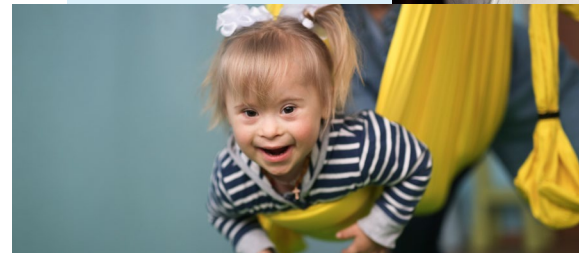


Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

April ICC Day 2

April 18, 2025



HOUSEKEEPING



Interpretación en español: haga clic en el globo blanco en la parte inferior de la pantalla con la etiqueta "Interpretation." Luego haga clic en "Spanish" y seleccione "Mute original audio."



ASL interpreters have been "Spotlighted" and live closed captioning is active

- Raise hand, say first name and **speak slowly**



This meeting is being recorded



Materials are available at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/state-icc-on-early-intervention-overview/>



Submit written comment via email to: earlstart@dds.ca.gov

Housekeeping – Interpretation Services

- **ASL INTERPRETERS**

ASL interpreters will be spotlighted during the meeting.

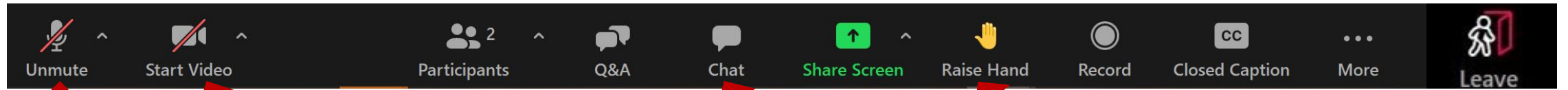
- **WHEN SPEAKING**

Please introduce yourself by stating your full name and who you represent.

- **PLEASE SPEAK SLOWLY**

To support our interpreters with accurately interpreting the information discussed during the meeting, please speak slowly.

Zoom Tips



Unmute mic only when it's your turn to speak



Turn your webcam on/off

Chat is available for all attendees

During public comment, please use the raise hand feature

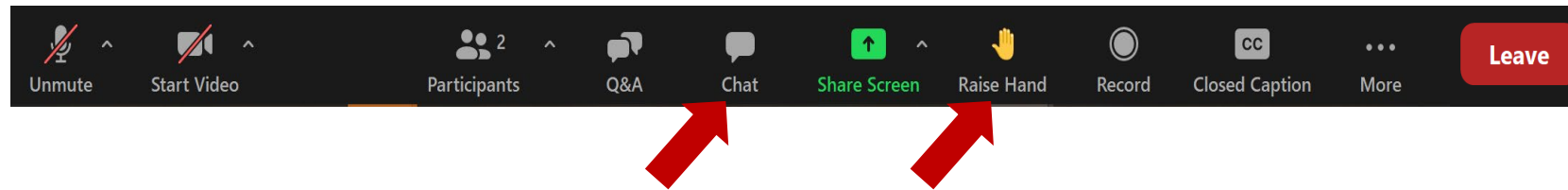
Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting



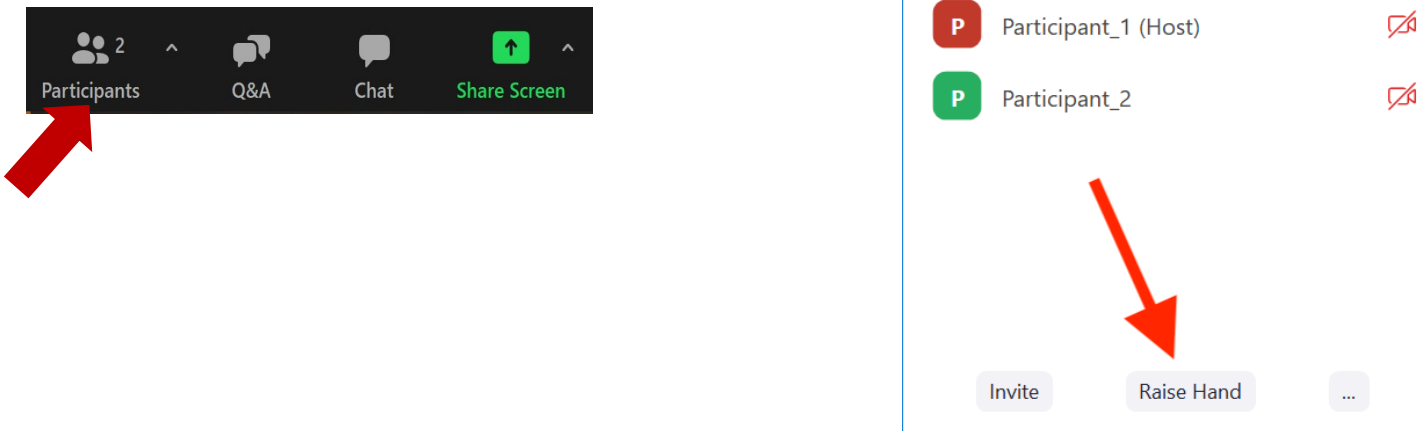
- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants

