

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

July 17, 2025

Time: 2:05 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Link to Zoom Recording: [ICC Day 1 - Zoom](#) (Committee Meeting begins at 3:24:51)



# MEETING MINUTES

## Opening

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

## Voices from the Field Survey and Timeline

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- Yvette Baptiste provided updates on the Voices from the Field Survey progress. The Committee has developed three cover letters, and Angela and the WestED team developed the survey on SurveyMonkey in English and Spanish and made sure that all conditional statements were correct. The surveys are ready for distribution. Distribution will include ICC members and the 47 family resource centers (FRCs) statewide with hopes that providers will further distribute the survey. The responses will be due by August 29, 2025.
- The provider cover letter is yet to be reviewed. Susan Ducore and Committee members will work on the provider cover letter, but the other two cover letters are ready for distribution.

## Committee Member Discussion – Mentimeter Responses and 2025-2026 Committee Priority Setting

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- Ryan Digman provided an overview of Mentimeter responses from the earlier ICC meeting regarding the content of future ICC meetings. ICC members generally want to hear more about DDS directives and updates from the California Department of Education (CDE). A recurring topic in Mentimeter responses included more discussion on identifying barriers and finding solutions to barriers through collaborations with other partners, such as children's hospitals. For actions the committee would like to see the ICC appointed members and committees engage in during meetings would be following up on relevant updates or presentations made by the ICC during meetings and then working on how to determine what paths and what steps would be needed by these committees to help propose a change.
- Ryan Digman reviewed the nine priorities that the committee has been discussing over the past few months. Ryan Digman noted that the committee is going to vote on its top three priorities through a SurveyMonkey survey and this committee discussion should incorporate topics from the Mentimeter responses into the nine priorities.
- Patty Salcedo responded that she was not sure that matching of Mentimeter responses to the committee priorities could be completed in the meeting.
  - Susan Ducore agreed and added that the committee must analyze external factors that may impact the priorities and that analysis may be outside of the committee's role of responsibility.

- Yvette Baptiste agreed and added that the Mentimeter activity helps identify potential systems changes, and it is DDS's role to respond to those recommendations.
- Marty Omoto commented that the committee's role is to make policy recommendations to the State, but the committee itself does not create policy in its current role. He suggests discussing the top committee priorities and using those priorities to develop policy recommendations.
- Yvette Bapsite suggested DDS develop an initial mapping of the Mentimeter responses to the committee priorities for committee comment and review.
  - Patty Salcedo added that there should be a second level of review after the initial mapping is completed to further narrow down which priorities are the most actionable.
- Susan Ducore commented that the committee did not reach a quorum during the last June meeting, so the committee must ensure that there are enough people to reach a quorum and make decisions so things can move forward.
- Laurie Jordan commented that the committee is spending too much time discussing priorities and would like to start focusing on working to help families.
  - Susan Ducore responded that the committee could not bring forward a vote on the priorities because it had not reached a quorum at the June meeting. And today, through the Mentimeter, we got some other information that our interim group could look at that and to make sure that those items that are appropriate are covered.
  - Edyth Gallardo agreed with Laurie and noted that it may be beneficial to start working on the top priority while we figure out the rest.
- Ryan Digman suggested voting on the top three priorities within the current nine using SurveyMonkey and then use the Mentimeter responses to build on the top three ideas.
- Patty Salcedo asked if the committee could make a recommendation to prioritize updating the personnel manual.
  - Ryan Digman responded that this is a recommendation the committee has already made to DDS, and DDS is working through that process.
- Jadolphus Fraser asked if there is a process to make a recommendation and how to decide which rules should be eliminated and the role of the committee, as it would be helpful to review while completing the survey.
  - Susan Ducore responded that there are committee bylaws, and it may be beneficial to host an orientation on those bylaws and the roles of the committee. From her understanding, the committee's role is to advise and make recommendations to DDS for policy changes that the committee does not have the bandwidth to change itself. We follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- Marty Omoto commented that the committee should not take an extended period to decide on its priorities and recommendations. This committee should make recommendations for the state or the legislature to do something and the committee does not have the responsibility to make those changes. The committee should ensure that its recommendations are based in reality and meeting a real need.

- Ryan Digman suggested that with some of these strategies, the committee could be more specific with the recommendation.
  - Marty suggested to identify who is responsible to develop the strategies.
- Susan Ducore noted that committee members will need to conduct cursory research on the priorities to be able to advise.
  - Robin Millar added that the committee can use already collected data to inform the priorities as well.
- Edyth Gallardo and Robin Millar liked the idea of removing the sub-bullets and primarily focusing on the “what” and “who” of the priorities before discussing how the priorities can be addressed.
- Robin Millar commented that Priority 5, “Address potential impact of federal funds being re-allocated for our California birth to three services,” may not be possible under the committee’s role.
  - Edyth Gallardo suggested including that the group recommends the ICC continue to address the potential impact of fundings and have that topic as a standing ICC agenda item.
  - Susan Ducore also suggested along with putting things as standing agenda items they could bring in experts to inform decisions.
- Yvette Baptiste suggested hearing from DDS on how it is addressing workforce shortages and how the state views the current workforce challenges.
  - Robert Klein and Marty Omoto suggested hearing presentations from healthcare organizations or health plans such as CalOptima (Early Start and I/DD) to share what they are doing to support workforce development.
  - Robin Millar suggested including community colleges in the workforce development priority, as some early interventionists may need a minimum of 12 credits in childhood education to begin their careers.
- Yvette Baptiste noted that there are not enough people of color in the workforce and there is a Service, Access, and Equity (SAE) grant program working to address this and the committee may want to recommend a presentation on what is working. Areva Martin’s Special Needs Network is a possible organization to present to the committee.
- Jadolphus Fraser commented that the committee must consider caseload when considering the impact of workforce shortages. He recommends that the committee be more specific about how it wants to address the impact and whether it wants to address workforce recruitment.
  - Robin Millar noted that many 805 service providers are losing staff to work in early intervention and CDE. CDE may have better benefits than 805 service providers. This issue of high staff turnover must coordinate with the new rate system, and it may be difficult to fix currently.

