



# Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Day 1 Meeting Minutes

Feb 5, 2026

[Meeting Recording](#)



# MEETING MINUTES

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## OPENING AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Jasmine Suo shared housekeeping items, including how to access Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, how to share comments, use chat, and submit written comments to DDS.
- Dr. Marie Poulsen welcomed everyone.
- Anne De Medeiros performed a roll call.

## AGENDA REVIEW AND MINUTES APPROVAL

### Agenda Review

- Dr. Poulsen reviewed the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

### Approval of Minutes

- Erin Brady moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Doug Erber seconded the motion. ICC appointed members approved the minutes by roll call vote, with one correction of capitalization of the words “Help Center” in Suzanne Sherinian’s update from the last meeting.

## REVIEW OF ICC MISSION, PURPOSE, AND THEME OF THE MEETING

- Dr. Poulsen reviewed the mission and vision of the ICC. The theme of this month’s meeting is State of Early Start.

## PUBLIC INPUT

- Anne De Medeiros opened the public comment period.
- Julie Maier, California Deaf Blind Services: Ms. Maier expressed gratitude to the members. This past spring, California Deaf Blind Services presented information to DDS on topics including the early years, transitions, and later stages of life. As a technical assistance project, the organization provides resources and training to parents and professionals. Julie highlighted the importance of awareness about their services and shared their [informational brochure](#).
- Andrea Davis, Coalition of Developmental Approaches (formerly DIR Floortime): Ms. Davis is working to support the rollout of Senate Bill (SB) 805, which

expands insurance coverage for services for children with autism. The Coalition has applied for five new insurance billing codes and is seeking individuals with experience in billing codes to assist with this process.

- Michelle Oliver, Santa Clara County Office of Education: Ms. Oliver emphasized the need to bring attention to families with children in the NICU. She encourages the ICC to explore additional support for providers, ensuring that Early Start providers receive thorough training in trauma-informed services.
  - Lisa Schoyer, Parent: Ms. Schoyer noted her thanks to Ms. Oliver for raising awareness of the NICU parental experience.
- Lisa Schoyer, Parent: Ms. Schoyer added in the chat that she is curious about the transition to provisional eligibility consistency across all regional centers. Anne De Medeiros, DDS acknowledged the inquiry and stated that DDS will note it for follow-up.

## DDS UPDATES

Erin Brady provided the following updates:

- Erin Brady shared a family story video from the lighting of the Capitol Christmas tree. The Kessler family story may be found in the [DDS Bridges Newsletter](#). Access the video at this link: [Meet Jude and Rebecca Kessler: 94th Annual Capitol Tree Lighting](#). Ms. Brady recognized San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center for supporting the family and their travel.
- Early Start caseloads have stayed steady during the past calendar year. Early Start serves 56,055 children with about 13,000 served jointly with the California Department of Education Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). Intakes have decreased slightly from prior years.
- The Annual Performance Report for federal fiscal year 2024-25 was submitted this week. The report will be reviewed at the May ICC meeting.
- The Part C Grant Application is typically due in May of each calendar year. Once it is received, it will be posted for the 60-day period for public comment.
- The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) is shifting to family outcomes from child outcomes.
- Regulation revision for Title 17 is in the final stages and will be posted for public comment soon. The revision includes federally required updates and definitions of service.
- Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) visits by the Office of Special Education Programs scheduled for November 2025 were deferred until the next fiscal year, July 2026 to July 2027. The exact timing of the visit will be confirmed soon. DMS results in a comprehensive review of monitoring and improvement activities, data, fiscal management, and dispute resolution.
- Erin Brady shared the following directives:

[D-2025-Regional Center Operations-004 - Provider Directory - Standardized Vendorization](#)

[D-2025-Case Management-011 - Middle Eastern and North African \(Mena\) Inclusion Act](#)

[D-2025-Case Management-002 - Quarterly Reporting on Intake Assessments](#)

[D-2025-Quality Incentive Program-022 - Final early intervention incentive payments for calendar year 2024](#)

Reyna Ambriz shared the following updates:

- The following publications were updated in English:

[Early Start Information Packet](#)

[Early Start FAQ](#)

[Early Start Parents Rights Booklet](#)

- These resources are currently being translated into 19 other languages and will be posted to the DDS website when completed.
- Two videos developed with ARPA funds were released in December 2025 to increase public awareness about early intervention and the Early Start program.
- The first video was developed in collaboration with parents and members of the deaf and hard of hearing community, it is designed specifically for families with infants and toddlers who are deaf or heard of hearing.