Providing Comments – Appointed Members

Appointed Members: Please use the “Chat” or “Raise Hand” to comment



You may need to click on “Participants” and a new window will open where you can “Raise Hand”



Agenda

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
- II. Review ICC Mission and Purpose
- III. Medi-Cal to Early Start Warm Handoffs
- IV. Committee Reports
- V. Public Input
- VI. Recap and Closing Remarks

ICC Mission and Purpose

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 developmental delay or disability, and their families, by utilizing and encouraging a family-centered approach, family-professional partnerships, and interagency collaboration



Medi-Cal to Early Start Warm Hand Offs

Mike Odeh, Children Now



Children Now

FIRST 5 CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S POLICY



Warm Handoffs

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention
April 18th, 2025

Medi-Cal x Early Start/Early Intervention Services

Medicaid/"Medi-Cal"

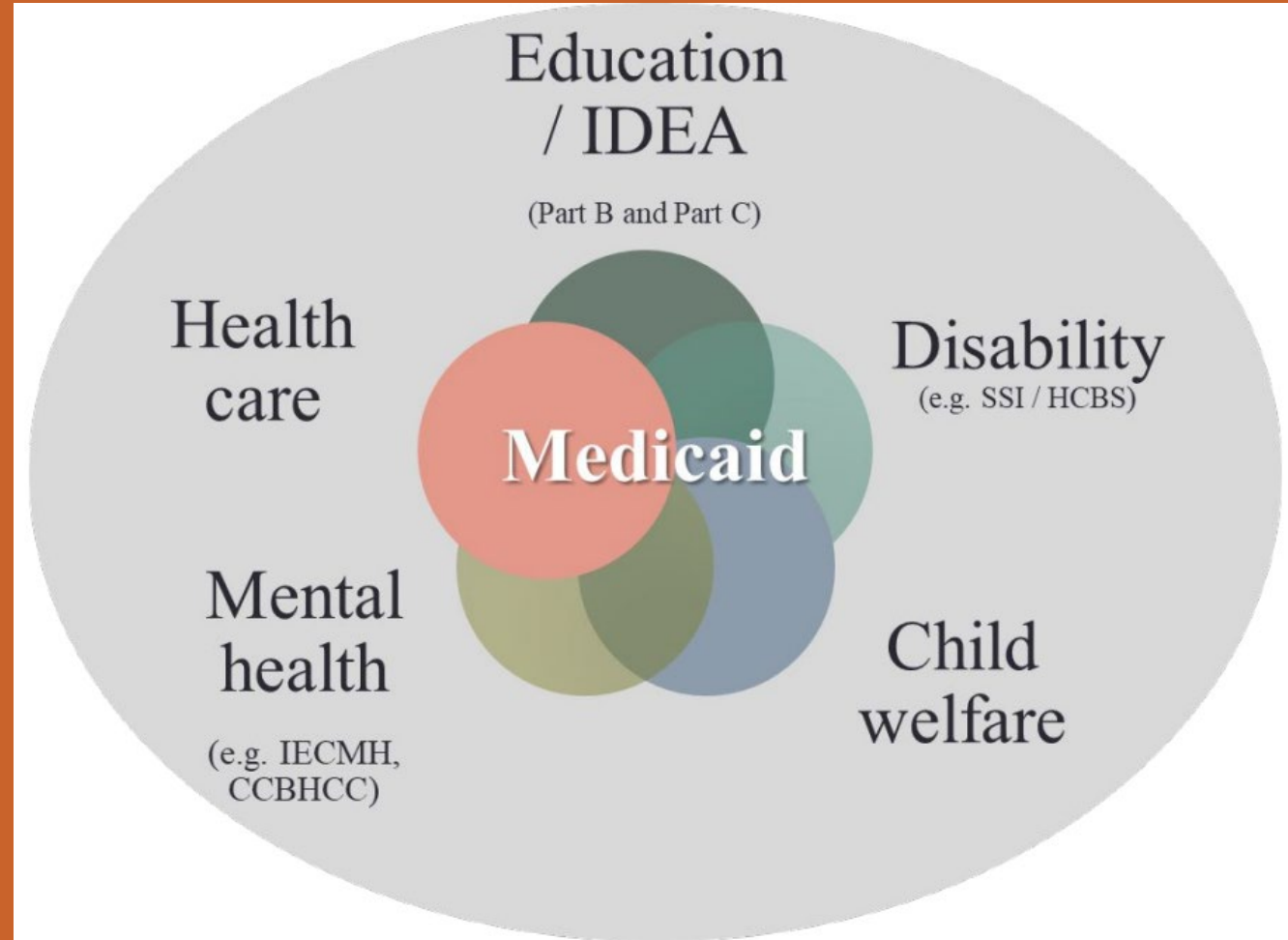
Medi-Cal covers health care for roughly half of California's children. That's over five million kids.

