

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Day 2 Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2026

[Meeting Recording](#)



MEETING MINUTES

OPENING AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Dr. Marie Poulsen welcomed everyone and welcomed Amanda Levy, who will be representing the Department of Managed Health Care.
- Jasmine Suo shared housekeeping items, including how to access Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, how to share comments, how to use chat, and how to submit written comments to DDS.
- Jane Lee conducted roll call for ICC voting members to establish quorum. She requested all Community Representatives use the chat to introduce themselves.

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 Transitions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Improving State Systems - Fran Chasen

- Fran Chasen reported that the committee continued discussion of workforce recruitment and retention challenges in early intervention and related fields.
- The committee viewed the Division for Early Childhood video, [Be Part of Early Intervention](#), as a resource to explain early intervention, describe different disciplines and career pathways, and support outreach to students and colleagues who may not be aware of the field.
- The committee discussed the [Early Start Personnel Manual](#). Members noted that the revised manual will be an important tool for describing early intervention disciplines and their contributions to the field. 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 committee continued work related to survey results and the five identified committee priorities. The Voices from the Field survey is available in English and Spanish through a QR code and SurveyMonkey link. The committee asked the

whole ICC to help send it out to their networks. The committee hopes to share the results of the survey at the August meeting.

- The committee is clarifying the status of committee members and plans to check in with individuals who have not attended in a year or two to confirm whether they still want to remain on the committee list.
- The committee agreed that an interim meeting is not needed before August.
- The committee also discussed the public input conversation asking for clarity on how clinical practice decisions are made regarding evidence-based services. Information was shared that prior authorized services are now not being recognized. This concern and request are something that the council be able to follow up on and information be shared about the process. The committee wants to know if they can act on it before the next quarterly meeting. They would like to also know the process for the council to respond and forward it to the Department.

Communications and Outreach Committee - Doug Erber and Robert Rochin

- Doug Erber and Robert Rochin reported that the committee continued work on an updated [New Member Orientation](#) PowerPoint and agenda. The committee received helpful input and plans to continue refining the materials for August.
- The committee was also asked to work on an ICC logo. The committee reviewed some sample designs and provided feedback.
- The committee viewed the [Be Part of Early Intervention](#) video and encouraged ICC members and partners to share the video through their own networks and dissemination channels.
- The committee agreed that an interim meeting is not needed before August.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Jane Lee provided reminders about public input parameters.
- Andrea Davis, clinical psychologist and president of Coalition for Developmental Approaches, thanked the committee for hearing concerns raised on Day 1 and for asking for a next step related to developmental relationship-based interventions (DRBI). She also shared a save-the-date for the first [World Conference on Developmental Relationship-Based Interventions](#).
- Michelle Oliver submitted a written comment emphasizing the importance of training Early Start providers in trauma-informed practices. Michelle emphasized that services need to support the family as a whole. She also stated she would like to see more family outcomes included in Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) and expressed interest in a service code for direct family support.

- Erin Brady responded by chat that family-directed assessment will be part of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) work. Andrea Davis, Yuuko Johnson, and Lisa Schoyer expressed interest in contributing to that work. Yuuko noted that family outcomes may include social determinants of health, trauma, nutrition, and other health-related areas.
- DJ Tomko, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), shared statewide trends related to delays in intake and evaluation and also staffing shortages across key early intervention disciplines, including speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. DJ also noted that SCDD is working with the ICC to identify parent leaders throughout the state, including individuals who bring more cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Fran Chasen, speaking as public policy co-chair for the Infant Development Association, added that workforce availability, retention, and recruiting costs are heightened concerns in the early intervention field. She also described fiscal pressures related to rate model implementation, including reported cuts for programs with 1:2 or 1:3 ratios, cancellation and absenteeism rates of approximately 28% to 32%, and concern that some programs may need to consider closing.
- Yvette Baptiste commented that family support is provided as a practice across disciplines, but family support is also a profession and discipline best provided by people with lived experience. However, we have seen increasing efforts to say they provide family support without properly trained staff or utilizing the resources that exist already in the system. She emphasized that family support should be recognized and fully funded.
- Pablo Velez emphasized the urgency of workforce and rate issues in California, including the high cost of living, competition from virtual work in other states, transportation and mileage costs, and the impact of these pressures on recruiting and retaining early intervention staff.

