



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Day 2 Meeting Minutes

Feb 6, 2026

[Meeting Recording](#)



MEETING MINUTES

OPENING AND HOUSEKEEPING

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

AGENDA REVIEW

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

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Improving State Systems - Fran Chasen

- Angela McGuire, WestEd, provided the committee with an update on the status of the revision of the Early Start Personnel Manual. The recommended updates will be sent to DDS by the end of June.
- The Voices from the Field survey will be distributed soon via Council members with a cover letter prepared by the committee chairs.
- The Committee welcomed a new member - Alexis Deavenport-Saman.
- Question in the chat from Yuuko Johnson: How will families who speak languages other than English and Spanish have access to the family survey? Fran Chasen responded that the survey was only translated into Spanish and English. Yvette Baptiste also responded to clarify that the committee did discuss this and determined that agencies supporting families would be encouraged to have support professionals assist families with the survey if other language translation is needed.

Communications and Outreach Committee - Robert Rochin

- Robert Rochin reported that discussion focused on the development of a New Member Orientation agenda and PowerPoint.
- The committee feels it is important to share a unified message for families and professionals, using plain language and explaining acronyms.
- An interim meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2026, from 12 to 1 PM, to continue the work on the New Member Orientation.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Jane Lee provided reminders about public input parameters.
- No public input was given at this meeting.

PRESENTATION: SUPPORTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN OAKLAND USD

Karina Gonzalez, OUSD Early Start Service Coordinator; Molly Eiseman, OUSD Early Start Speech & Language Pathologist; Olivia Michaelson, OUSD Early Start DHH Teacher

- OUSD Early Start serves children aged 0-3 with solely low-incidence eligibility within Oakland. This includes children with hearing differences, visual impairment, and orthopedic impairment. The program also provides parent coaching to empower parents to support their children's development.
- OUSD student demographics:
 - 33,916 students
 - 81.7% are eligible for free or reduced lunch
 - 3,100 are newcomer students (refugee students, asylee students, or unaccompanied minor students).
 - 5,744 receive special education services
- The presentation focused on the challenges facing families in vulnerable populations and on serving those families. Presenters highlighted the importance of building trusting relationships and provided practical strategies for supporting children and families.
- [Bay Area Resources for Families](#): Most of the listed resources are local to the Bay Area but some are nationwide. If Council members have suggestions for resources, they may access the Google Form and contact the OUSD.
- Questions:
 - Marty Omoto: Are you finding the ongoing immigration enforcement (including ICE) is having or could have an impact on your families and

workers? How do you respond to that or recommend a response for others to consider using? Answer: Olivia Michaelson responded that Oakland is a sanctuary city. Their agency does not provide information or assist ICE. The priority is to keep families safe. There have been times when therapy does not take place due to the situation (ICE presence). The team makes sure all families have access to the Red Card with information in their own language and in English. Some families will not respond and will go silent because of fear. She advised listeners to collaborate with any resources based on the protocol in their area.

- Follow up question from Marty Omoto: Are there things that we, the ICC or the State can do related to ICE enforcement? Answer: Olivia Michaelson responded that this is complicated. Providing and reinforcing a message that there's a safe place to go or a place to go for support is an important factor. The website offers resources for legal aid and other resources for immigration support.

PRESENTATION: SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Xavier Vazquez Baez, Centro La Familia

- Centro La Familia was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

PRESENTATION: FEDERAL UPDATES

Sharon Walsh, Division for Early Childhood

- Sharon Walsh reviewed recent Congressional activities, focusing on policy that is related, directly or indirectly, to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C programs. Relevant highlights are outlined below.
- Government Shutdowns

The federal government shutdown from October 1 to November 12, 2025, was the longest in history. At issue during this time was extension of subsidies of Affordable Care Act (ACA) premiums, which were eliminated as of December 31, 2025. The House passed a bill extending the subsidies for 3 years, but there were not enough Senate votes to pass the bill. Meanwhile, the President is working on a health care reform plan. To end the shutdown, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) opening the government until January 30, 2026.

- CR expired January 30, 2026, and the government shut down again for four days.

