloads of children served per month have increased 9% compared to last year. Active cases in regional centers increased 38% compared to pre-COVID months.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) recently provided [guidance on assistive technology](#) which aims to increase understanding of the requirements, dispel common misconceptions, and provide examples of the use of assistive technology devices and services for children with disabilities and to highlight the different requirements under Part C and Part B of IDEA.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Updates

Ms. Ambriz shared that ARPA-funded pilot end dates have been extended until November 2024. DDS is working with an evaluation company to conduct an analysis on the outcomes of ARPA-funded projects. For the Provider Training Initiative, the list of permissible training topics available for reimbursement was expanded to include assistant training programs and trainings on family engagement.

California's Part C Grant Application was posted on March 21 and is accepting public comment until May 20, 2024.

The Early Start Partners Symposium will be held on July 17-18, 2024 in Berkeley, California. A practicum for service coordinators will be provided the day before on July 16.

The Department will host a webinar on the Quality Improvement Program on May 1 to provide updates on the measure as well as information about the provider eligibility payment process.

Questions:

- Pablo Velez asked about the approval for the use of ARPA funds to support professional development/training for service providers. Could out of state schools be considered for funding?
 - Ms. Ambriz will follow-up separately.

Family Testimonial – Samantha Hebermehl

Ms. Hebermehl is the parent of two Deaf children. She shared her family's experiences with hearing tests and assessments and with the audiologists who diagnosed her child. After initial shock and grief, Ms. Hebermehl and her husband began to re-frame their understanding of Deafness as a language acquisition challenge and to learn American Sign Language (ASL). Language begets language: the more you have, the more



dynamic your understanding of language becomes. She concluded by saying that the most important part of parenting Deaf children is to provide as much access to language as possible.

Questions:

- Michelle Oliver asked if Ms. Hebermehl has found a shift in the medical field about the kind of feedback parents receive during a hearing assessment?
 - Ms. Herbermehl's understanding is that more work is being done to see that referrals are more collaborative and Deaf folks are better represented in individualized family service plan (IFSP) processes. Parents do need to be prepared to advocate.

****BREAK****

Presentation: What is California Doing to Improve Outcomes for Early Language Opportunities for Deaf Infants and Young Children? – Dr. Nancy Hilbok Ammann and Dr. Julie Rems-Smario

The presenters reviewed the history of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, adopted in 1986. They defined difference between "language acquisition" and "language learning." Deaf babies are often not exposed to natural language and miss critical periods of acquisition. As of 2016, only 18% of Deaf children met reading and writing milestones; this is not because they are Deaf, but because they are denied opportunities for acquisition. Deaf children need Deaf peers for social opportunities.

The presenters showed an infographic video which highlighted the importance of language building and language acquisition with deaf children from age 0 to 5.

In 1998, the Deaf community advocated to pass AB 2780, California Universal Newborn Hearing Screening legislation, to initiate hearing screenings before infants leave hospitals as well as follow-up referrals to audiologists for those infants who do not pass the hearing screening. If the baby is determined to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing, families are referred to [LEAD-K Family Services](#).

Once implementation of AB 2780 began, the Deaf community was left out as stakeholders or decisionmakers. As a result, the Deaf community founded a coalition to continue advocacy on language acquisition. In 2010, advocates opposed AB 2072, sponsored by the California Academy of Audiology and the Coalition of Option Schools. This bill did not address ASL as an equivalent to spoken language and contained other inequity issues. The bill was successfully amended to accept ASL as a viable option for families. Ultimately, the bill was vetoed.

The Deaf community organized to form a national organization, Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K). In 2015, LEAD-K advocated for the passage of SB 210 in California. It is the first educational code recognizing ASL and/or English as a language of instruction for Deaf children. Since then, 22 states have passed similar laws. SB 210 establishes an ASL & English Language Milestone profile to allow parents



to track their child's language milestones and advocate for IFSPs or individualized education programs (IEPs).

In 2020, LEAD-K Family Services was established to provide support to parents, coaches, and increased collaborations with other statewide services.

The presenters encouraged parents of Deaf children to learn ASL and to use Deaf coaches so Deaf babies and children can have more regular acquisition.