- Income eligibility requirement

IDEA Part C/Early Start

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, also known as Early Start in California, are early intervention services for children from 0 to age 3 who have disabilities or developmental delays.

- No income eligibility requirement



Medi-Cal and Early Start can work together to support children's development

Problem: Low-Income Kids Aren't Being Referred to Early Start

- Over 42,000 infants and toddlers with Medi-Cal coverage are missing out on early intervention services through Early Start
- Although Medi-Cal requires comprehensive coverage of health care services including wellness check-ups and developmental screenings for infants and toddlers, American Indian/Alaska Native & Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children are least likely to be screened for developmental delays
- Learn more about Medi-Cal for Kids & Teens at:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Medi-Cal-For-Kids-and-Teens/Pages/home.aspx>

Problem: Early Start Intake Process is Challenging

- ICC Stakeholders described the Early Start intake process **as**:
 - **complicated**
 - **cumbersome**
 - **overwhelming**
 - **lengthy**
- ICC Stakeholders indicated that the Early Start intake process **should be**:
 - **easy**
 - **supportive**
 - **seamless**
 - **simple**

Opportunity: Warm Handoffs from Medi-Cal to Early Start

- **Currently**, Medi-Cal and Early Start often operate in silos and there is little to no coordination between the systems.
- **Goal:** Develop a policy for Medi-Cal providers and managed care plans so that children with or at risk of developmental delays are smoothly connected to Early Start through a “warm handoff” and receive timely early intervention services

The Warm Handoff Policy Project: A collaborative approach

State Agencies



Advocates



FIRST 5 CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S POLICY

Family  Voices of California

Managed Care Plans



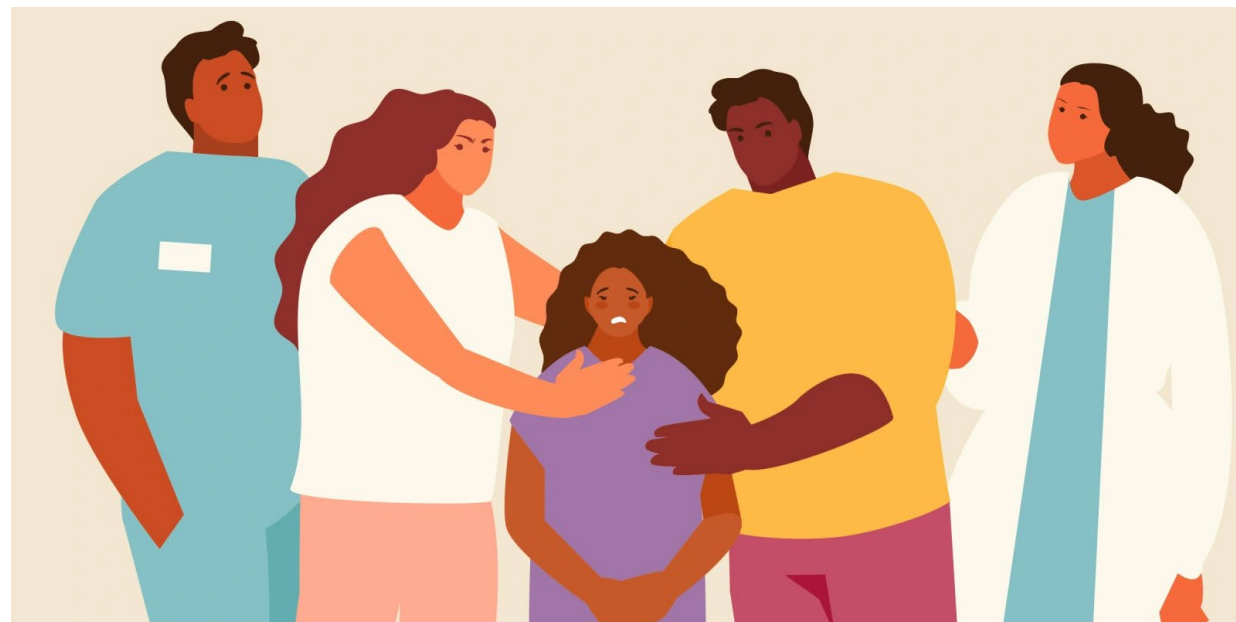
What is a Warm Handoff?