## Public Input

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- Robert Klein commented that his organization cares for over 20,000 individuals with autism and is seeing a dramatic increase in individuals served and co-occurring mental health conditions. His organization is looking for additional funding sources to support these individuals and wondered if workforce development or specific programs to help with funding this population could be added to the committee's nine priorities. It falls under priorities #3 and #7.
  - Ryan Digman responded that DDS has an Autism Services Branch that can work to address this. It may be helpful to hear from Dr. Lauren Libero about successes and remaining barriers within this specific population.
  - Decision made: The committee will create a recommendation to hear updates from the Autism Services Branch at the quarterly ICC meetings under the Presentations priority.

## Next Steps

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- Action item: DDS will draft a survey with the nine committee priorities. Committee members complete the survey and select their top three priorities for discussion at the next meeting.
- The group will consider holding an interim meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. to further discuss the priorities and hopefully reach a quorum to vote on the priorities. Notifications will be sent out and agenda will be set as well.



## Draft List

Improving State Systems Committee 2025-2026 Priorities In development v.07.17.25 DRAFT

**For which issues will the Improving State Systems Committee research and provide advice to 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:**

**Examples:**

- Improving differential diagnosis of autism to avoid misdiagnosis, missed diagnosis, and bias, as it relates to timely and appropriate services
- 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.
- 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**

**Examples:**

- Evaluate impact of recent revisions to Early Start online from direct facilitation to Open Access
- Provide training grants for Early Start personnel since the American Rescue Plan Act funds are gone
  - a. **Possible Recommendation:** This is currently moving forward with support. Can we receive an update regarding what is happening with this. We want to hear progress.

**3. Develop strategies to address the shortage in the workforce**

**Examples:**

- Development of local college/university/Healthcare/community college partnerships as the solution for Early Start personnel.
  - a. **Possible Recommendation:** Presentations from healthcare organizations or health plans such as CalOptima to share about what they are doing to support workforce development.
  - b. **Possible Recommendation:** Expand diversity in the workforce. Look into some of the Service Access and Equity Grants and we could have a presentation from Special Needs Network in LA.

**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.**

**Examples:**

- How do we advocate for the children and families as changes are occurring in all the different programs throughout California?
- Head Start: Address impact of federal funds being reallocated
- Supporting families affected by anti-immigrant policies
  - a. **Possible Recommendation:** We may want a standing agenda item to discuss these items or bring in those that have the expertise to inform decisions.

**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**

**Examples:**

- Increasing the consistency of the family/client experience across regional centers

**7. Presentations**

- a. **Possible Recommendation:** Update on the information learned from provisional eligibility implementation
- b. **Possible Recommendation:** Have someone from the Autism Services Branch at DDS at each quarterly ICC meeting to provide updates?

**8. Solutions to address client cancellations and absenteeism that impact service providers (how they are paid, inconsistent with labor laws)**

**9. Information from DDS**

**Examples:**

- Want to understand how Mental Health Services Act funds are being used for Early Start
- Get information from DDS about the development and implementation of the standardized IFSP
- 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
- Advocate for a more systematic process to support transition to start during the intake process
- 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

**MEETING ATTENDEES**  
**Thursday, July 17, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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Maricris Acon	Marie Poulsen	Susan Ducore (Co-Chair)
Suzanne Sherinian		

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

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Apple Sepulveda	Gayathri Mahajan	Patty Salcedo
Edyth Gallardo	Kathy Angustsiri	Robin Millar
Elena Bramble	Laurie Jordan	Yvette Baptiste

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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Amanda Smith	Jadolphus Frasier	Maria De Jesus Rodriguez
Araceli Mendez	Karen Wylie	Marty Omato
Arushie Nugapitiya	Lana Lopez	Matt Chesnut
Carmen Ruiz-Ochoa	Laurie Jordan	Penelope Knapp
Diane Storman	Liliana McDonough	Robert Klein
Danielle Calloway.	Lisa Gonzalez	Rocio King
Hannah Steinberg	Lisa Schoyer	Thao Tran
Isela Solorzano	Martin Lu	Yvette Cauntay

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT**

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Ana Aragon	Jonathan Eckrich	Scott Turner
Felicia Ford	Julie Rems-Smario	Season Goodpasture
Felipe Garcia	Pablo Velez	Shan Chan
Fran Chasen (Co-Chair)	Patricia Moore	Sheri Rosen
Jim Frazier	Rachel Hagans	

**INTERPRETERS**

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Elizabeth Vega/ASL Interpreter	Rick Haffner/ASL Interpreter	Anaelvia (Spanish)
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## DDS STAFF PRESENT

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Ann De Medeiros	Cathy Schulze	Rachel Wilson
Angel Rodriguez	Esteban Ortiz	Ryan Digman
Asami Saito	Marisol Segura	

## MISSION STAFF PRESENT

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Danielle Calloway

## QUESTIONS?

Contact DDS/Children, Adolescents and Young Adult Services Division

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