PRESENTATION: EARLY START PERSONNEL MANUAL UPDATE

Jamie Michaud and Angela McGuire, WestEd

- Jamie Michaud and Angela McGuire presented proposed updates to California's Early Start Personnel Manual (ESPM), including text revisions, design considerations, and dissemination strategies.
- The 16-member advisory group included parents, regional center staff, vendors, family resource centers, higher education, state agencies, and community organizations.
- Recommended updates included clearer SB 210 language, information on the early intervention technician role, training and professional development resources, updates to core knowledge, and links to supporting resources.

- Design recommendations included both PDF and web-based formats, more graphics, less text, digital supports, clearer navigation, larger text, stronger callouts, hyperlinks, alternative text, endnotes, QR codes, and video supports.
- For dissemination, the group identified onboarding and training as the strongest strategy. Other options included conference presentations, a recorded webinar, and a mass email with a link.
- Implementation recommendations included statewide distribution, standardized introductory training, participation from regional centers and vendors, endorsement from DDS and CDE, clear accountability, cross-regional center collaboration, and dedicated time, funding, and communication supports.
- WestEd plans to share a completed draft for ICC review. ICC members may provide high-level feedback to Jamie Michaud by May 22. WestEd will submit the proposed draft to DDS by the end of May, with design beginning by the end of June. The final draft is expected before the November meeting, followed by translation, 508 compliance formatting, and dissemination if approved.
- The manual will be available to all families of children receiving Early Start services and will be posted on the DDS website. The current version of the ESPM is on the DDS website: [Early Start Personnel Manual](#).
- Questions:
 - Samantha Hebermehl asked via chat: Will families with low-incidence children and/or families who do not receive Regional Center services have access to this tool? If so, how will it be disseminated to those families? Answer: Jamie Michaud responded yes, the manual will be available to all. The dissemination strategy will be implemented in the fall. The best method of implementation and dissemination is part of the feedback they are requesting from the ICC. Anne De Medeiros said the manual will be posted on the DDS website.
 - Nancy Hlibok Amann asked if the revised manual will be translated to ASL. Answer: Anne De Medeiros said she will incorporate that feedback in the public comment.

PRESENTATION: EATON WILDFIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

Yvonne Gratianne, San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center

- Yvonne Gratianne provided a one-year update on the Eaton Fire recovery. Yvonne explained that the recovery effort has shifted from a global incident command response to individualized support through service coordination teams. Families continue to experience different recovery needs, including temporary housing, relocation, permanent housing, and readiness to accept donated items.
- The San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center recovery fund continues to support families who are still affected.

- A video expressing gratitude to the community and recognizing the resilience of families and the many partners who supported them during and after the Eaton Fire was shared: [Eaton Fire Gratitude Video](#)

PRESENTATION: WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Tim Travis, San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center

- Tim Travis presented on San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center's water safety and drowning prevention campaign, developed with funding from DDS. Tim noted that May is Drowning Prevention Month.
- The campaign emphasizes that some people with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be at higher risk of drowning because of wandering, limited awareness of danger, and fascination with water.
- San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center introduced Olly the Sea Lion as the campaign mascot. The campaign includes social media, downloadable resources, multilingual cards, and community events. [Be Splash Safe with Olly the Sea Lion](#).
- San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center plans to continue promoting the water safety campaign throughout the summer and shared that resources are available in English and Spanish:
[Water Safety for All Californians: CA Department of Developmental Services Drowning Prevention \(Water Safety\): San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center](#).
- Find San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center online at [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).
- Questions:
 - Samantha Hebermehl stated that it is very difficult to find appropriate swimming classes for her deaf children. Swimming classes don't know how and/or refuse to provide ASL interpreters so that her kids can learn how to swim and use water safety skills. Other families have had similar difficulties. These families need more support to find resources to teach their deaf kids water safety. Do you have any advice for families like mine? In addition, a lot of deaf children and adults do not use their voices. There are also other kids with various special needs who are non-verbal. Do you teach other ways for kids who do not have a voice to indicate trouble or the need for help in the water? Answer: Tim Travis responded that they are going out to different cities and private entities and talking about the needs of their population. Communication is key. They will give that feedback to their team. Lisa Gonzales responded that there is a CODA who signs and a lifeguard who lives in Fremont and also teaches swim classes. She will find out which facility he is working at this summer and send Samantha the information.

