

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention: Improving State Systems Committee Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording: [ICC Day 1 - Zoom](#) (Committee Meeting begins at 3:40:08)



MEETING MINUTES

Opening | Susan Ducore

- Welcome
- Introductions/Roll Call
- Housekeeping Items
- Review Agenda

Committee Member Discussion | Early Start Concerns in Community | Susan Ducore

F. Chasen had difficulty accessing the meeting. We skipped this item until later in the meeting. Once F. Chasen was able to join the meeting, she shifted the group back to “Early Start Concerns in Community.” Fran reiterated issues that were raised in the meeting this morning.

Voices from the Field Survey & Timeline | Yvette Baptiste and Fran Chasen

- Y. Baptiste began the discussion of the survey, which was finalized in February.
- WestEd helped create a translated and accessible version.
- Dr. Baptiste said we are ready to proceed. We do not have a template for email distribution, however. The survey is presently in SurveyMonkey in both English and Spanish.
- F. Chasen and Y. Baptiste are working on draft messages to families.
- F. Chasen reported that, while still in draft form, they are pretty much good-to-go.
- R. Digman shared one of the drafts on screen.
- Y. Baptiste asked for clarification about the intent of next steps. She noted that “ICC” needs to be spelled out, member names need to be updated, and the emails needs to be translated.
- Y. Baptiste and F. Chasen will follow-up. The release date will be changed to 4-25-25.
- J. Rems-Smario asked for an opportunity to work with L. Gonzales to make the letters accessible to Deaf parents.
- L. Schoyer asked why question 2 only allows one box to check. Also, with question 4, which program does provisional eligibility apply to? Question 2 is as it stands due to logic built into the survey.
- S. Ducore thanked everyone for their work on this project.
- K. Chang asked for clarification about how widely the survey should be distributed.
- F. Chasen provided input on that topic.

2025 Recommendations Discussion | Angela McGuire

S. Ducore turned this activity over to A. McGuire. She shared the very long list of ideas generated in February and explained the procedure to be used. She then offered to read them out loud. There were no takers. She began the process by identifying the official committee members. The round robin procedure began at 2:59 pm. Some additional ideas were added to the list by A. McGuire (see

DRAFT list at the end of these notes). The clarification process began at 3:12. A. McGuire read the 23-item list aloud then and did some rearranging of items to group similar topics. A. McGuire went through another round of clarification with all the committee members present. F. Chasen suggested that acronyms be avoided in the list.

Public Input | Ryan Digman

P. Chapin advocated for improved and more consistent screening for visual impairments including central visual impairment, which is the most under-diagnosed and also the most common cause of early childhood visual impairment.

Next Steps | Fran Chasen

F. Chasen proposed an interim meeting to further refine the list which has nine combined items now (see below). She asked if we should set a date or use a Google poll to determine a date. R. Digman suggested a poll to determine the best date. Then a notice will go out.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 PM.

DRAFT LIST

For which issues will the Improving State Systems Committee research and advise the ICC in 2025-2026?

1. Improve documentation of service delivery at intake for behavior health and trauma-based care to ensure that they are getting the services that they need
 - a. Improving differential diagnosis of autism to avoid misdiagnosis, missed diagnosis, and bias, as it relates to timely and appropriate services
 - b. Expand recognition of other evidence-based behavioral services, including Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Routines Based Intervention (RBI), Developmental Relationship Based Interventions (DRBI), parent coaching models, infant mental health approaches, etc.
 - c. Include parental mental health screening and support in the IFSP process; make it more intentional rather than an after thought
2. Continuation: Review and update of the Early Start Personnel Manual
 - a. Evaluate impact of recent revisions to Early Start online from direct facilitation to Open Access
 - b. Provide training grants for Early Start personnel since the American Rescue Plan Act funds are gone
3. Develop strategies to address the shortage in the workforce
 - a. Development of local college partnerships as the solution for Early Start personnel
4. Continuation: Take a comprehensive look at the impact that accessing insurance has on families and the overall system which mandates coordinated multidisciplinary systems and early intervention services
5. Address potential impact of federal funds being re-allocated for our California birth to three services
 - a. How do we advocate for the children and families as changes are occurring in all the different programs throughout California?
 - b. Head Start: Address impact of federal funds being reallocated
 - c. Supporting families affected by anti-immigrant policies
6. Address the need for coordinated child find efforts among agencies that are mandated for child find to avoid duplication and confusion around accessing services
 - a. Increasing the consistency of the family/client experience across regional centers
7. Presentations
 - a. Update on the information learned from provisional eligibility implementation
8. Solutions to address client cancellations and absenteeism that impact service providers (how they are paid, inconsistent with labor laws)

9. Information from DDS

- a. Want to understand how Mental Health Services Act funds are being used for Early Start
- b. Get information from DDS about the development and implementation of the standardized IFSP
- c. Look at how the IFSPs are being written so they don't reflect 'sets' of services that every child gets without recognizing specific needs and priorities
- d. Advocate for a more systematic process to support transition to start during the intake process
- e. Develop and implement a uniform approach to include foster care children in the regional center system (sign-off process, authorization form)

From Public Comments:

- Improved and consistent screening of infants and toddlers for visual impairments, including cerebral visual impairment

QUESTIONS

Contact DDS/Children, Adolescents and Young Adult Services Division

Email: earlystart@dds.ca.gov

Phone: (800) 515-2229

Mailing Address: 1215 O Street, MS 7-40
Sacramento, CA 95814

MEETING ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Ducore (Co-Chair) Suzanne Sherinian

MEMBERS ABSENT

Maricris Acon Marie Poulsen

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Ana Aragon	Julie Rems-Smario	Robin Millar
Apple Sepulveda	Laurie Jordan	Shan Chan
Edyth Gallardo	Patty Salcedo	Yvette Baptiste
Fran Chasen (Co-Chair)		

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Asha Surles	Jim Frazier	Rachel Hagans
Elena Bramble	Jonathan Eckrich	Scott Turner
Felicia Ford	Kathy Angkustsiri	Season Goodpasture
Felipe Garcia	Pablo Velez	Sheri Rosen
Gayatri Mahajan		

OTHERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Vega/ASL Interpreter Rick Haffner/ASL Interpreter

DDS STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Wilson Ryan Digman

WESTED STAFF PRESENT

Angela McGuire Ross Adams