Questions:

- Karmina Barrales asked, is it recommended that a child who is born Deaf and for whom English is not the first language at home to learn sign language?
 - Dr. Rems-Smario answered: The spoken language at home shouldn't preclude anyone from learning ASL or any sign language. Access to language is the most critical thing for language acquisition.
- Nancy Sager asked if the term "language deprivation" could be changed, as some parents dislike that term and don't see themselves as depriving their children?
 - Dr. Rems-Smario answered: Softening the blow won't be effective. It is a heartbreaking reality but must be confronted. It's not about accusation but accountability.
- Samantha Hebemehl emphasized that parents who do not speak English are not at a disadvantage when learning ASL, but language access supports to parents need to be in place.
- Pablo Velez asked presenters to explain variations in sign language.
 - Dr. Rems-Smario responded: Like spoken languages, sign language comes in a variety of dialects and regional differences. For example, British Sign Language is different from American Sign Language.

Voices from the Field

- ***Infant Development Association of California (IDA) – Robin Millar***
The Governor's budget, which will be finalized in May, has reduced DDS funding by \$1 billion based on the rate model. Ms. Millar encouraged everyone to comment on the impact this will have.

The Quality Incentive Program has made substantive changes to ensure families receive rapid delivery of services.

Ms. Millar also highlighted the Direct Support Professional Training Program, which has been around for a while, and wanted to spread awareness of it.

- ***California Disability Community Action Network – Marty Omoto***
The proposed budget deficit could be over \$73 billion. Governor Newsom put together early action reductions and delays, and the May revision will likely



contain a lot of changes. Mr. Omoto recommended that the ICC request that DDS provide an update on the budget so ICC members can all be aware of the anticipated impact to Early Start services.

Mr. Omoto is on the [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#) stakeholders committee. He recommended that an update on the Master Plan be provided to the ICC at every meeting. He also suggested that a subcommittee be formed on the Master Plan stakeholders committee to address needs specific to the Early Start community. He suggested that the ICC should request a community engagement session with the Master Plan project team to raise the issues that are specific to Early Start families and workforce.

- **Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) – Ana Seda**
FRCNCA is providing Support Group Facilitator Training for family resource center (FRC) staff, virtually with webinars, to enhance the advocacy skillset of Early Start FRC staff statewide.

Partnerships for Effective Practices in Transition and Inclusion (PEPTI) is a new State Personnel Development Grant project to address issues between early intervention programs and LEAs.

The Access to Care program distributed a survey to caregivers of children who had a specialty care appointment; over 600 surveys were returned. Findings will be shared with participating families and FRCs and results will be used in advocacy efforts. An upcoming webinar will also share the results.

FRCNCA is utilizing their ARPA-funded pilot initiative to provide support to family representatives to participate in the ICC.

****LUNCH BREAK****

Presentation: Best Practice in Involving Parents and Caregivers in the Child's Early Language Intervention – Elaine Weitzman, Hanen Programs

[The Hanen Centre](#) is a Canadian nonprofit to enable parents and professionals to support children in building lifelong social, language, and literacy skills. Ms Weitzman's presentation provided a description of Hanen programs and its approach. Hanen Center is comprised of four distinct divisions: SLP (speech-language pathologist) services, program and resource development, training for professionals, and membership services. Parent programs are for small groups of families with children with similar needs, such as parents of children with language delays or children with autism. Each program is caregiver-implemented, evidence-based, child-centered, and focuses on natural environments.

Review of Public Input Guidelines, Followed by Public Input



Pablo Velez shared concerns around the environments where intervention services are provided. In-person services at home prove to be a challenge for many working families. Before the pandemic, most providers had good relationships with childcare providers; but post-COVID, there has been some confusion around childcare providers' roles in supporting intervention services.

Parents and staff at Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (ELAFRC) shared feedback that public input could happen between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. when children are at school.

Dulce Flores shared a list of parent perspectives:

- professionals aren't using parent-friendly language,
- there are not enough providers in the language(s) necessary,
- parents have had bad experiences with regional centers and many families are not going through regional centers for services for lack of support, and
- there is a long waiting period for services for their children.

Michelle Oliver brought attention to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) project that connects families with services. Ms. Oliver shared an experience of a family who found a NICU reunion to be traumatic for the father. She recommended providing training to providers about trauma-informed practices.

Patty Salcedo brought attention to the PEPTI program about transition and inclusive classroom practices.

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 2:20 p.m.; committees met separately.



