

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Link to Zoom Recording:

[April 18, 2025 Zoom Recording](#)



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Friday, April 18, 2025
Zoom Conference Call
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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Opening

Doug Erber, ICC co-chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Housekeeping Items

Zoom instructions, ASL/Spanish interpreter instructions, and meeting etiquette were reviewed by Jasmine Suo.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by DJ Tomko.

Review of Previous Day's Agenda

Mr. Erber reviewed yesterday's agenda and announced that all presentation materials will be posted on the [DDS ICC website](#).

Review of ICC Mission, Purpose, and Theme

Mr. Erber reviewed the ICC mission and purpose. This quarter's theme is Moving Forward.

Presentation: Medi-Cal to Early Start Warm Handoffs – Mike Odeh (Children Now), Alexandra Parma (First 5 Center for Children's Policy), and Colleen Corrigan (Children Now)

Children Now is a statewide policy and research advocacy organization. Presenters introduced the Warm Handoffs Project, a collaborative project between state agencies, advocates, and managed care plans to develop a policy for a Warm Handoff procedure between Medi-Cal providers and Early Start.

The presenters provided background on Medi-Cal and Early Start. They identified various problems with Medi-Cal and Early Start that serve as barriers to efficient referrals, particularly for low-income children of color.

The presenters defined “Warm Handoffs” as a family-centered approach and provided examples of what a warm handoff looks like in practice. They identified potential challenges of Warm Handoffs.

Mr. Odeh introduced a breakout room discussion activity for ICC participants. Breakout rooms began at 9:26 a.m.

Breakout rooms ended at 10:26 a.m. and Mr. Odeh provided next steps for the Warm Handoffs planning group: stakeholder input will continue through the summer, and the planning group will develop recommendations for the Department of Health Care Services.

Committee Reports and Approval for Projects

Improving State Systems Committee – Fran Chasen

Yesterday’s conversation focused on Early Start concerns in the community, primarily around status of federal funding and its impact on Early Start. The Committee reviewed the purpose and process from the Voices from the Field survey, which is now in the stage of composing letters that will be sent out within two weeks, via ICC partner agencies, to parents and providers.

Additionally, the Committee is identifying priorities for discussion, committee action, and possible recommendations for the coming year. The Committee will be conducting outreach efforts to improve membership and meet required quorums.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Robert Rochin

The Committee developed five recommendations to support engagement and ICC representation:

1. Clearly define and actively promote the purpose of the ICC
2. Re-evaluate ICC outreach materials for efficacy and inclusivity
3. Empower current members as champions of the ICC, especially in populations identified as underrepresented
4. Establishment of a mentorship program to strengthen onboarding for new members
5. Continue to guide recruitment through a diversity lens by reviewing membership demographics annually

The Committee will work on activities to support each of these recommendations.

Public Input

DJ Tomko reviewed public input guidelines.

Doug Erber shared a [national call to action](#) taking place at 1 p.m. today on proposed budget cuts to Head Start programs.

- Jane Lee of DDS shared a [document with all links](#) shared during yesterday’s public comment period which included additional calls to action.

Yvette Baptiste, Executive Director of FRCNA, recognized an increase in partner participation in this quarter’s meeting and shared appreciation for FRC and RC engagement.

Michelle Oliver, a community member, requested continued advocacy for connecting NICU families to Early Start before the infant returns home as the best way to support those overwhelmed families.

- DJ Tomko reminded attendees of a NICU project that was presented during [October's ICC meeting](#). Those materials are available on the [DDS ICC website](#).
- Apple Sepulveda, Community Representative, echoed Ms. Oliver's call for advocacy, as parents of children in NICUs have significant psychosocial needs – particularly maternal depression – and require ongoing support.

Suzanne Sherinian, Department of Managed Health Care, stated that if anyone is having trouble accessing covered health care services through health plan coverage or knows someone that is, please contact DMHC or [Ms. Sherinian](#) directly.