[Services for DHH Children \(English with ASL\)](#)

[Services for DHH Children \(Spanish with LSM\)](#)

- The second video focuses on creating a language-rich environment for children. The video also shows simple, everyday ways to build language into routines.

[Language Acquisition Video \(English with ASL\)](#)

[Language Acquisition Video \(Spanish with LSM\)](#)

- Christine Sedlack Rottger asked in the chat: Has DDS collected any data on family/parent choice regarding where they would like their child to receive Early Start services? Erin Brady responded: DDS relies on the IFSP teams and regional centers to talk families through the process of identifying outcomes and then follow up with the services that will support those outcomes. This is an individual process. DDS does not have any statewide data.
- Julie Rems-Smario commented on the path that many families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children take to enter Early Start. [LEAD-K](#) refers about 1,000 DHH children to Early Start each year.
- Yvette Renteria asked if parents would have access to ASL classes. In response, Anne De Medeiros shared the following information:

- ASL training rate code: [P-2025-Rates-001 - American Sign Language Training and Support Service](#)
- Michelle Oliver asked about how deaf coaching is funded. Is the LEA responsible? Reyna Ambriz responded that children with a solely low incidence disability are served by the local educational agencies.
- Julie Rems-Smario commented: The Deaf coach is funded through the LEA as part of the IFSP team. Each LEA has funding for language services under Part C. There's a list of qualified language services, ASL instruction, and Deaf coaches are qualified language services. Language milestones are measured. If the child is delayed or needs support, then the IFSP can be written to include the provision of Deaf coach services.
  - Anne De Medeiros shared the [Language Development Milestones](#).
  - Julie Rems-Smario shared the following information in the chat: [Data Byte: Language Outcomes for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Children](#) and information about [Deaf Coaches](#).

## BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

- This presentation was moved to a later date due to unforeseen circumstances.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

### Infant Development Association of California - Fran Chasen

- Deadline for providers to complete Provider Capacity Quality Measure surveys is February 27, 2026. These surveys determine eligibility for up to 10% of a Quality Incentive Rate as part of the Quality Improvement Program (QIP).
- The rollout of new rates for 805 Infant Development Programs is causing unintended consequences for programs serving children 1 to 3. IDA is putting out a survey to collect statewide data on the impact of the rate rollout; this survey is due by February 9, 2026.
- IDA is hosting a focus group on rate reform February 17, 2026, from 12 to 1:30 PM. Participants are invited to share issues related to delivery of small group services.
- The Lanterman Coalition hosts interviews with gubernatorial candidates focused on how the candidates plan to preserve the promise of the Lanterman Act.
  - A [recording of the interview with Betty Yee](#), candidate for California Governor is available.
  - An interview with Tony Thurmond candidate for Governor and current California State Superintendent of Public instruction is scheduled for February 23, 2026, at 2 PM.
- Budget updates

- [2026-27 Governor's Budget Proposed Budget Summary](#)
  - [Budget Trailer Bill](#) – Trailer oversight bill, includes a focus on Early Intervention. DDS is being asked to enter an interagency agreement to facilitate a seamless transition between Part C and Part B. The bill will revise provisions regarding LEA's and Regional Centers. Another part of the bill relates to remote services.
- Federal – The Administration dropped the [legal appeal over withholding funding](#) for programs related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
  - Call [for comments on Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\)](#).
  - Department of Education: [Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services \(OSERS\) held listening sessions](#) that resulted in a clear support to maintain and keep the Department of Education. The participants included families and professionals.
- Visit the [IDA website](#) for more information.

## California Disability Community Action Network – Marty Omoto

Marty Omoto thanked the committee for welcoming community members and treating them with respect. He shared the following updates:

- [Governor's Budget](#)- Governor's deficit projections differ from the Legislative Analyst's office. There are two budget hearings before the May revise: March 26, 2026, Senate Budget Subcommittee and April 15, 2026 Assembly Budget Subcommittee.
- Federal budget – Funding was passed on February 4, 2026, for all areas (except Homeland Security) through September 30, 2026.
- Marty Omoto urged members to pay attention to federal agencies issuing guidance letters on policies that affect California. The California Department of Health Care Services is holding hearings on the impact of H.R. 1, passed by Congress and approved by the president July 2025. H.R. 1 establishes new eligibility and enrollment changes to the Medicaid program.
- [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#) – DDS will be issuing a report on how the 167 recommendations are being implemented. This report will be released in March of 2026.
- Marty Omoto recommended that the ICC add the following updates and agenda items to future meetings:
  - LOIS ([Life Outcomes Information System](#)).
  - Impact of the LA fires after a year.
  - The impact of ICE activities on the families served in Early Start and the professionals providing services.
- Marty Omoto encouraged members to learn more about the outcome of Prop 50 and the newly drawn congressional maps prior to the upcoming election.
- Marty Omoto mentioned Governor Newsom's proclamation of Fred Korematsu Day on January 30. He provided some history of Fred Korematsu who was a

Japanese American who passed in 2005. Mr. Korematsu was an American citizen who was refused voluntary enlistment in the armed forces when Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan. Instead, he and 120,000 Japanese Americans were ordered to internment after the executive order issued on February 19, 1942. Mr. Korematsu was a civil rights activist and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton in 1998. Mr. Omoto encouraged everyone to remember the people who fought and stood up, and those that are fighting now.

## FRCNCA (Family Resource Centers Network of California)- Yvette Baptiste

Yvette Baptiste remarked that FRCNCA represents 47 Early Start family resource centers. She offered appreciation to the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center for hosting an in-person watch party for today's meeting. She then shared the following updates:

- Through the [Community Navigator Program](#), there's at least one community navigator in each catchment area. There are 103 navigators statewide.
  - FRC's are building partnerships for the Navigator Program. The Navigator Program has been very successful, decreasing barriers for families. Of over 6,000 stated barriers the program has reduced the number of barriers to 850. [Community Navigator Program information on DDS website](#).
- Yvette Baptiste presented to the California HHS community of practice on the topic of Equity within the Department of Developmental Services. She specifically highlighted the idea of using community health workers to support Medi-Cal families.
- FRCNA held training on provisional eligibility and navigating the child welfare system with a disability focus.
- [California Autism Professional Training and Information Network](#) (CAPTAIN) has upcoming training opportunities including
  - [Engaging Students Using AI and EBP's](#).

## ICC COUNCIL REPORTS

### Department of Education - Gigi Ostrowsky

Special Education Updates:

- Transition videos are now available in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese, and ASL. The videos will be paired with a new publication coming soon: Transition from Early Start - A Guide for Parents. The video series can be found here: [A Family's Journey from Early Start to School](#).
- Strengthening Partnerships for Students with Disabilities Webinar Series for anyone looking to learn more about special education and related supports.

Access the webinar series here: [Seeds of Partnerships E-Learning: Webinar and Video Gallery web page.](#)

- CalECSE offers no-cost virtual professional development and family outreach sessions. Visit the [CalECSE Training Calendar](#).
- The Desired Results Access Project (DR Access) has a new webpage focused on tools and resources that pertain to the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). For more information, please visit DR Access' [Professional Development Schedule](#).
  - For downloadable forms, checklists, and planning tools for DRDP assessors please visit: [DR Access' Forms page](#).

#### Early Education Updates:

- Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) grantees have completed their third fiscal report. Funds are being used to provide educators with job-embedded professional learning opportunities and strengthen inclusive practices. For questions about IEEP please contact: [IEEEP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:IEEEP@cde.ca.gov).
- Inclusion Toolkit will be released soon. Information will go out through the CDE P-3 alignment initiative. For news related to CDE's P-3 initiative and to receive updates, email "subscribe" to [CDE's P-3 listserv](#).
- Winter Inclusion Newsletter was released in December. Newsletters can be found on the CDE inclusion website [Inclusive Early Education Resources](#).
- Yvette Baptiste highlighted the need for more information for families at transition related to special education services and childcare. It seems like the systems are split and she asked if the state is working on this. Gigi Ostrowsky responded that there are no specific updates to share but this is being discussed at the state level.
- Fran Chasen asked if there is any feedback from CDE regarding DDS and CDE having the same eligibility for Early Start. Gigi Ostrowsky responded that CDE has been reviewing regulations to align eligibility criteria across Department regulations. CDE has received positive comments related to the proposed changes. There is paperwork in process and then the regulations will go back to the Board, prior to implementation. CDE anticipates finalization and approval by October.

#### CDE Homeless Education - Heidi Brahms

- Reported on recently approved federal funding levels for Child Care and Development Block Grant, Preschool Development Grant, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants and on other decisions rolled into the federal funding agreement.