Warm Handoffs are sometimes called active, intensive, or facilitated referrals

A 'warm handoff' is a family-centered approach that helps to ensure a child is directly linked to an early intervention resource or transferred seamlessly from one provider to the next.

What can a Warm Handoff look like?

- Giving the parent additional info about the agency where their child is being referred, including what to expect in terms of intake or assessment;
- Helping the parent prepare questions to ask the agency where they are being referred;
- Calling the agency together, helping the parent to ask their questions and supporting them in ensuring they understand what will happen next; and
- Debriefing with the parent after the call.



Warm Handoffs Can Help Families Through to Services

A **Warm Handoff** **begins** for the family when a Medi-Cal provider **identifies** the child and **refers** the family to Early Start for assessment



Regional Center assesses the child via **Early Start intake** process and **completes Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)** for child, with family consent + participation



Child begins receiving IFSP services, and their **Primary Care Provider (PCP) or pediatrician participates** in care management



Warm Handoff is **fully realized** for the family when they receive ongoing **case management and care coordination** that is specific to the child's needs

Potential Challenges of Warm Handoffs

- Lack of trust or misunderstanding of referrals
- Language barriers
- Difficulty finding reliable information or local providers
- Limited availability of local resources or providers; waitlists
- Fear of sharing data may impact immigration status, health insurance costs, bias/discrimination, etc.
- Competing family needs and emotional toll for parents
- Overburdened pediatric providers and busy case managers

Discussion: Breakout Rooms

1. What were the greatest challenges you faced when your child/patient was referred to Early Start?
2. What made it helpful to go through the Early Start process or to interact with Early Start?
3. What would have been most helpful to you during the time your child or patient was referred to Early Start?
4. How was your child's health provider involved in the Early Start referral and evaluation, or how would you have liked them to be involved?
5. Was your/your patient's health insurance (e.g. Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan) helpful in supporting the referral/evaluation process and ensuring delivery of medically necessary Early Start services? If so, how?

Next Steps

- Continue to get stakeholder input through the Summer
- Draft recommendations for future Medi-Cal policy
- Keep the ICC updated on our progress

Committee Reports

Improving State Systems
Communication and Outreach

PUBLIC INPUT



Public Input Guidelines

- **COMMENTS CAN BE IN WRITING OR SPOKEN**
All comments are published as part of the public record and provided to ICC members
- **EACH PERSON HAS 2 MINUTES TO COMMENT**
We want to make sure there's time to hear from everyone. Longer comments? Submit them in writing to ensure your full message is shared
- **COMMENTING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS**
One person is welcome to share input from others, please just be mindful of time, summarize key points and turn in any written statements
- **PLEASE BE SPECIFIC**
A clear statement-including specific suggestions for addressing any concerns you may have- is most helpful
- **WANT TO SHARE A POWERPOINT OR VIDEOS AS PART OF YOUR PUBLIC COMMENT?**
Email EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov at least 14 days in advance with any audio/visual needs

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR MEETING



ICC Webpage: [State ICC on Early Intervention Overview](#)

DDS Early Start Mailbox: earlystart@dds.ca.gov