- Eventually, legislation related to the Office of Homeland Security was placed into a separate CR, which will expire in two weeks. A bill to fund all other programs was passed.
- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Funding
 - Funding for IDEA has been essentially frozen at the 2024 FY level, which, with inflation, is generally considered a cut.
 - Head Start and Child Care got an \$85 million increase.
 - The Healthy Start program funded at a \$145 million increase.
- Department of Education
 - The Administration wants to eliminate the Department of Education. However, Congressional action is needed to eliminate a department.
 - Meanwhile, many of the programs previously housed at the Department have been moved to other Departments through interagency agreements.
 - The Office of Special Education Programs, which has oversight of IDEA, has not been moved.
 - Congress is concerned about using interagency agreements to move departments, for additional details, please see the [joint explanatory statement](#).
 - Some previously issued guidance to educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance prohibiting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs/activities was challenged in court. The court ruled that the prohibition on DEI was a violation of the First Amendment. The administration dropped the legal appeal against this decision.
- Child Care
 - [Child Care Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) was released on January 5 and comments were due on February 4, 2026.
 - Funding freezes were issued by the Administration for child care, social services, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs for five states, California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, and New York. A letter was issued through the Health and Human Services Agency indicating these states were in a restricted drawdown. Several reasons were cited, including “fraud” and new requirements to provide data. Attorneys General from the identified states filed a lawsuit to block the funding freeze and the court has blocked the freeze temporarily.
- Head Start
 - Office of Head Start instructed Head Start grantees to eliminate words that the Administration identified, including “accessible, belong, disability, inclusion, minority, trauma, tribal, and women,” from grant applications. A lawsuit was filed. A district judge has barred the Administration from cutting employees or punishing providers for using prohibited words.
 - [Preschool Development Grants](#) were funded with prior year funding.
- Immunization

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued changes to vaccine recommendations. Please see the [CDC Newsroom Release](#) for details and the CDC website for [vaccine recommendations](#).
- American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) issued their own [recommendations on vaccination](#) along with a [Fact Check](#).
- Groups of states and some individual states have issued their own recommendations. California, through the West Coast Health Alliance with Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, recommends vaccinations in alignment with the AAP.
- Sharon Walsh encouraged Council members to access Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Policy Coffee Talks and other resources:
 - Policy Coffee Talks are held every two weeks, Tuesday at 8 PM Eastern Time and Thursday at 2 PM Eastern Time. DEC is non-partisan and these meetings provide policy updates and offer time for informal discussions.
 - On January 29, 2026, DEC released a statement addressing the impact of enhanced immigration enforcement actions on young children, families, and early childhood communities. Please see the [Position Statement](#) for more details.
 - Sign-up for [DEC Emails](#)
 - [DEC Policy & Advocacy Page](#)
 - [DEC News Page](#)

CLOSING

- Jane Lee announced the next ICC Meeting will be on May 7 and 8, 2026. The meeting will be hybrid, and the physical location will be at Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center. To register, please visit the [ICC website](#).
- Dr. Marie Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

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	Marty Omoto
Ana Aragon	Jonathan Eckrich	Michelle Oliver
Aviril Apple Sepulveda	Julie Maier	Robert Rochin
Debbie Sarmiento	Julie Rems-Smario	Robin Millar
Edyth Gallardo	Laurie Jordan	Tony Anderson*
Fran Chasen	Lindsay Crain	Yuuko Johnson
Gayatri Mahajan	Lisa Schoyer	Yvette O. Baptiste

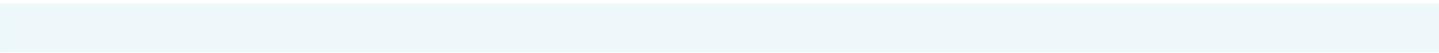
INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Richard Haffner, ASL	Marc Gutierrez, Spanish
Elizabeth Vega, ASL	Alejandra Serrano, Spanish

OTHERS PRESENT

Adriana Zuniga	Gwendy Rodriguez	Mini Nandakumar, DDS
Alex Guerrero	Hannah Michaelson	Molly Eiseman
Amy Kaiser, WestEd	Jacqueline Carmona	Nancy Chen
Ana Barranco	Jane Lee, DDS	Nayeli Garcia
Angela McGuire, WestEd	Janet Garcia	Nicole Bui
Anna Schichtel	Jasmine Suo, DDS	Olivia Michaelson
Anne De Medeiros, DDS*	Jenifer Pearsall	Osman Hossain
Asami Saito, DDS	Jenine Schmidt, WestEd	Paige Richmond, DDS
Breanna Gatti	Karen Bohall-Ortega	Paulina Blanco
Brigida Salinas	Karina Gonzalez	Priscilla Solano
Caritina Vargas	Kausha King	Rekha Butani
Cathy Schulze, DDS	Latonya Harris, DDS	Reyna Ambriz, DDS*
Courtney Chandler	Lauren Libero, DDS	Ryan Digman, DDS*
Diana A	Lilia Rodriguez	Shannen Cheng, DDS
Diane Williams	Lisa Culley	Sharon Walsh
Dilpreet Sarai, DDS	Lisa Gonzales, DDS	Shital Agrawalla
Donella Green	Lori Luzader	Stephanie Gomez
Dulce Flores	Lupe Rojas-Sanchez	Suada Sergio
Elizabeth Jimenez-Winslow	Marie Wecker	TeiYana Muse
Enedina Rosas	Marisol Segura, DDS	Teresa Anderson
Nicki Moss	Martha Ornelas-Cruz	

* Indicates attendance at the in-person meeting location



Questions?

Contact DDS/Early Childhood and Youth Services Division

Email: earlystart@dds.ca.gov

Phone: (800) 515-2229

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