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



MEETING ATTENDEES

**Thursday, April 18, 2024
Day 1**

Ana Aragon	Hope Beale	Nate Dozier
Ana Seda	Janice Hinton	Omari Smith
Anaelvia Sanchez (Spanish Interpreter)	Jazmine Blackman	Pablo Velez
Angela McGuire	Jennifer Driver	Patty Salcedo
Apple Sepulveda	Johana Caicedo	Anne De Medeiros
Asha Surles	Jonathan Eckrich	Rachel Edwards
Paula DiMuro (ASL interpreter)	Joni Haselbring	Rachel Hagans
Elizabeth Vega (ASL interpreter)	Jorge Fernandez	Rebecca Halpern
Shelley Lawrence (ASL interpreter)	Judy Jackson	Reyna Ambriz
Brenda Lory	Julie Loe	Robert Rochin
Carrie McKiddie	Julie Rems	Robin Millar
Cassie McWilliams	June Ursini	Ross Adams
Cecilia Rideout	Karina Barrales	Ryan Digman
Chanel Grant	Kathryn Sinelli	Samantha Hebermehl
Claudia Meza	Kristin Symonds	Sara Hassani
Christina Tsuji	Laurie Jordan	Sarah Yang
Debbie Sarmiento	Lilian McDonough	Sean Galvin
Diane Storman	Lisa Gonzales	See Lo
DJ Tomko	Lisa Schoyer	Sheri Farinha
Douglas Erber	Mahnaz Ehsan	Sheri Rosen
Edyth Gallardo	Marcy Okada	Sid Gardner
Elaine Weitzman	Maria Huerta	Spanish Interpreter- Alejandra Serrano
Ellen Paddock	Maricris Acon	Stephanie Callori
Erila Witt	Marie Poulsen	Stephanie Gomez
Erin Brady	Marty Omat	Suado Sergio
Erlisa Koci	Matt Siekowski	Suzanne Sherinian
Esteban Ortiz	Matthew Chestnut	Vanessa Rivera
Felipe Garcia	Michelle Oliver	Victoria Berrey
Gabriela Solva	Mike Odeh	Wendy Morrison
Gayatri Mahajan	Nancy Grosz Sager	Yvette Baptiste
Hannah Michaelson	Nancy Hilbok Amann	



MEETING ATTENDEES

**Friday, April 19, 2024
Day 2**

Ana Aragon	Jazmine Blackman	Rebecca Halpern
Ana Seda	Jennifer Driver	Reyna Ambriz
AnaElvia Sanchez	JJ Fernandez DDS (Jorge Fernandez)	Robert Rochin
Angela McGuire	Johana Caicedo	Robin Millar
Anne Davis	Jonathan Eckrich	Ross Adams
Anne De Medeiros	June Ursini NBRC Resource Development (June Ursini)	Ryan Digman
Apple Sepulveda	Kathy Angkustsiri	S. Chan (Shan Chan)
Asha Surles	Kristin Symonds	Samantha Hebermehl
ASL/English Interpreter: Shelley Lawrence (Shelley Lawrence)	Laurie Jordan	Sarah Yang
ASL-English Interpreter Elizabeth Vega (Elizabeth Vega)	Lisa Gonzales	Shanice Orum
Brenda Lory	Lisa Schoyer	Sheri Rosen
Carrie McKiddie# Alpha FRC (Carrie McKiddie)	Mahnaz Ehsan	Spanish Interpreter Sonia Hernandez (Sonia Hernandez)
Cassie McWilliams	Maria Huerta	Stefanie Callori
Cathy Schulze (DDS Info)	Maricris Acon	Stephanie Santamaria
Cecilia Rideout	Marie Poulsen	Suada Sergio
Chynna Terwilliger	Marty Omoto	Suzanne Sherinian- Dept. Managed Health Care (Suzanne Sherinian)
Cristina Tsuji	Michelle Oliver	Thao Tran
Crystal Perez	Mike Odeh	Wendy Morrison
Diana Maffei	Nancy Bargmann	Wesley Roberson
Diane Storman	Nancy Chen	Yvette Baptiste
Diane Williams	Nancy Grosz Sager	
DJ Tomko	Nicole Smith	
Edyth Gallardo	Olivia Procida	



Erin Brady	Omari Smith	
Esteban Ortiz	Pablo Velez	
Felipe Garcia	Patty Moore	
Gayatri Mahajan	Patty Salcedo	
Hannah Michaelson	Petra Gordian (Martha Ornelas-Cruz)	
Hilda Jimenez	Rachel Edwards	
Jaclyn Pasko	Rachel Hagans	