

## **For which issues will the Improving State Systems Committee research and provide advice to the ICC in 2025-2026**

### **1. Strengthen intake and Service Delivery**

- a. Improve Autism and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) differential diagnosis to reduce bias and missed diagnosis.
- b. Expand access to a range of evidence-based interventions (Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Developmental, Relationship-Based Intervention (DRBI), Developmental, Individual-differences, Relationship-Based (DIR), parent coaching and infant mental health).
- c. Include parental mental health screening and support in the IFSP process (Make it more intentional rather than an afterthought).

### **2. Insurance and System Impact**

- a. Continue examining how insurance access affects families and coordination of early intervention services system wide.

### **3. Coordinated Child Find**

- a. Address the need for coordinated child find efforts among agencies that are mandated for child find to avoid duplication and confusion around accessing services.
  - i. Can we improve existing relationship and strategies.
  - ii. What areas in the child find system are present and what are ones we need to improve?
  - iii. Improve Child Find efforts for children enrolled in Medi-Cal in alignment with Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) population health management goals.
- b. Increase awareness of Early Start statewide through consistency and coordination across Regional Centers and other systems of care.
  - i. Families
  - ii. Medical Providers (Pediatricians, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Obstetricians and others)
  - iii. Academic Partnerships (Medical Schools/Pre Service)
  - iv. Early Child Care Providers (Preschools, Kindergarten, Daycares)

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- v. College Campuses
- vi. Public Spaces (Sports venue, Billboards, Libraries, Public Transit, social media, parks)

**4. ICC Presentations and Updates**

- a. Provisional eligibility implementation update
  - i. How long are they sitting in a provisional status and why?
- b. Regular DDS Autism Services Branch updates (Recommending as standing ICC agenda Item)
- c. Consistent screening for visual impairments including cortical visual impairment.
- d. Workforce development strategies (Higher Education Partnerships, Health Care Collaborations, Diversity Initiatives)
  - i. Possible presentation from health plans such as CalOptima to share about what they are doing to support workforce development.
  - ii. Expand diversity in workplace. Look into some Service Access and Equity Grants and possible presentation from Special Needs Network in LA.
- e. Federal Funding/Policy Shifts (Recommending as standing ICC agenda item):
  - i. Address impacts of federal funds being re-allocated for our California birth to three services.
  - ii. How do we advocate for the children and families as changes are occurring in all the different programs throughout California.
  - iii. Head Start update and address impact of federal funds being reallocated.
  - iv. Supporting families affected by anti-immigrant policies.
- f. DDS Information Requests (Possible future presentation requests as well):
  - i. Clarify how the shift from the Mental Health Services Act to the Behavioral Health Services Act funding affects Early Start.
  - ii. Update on standardized IFSP development and implementation.

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- iii. 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.
- iv. Improve transition planning at intake (Systemic Process Improvement).
- v. Develop and implement a uniform approach to include foster care children in the regional center system (sign off process, authorization form)

**5. Address Client Cancellations and Absenteeism that impacts service providers.**

- a. Checking for patterns of lack of access causing cancelations and absenteeism and to identify solutions.
- b. Checking for patterns of lack of vendor payment caused by cancelations and absenteeism and to identify solutions. (How are the providers paid, inconsistent with labor laws etc.)
- c. Look into impact on clients when providers cancel appointments?