- Homeless Education has little funding from federal level and none from state. Title I funds are set aside for Homeless Education programs.
- Statewide Annual Conference is upcoming in San Diego in March. PowerPoints are currently in development addressing intersection of Early Childhood and Homeless Programs and Full-Service Community Schools and Homeless Programs.
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant will come up for application next fall.
- [SchoolHouse Connection](#) is a non-profit organization providing advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

## Department of Social Services - Karen Chang

- Beginning Together will be hosting a train-the-trainers for teams supporting children with disabilities in inclusive settings. The training is in March, and applications are due by February 13. To learn more, please visit: [Beginning Together website](#).
- Beginning Together will also be hosting a webinar, Building Relationships Across Teams: Connections and Continuity, March 3, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM The webinar will be followed by collaborative conversations. Please visit the following link to register: [2025-2026 Inclusion Webinar Series](#).
- DSS is working with WestEd to develop tools to support young children's social emotional development and to support adults who may find some behaviors difficult to deal with. Tools are expected to be released in the summer of 2026.
- Governor's Executive Order N-31-25 prioritizes mental health of young men and boys: [Executive Order N-31-25](#).
- California Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Network (IECMHC) is designing communities of support for home-based providers. Groups are specifically being designed to support the mental health of male providers. To learn more about IECMHC and the Communities of Support, please visit [IECMHC Network website](#).
- California Infant Toddler Learning and Development Foundations second edition is now available. This guide spotlights competencies young children need for later success and is offered in English and Spanish. The guide can be accessed here, [California Infant-Toddler Learning and Development Foundations, Second Edition](#).
- Upcoming webinar in partnership with CDE: Changing the Lens from Exclusion to Inclusion on March 24, 2026. This webinar fulfills requirements of AB 2806 by providing trauma-informed practices (TIP) to reduce expulsions of young children from preschool. For more information on the inclusion webinars, please contact Heather McClellan-Brandusa at [heather.mcclellan-brandusa@dss.ca.gov](mailto:heather.mcclellan-brandusa@dss.ca.gov).

- Previous webinar in partnership with CDE: From Exclusion to Inclusion: Nurturing Behavior Through Support. Access the recording and resources on the [CDSS website](#).
- Dual language learning data collection plan is something CDSS has been working on. They will have a webinar soon for anyone who is contracting with the Department of Social Services for a child care and development program. The webinar will walk through the new data collection requirements. For more information on dual language learning and preventing suspension and expulsion in early learning and care settings, please contact Jawid Azin by email at [jawid.azin@dss.ca.gov](mailto:jawid.azin@dss.ca.gov).
- The UPK (Universal Prekindergarten) toolkit is a CDE resource designed to promote a smooth and successful entry into the TK–12 education system. ICC members are asked to share information about the toolkit which can be found at [Universal PreKindergarten Resources](#).

## Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing – Shanice Orum

- As of January 2026, there are approximately 44,000 licensed child care facilities, with the capacity to serve over one million children.
- Community Care Licensing is hosting feedback sessions to gather input on interim licensing standards for [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2827](#).
- There are two new laws and there will be a provider information notice available soon.
- [AB 495](#) was designated to ensure that children facing the risk of family separation due to a parent's immigration status have stable and legally recognized caregiving arrangements that protect their emotional and physical well-being. AB 495 added Section 1597.640 to the Health and Safety Code to require the Office of the Attorney General to publish model policies by April 1, 2026.
- [SB 568](#) updated the law to require emergency epinephrine delivery systems at every school site, including any state or federally subsidized child care program.
- Child Care Provider training will be held on March 24, 2026. Topics will include incidental medical services and Safe Sleep.
- For additional resources and information for providers, please visit the [CDSS Child Care Licensing website](#).

## Department of Managed Care – Suzanne Sherinian

- Notable fines were levied against two health plans:
  - \$1.3 million fine against HealthNet Community Solutions and HealthNet of California for mishandling provider payment disputes.

- \$15 million fine against Anthem Blue Cross over concerns about handling member grievances.
- Fines subsidize tuition for medical students who plan to serve rural communities and also go to the Department of Healthcare Services to help fund Medi-Cal.
- A new benchmark plan was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to cover various medical equipment including hearing aids, power wheelchairs and portable oxygen.
- For more information, please see [DMHC's Winter 2025 Newsletter](#).
- For questions contact: [Suzanne.sherinian@dmhc.ca.gov](mailto:Suzanne.sherinian@dmhc.ca.gov).