Recap and Closing Remarks

Doug Erber thanked participants and presenters on the productive discussions and information presented. Mr. Erber encouraged all participants to engage with their representatives to advocate for Early Start and developmental services funding. Mr. Erber thanked DDS and WestEd for supporting the meetings.

The next ICC meetings for 2025 are July 17-18, 2025, and October 16-17, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES
Friday, April 18, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT

Douglas Erber	Karen Chang	Shanice Orum
Gigi Ostrowsky	Maricris Acon	Susan Ducore
Heidi Brahms	Michelle Dove	Suzanne Sherinian

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marie Kanne Poulsen	Pamela Riley
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COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Apple Sepulveda	Julie Maier	Robert Rochin
Debbie Sarmento	Julie Rems-Smario	Robin Millar
Edyth Gallardo/IRC	Kathleen Angkustsiri	Samantha Hebermehl
Fran Chasen	Laurie Jordan/TCRC	Shan Chan
Gayatri Mahajan	Lindsay Crain	Tara Hester/VMRC
Jonathan Eckrich/IRC	Patricia Salcedo	Yvette Baptiste

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Amy Hansen	June Ursini	Rosalyn Daggs
Ana Aragon	Lisa Schoyer	Scott Turner
Christina Nigrelli	Lucero Irizarry	Season Goodpasture*
Diana Maffei	Marty Omoto	Sheri Farinha
Diane Williams	Pablo Velez	Sheri Rosen
Elena Bramble	Pam Chueh	Stephanie Gomez
Felicia Ford	Patricia Moore	Tamara Allen
Felipe Garcia	Penelope Knapp	Tony Anderson
Jazmine Blackman	Rachel Hagans	Wendy Morrison
Jim Frazier		

DDS STAFF PRESENT

Angel Rodriguez	Esteban Ortiz	Paige Richmond
Anne De Medeiros	Hilda Jimenez	Rachel Wilson
Asami Saito	Jane Lee	Ryan Digman
Carmen Ruiz-Ochoa	Jasmine Suo	Sarah Yang
Caroline Castaneda	Joni Hasselbring	Shannen Cheng
Cathy Schulze	Latonya Harris	Stephanie Santamaria
DJ Tomko	Leo Marchena	

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Vega/ASL	Marc Gutierrez/Spanish	Rick Haffner/ASL
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WESTED STAFF PRESENT

Angela McGuire	Rebecca Halpern	Ross Adams
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OTHERS PRESENT

Alexandra Parma	Elisa Hill/NLARC	Libby Contreras/VMRC
Ana Barranco/TCRC	Elizabeth Jimenez-Winslow/RCEB	Lidia Flores
Andrea Davis	Gabriel Echaves	Lourdes Albalbisi/RCOC
Araceli Mendez/RCOC	Gabriela Laguna	Mahnaz Ehsan/SARC
Blesilda Uban/RCEB	Gayle Harris	Maria De Jesus Rodriguez
Brenda Lory	Hannah Michaelson	Midori Perez/VMRC
Carmen Sahagun/IRC	Hely Chan/SCLARC	Mika Harris/TCRC
Catherine Powell	Irma Zepeda/SCLARC	Mike Odeh
Christie Null/NBRC	Jacqueline Carmona	Noushin Azimzadgan/IRC
Colleen Corrigan	Jadolphus Fraser	Paula Leonesio/NLARC
Crystal Perez	Jaren Gaither	Petra Gordian
Delisa Randolph	Joseph Ibewuiké	Priscilla Solano
Diane Storman	Kelly Lam	Rocio King/SARC
Donna Perry/CVRC	Laurie Stephens	Sandy Solis/IRC
Dulce Flores	LaWanna Blair/HRC	Stephanie Herrador/SCLARC

Stephanie Martinez

Susana Navarro

Yesenia Garcia

Suada Sergio

Tiffany Johnson

QUESTIONS?

Contact DDS/Children, Adolescents and Young Adult Services Division

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