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND GOALS

- Anne De Medeiros provided a summary of committee composition and goals. She reminded everyone that committee meetings are public meetings and have their own public input period. Everyone was encouraged to attend, participate and provide input.

## SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Meeting of the whole was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.; committees met separately

# MEETING ATTENDEES

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## APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Erber	Karen Chang	Shanice Orum
Gigi Ostrowsky	Erin Brady*	Suzanne Sherinian
Heidi Brahms	Marie Kanne Poulsen	

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Alexis Deavenport-Saman	Jadolphus Fraser	Michelle Oliver
Ana Aragon	Jonathan Eckrich	Robert Rochin
Aviril Apple Sepulveda	Julie Maier	Robin Millar
Debbie Sarmento	Julie Rems-Smario	Thao Tran
Diane Williams	June Ursini	Tony Anderson*
Edyth Gallardo	Laurie Jordan	Yuuko Johnson
Elena Bramble	Lindsay Crain	Yvette O. Baptiste
Fran Chasen	Lisa Schoyer	
Gayatri Mahajan	Marty Omoto	

## INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Richard Haffner, ASL	Marc Gutierrez, Spanish
Elizabeth Vega, ASL	Yelka D Vargas, Spanish

## OTHERS PRESENT

Adriana Zuniga	Elizabeth Valdez	Kausha King
Amy Kaiser, WestEd	Elizabeth Vega	Kelly Price-Martinez
Ana Barranco	ENEDINA ROSAS	Latonya Harris, DDS
Andrea Davis	Faye Tait	Lauren Libero, DDS
Angela McGuire	Feven Wordofa	LaWanna Blair
Anna Schichtel	Gabrielle Allen	Leticia Serrano
Anne De Medeiros, DDS*	Gilda Giron	Liliana McDonough
Blaz Gutierrez	Gwendy Rodriguez	Lisa Culley
Blesilda Uban	Hannah Michaelson	Lisa Gonzales, DDS
Breanna Gatti	Hannah Rapp	Lori Luzader
Brigida Salinas	Hilda Jimenez, DDS	Lupe Rojas-Sanchez
Carmen Ruiz-Ochoa	Jane Lee, DDS	Mahnaz Ehsan
Carmen Vasquez	Janelle Fong, DDS	Maria Gonzalez, DDS
Carol Johnson, DDS	Janet Garcia	Maricris Acon, DDS
Cathy Schulze, DDS	JaRita Pichon, DDS	Marie Wecker
Chiakis Ornelas	Jasmine Suo, DDS	Marisol Segura, DDS
Christine Sedlack Rottger	Jeffrey Stanley	Martha Ornelas-Cruz
Courtney Chandler	Jenifer Pearsall	Matt Chesnut
Cynde Josol, DDS	Jenine Schmidt, WestEd	Mei Ye
Dilpreet Sarai, DDS	Johana Caicedo	Mike Odeh
DJ Tomko	Joni Hasselbring, DDS	Mini Nandakumar, DDS
Dulce Flores	Juliana Baez	Monica Beltran
Elizabeth Jimenez-Winslow	Karen Bohall-Ortega	Nancy Chen, DDS

Nancy Mendoza

Nicole Bui

Nicole Hsu

Osman Hossain

Paige Richmond, DDS

Patty Moore

Paulina Blanco

Penelope Knapp

Rachel Wilson, DDS\*

Randy Olson

Reyna Ambriz, DDS\*

Rocio King

Ross Adams, WestEd

Ryan Digman, DDS

Shannen Cheng, DDS

Suada Sergio

Tanya Ruiz

TeiYana Muse

Teresa Anderson

Terquoia Bourne, DDS

Van Pham, DDS

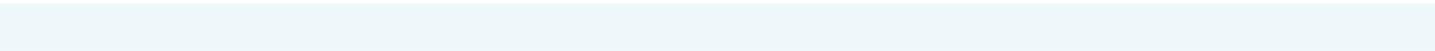
Veronica Valenzuela

Vianette Uriostegui

Victoria Berrey

Zully Jauregui

\* Indicates attendance at the in-person meeting location



# Questions?

Contact DDS/Early Childhood and Youth Services Division

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Sacramento, CA 95814