PRESENTATION: PART C TO B TRANSITION MATERIALS

Scott Turner, CalECSE

- Scott Turner presented on the [California Early Childhood Special Education Network](#), also known as CalECSE. He explained that CalECSE is funded by the California Department of Education and was developed in response to the SB 75 Part C to B workgroup report, which identified gaps in successful transitions from Part C to Part B. [Presentation](#)
- CalECSE identified exemplar areas to support early childhood special education practice, including interagency collaboration, assessment practices, assessment team leadership, preschool Child Find, parent outreach and support, data governance, and least restrictive environment/inclusion.
- CalECSE works with San Diego Regional Center and East County SELPA exemplar leads to support regional centers, LEAs, and SELPAs in developing interagency agreements, understanding Part C to B timelines, clarifying referral processes, scheduling transition meetings, and providing tools for families, staff, and administrators.
- Resources on the CalECSE website include exemplar videos, tools, recorded webinars, and training. Scott noted that many training courses include sign language interpretation and that CalECSE is working closely with the State Schools Division and the State Schools for Deaf and Blind.
- Scott presented the video series [A Family's Journey from Early Start to School](#), developed with CDE and DDS. The series includes videos in the top five spoken languages, with English subtitles where applicable, and a sixth video featuring a family whose native language is ASL. The videos are intended to help families prepare for transition and help practitioners understand cultural, language, and other barriers families may experience.
- Scott announced the fourth annual CalECSE Symposium, which will be held in Burlingame. He provided Melanie Hertig's contact information, mhertig@calecse.org, for follow-up support.

CLOSING

- Dr. Marie Poulsen thanked everyone for their work supporting infants, toddlers, and families throughout the state.
- Jane Lee announced that the next ICC meeting will be held August 6 and 7, 2026, in San Diego. The meeting will be hybrid, with the physical location at the San Diego Regional Center. Jane noted that the website may currently list the meeting as all virtual. To register, please visit the [ICC website](#).
- Dr. Marie Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Levy (for Mary Watanabe)	Heidi Brahms	Reyna Ambriz (for Pete Cervinka)
Doug Erber	Karen Chang (for Jenniffer Troia)	Shanice Orum (for Kim Johnson)
Gigi Ostrowsky	Marie Kanne Poulsen*	

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Alexis Deavenport-Saman	Jadolphus Fraser	Robin Millar*
Debbie Sarmento	Julie Rems-Smario	Samantha Herbermehl
Elena Bramble	Laurie Jordan*	Scott Turner
Fran Chasen	Lisa Schoyer*	Yuuko Johnson*
Gayatri Mahajan	Robert Rochin*	

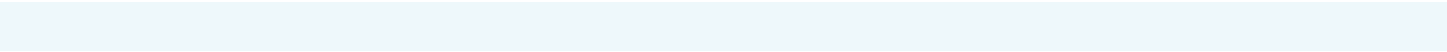
INTERPRETERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Alex Guerrero	Erin Brady, DDS	Morgan Barker
Ana Barranco*	Edyth Gallardo*	Nancy Hlibok Amann
AnaElvia Sanchez	Griselda Hernandez	Osman Hossain
Andrea Davis	Hilda Jimenez, DDS	Pablo Velez
Andrea Grimes	Jamie Michaud, WestEd	Paige Richmond, DDS
Angela McGuire	Jane Lee, DDS*	Penelope Knapp
Anna Schichtel	Janelle Fong, DDS	Rachel Wilson, DDS
Anne De Medeiros, DDS*	Jasmine Suo, DDS	Randy Olson
Andrea Grimes	Jenifer Pearsall	Ross Adams
Austin Lyke	Jennifer Castle	Ryan Digman, DDS
Becky Vang, DDS*	Johana Caicedo	Silvia Costichi
Ben Braun	John Knight, DDS	Suada Sergio
Breck Frye, Mission	LaWanna Blair	Tim Travis
Carmen Vasquez*	Liliana McDonough	Van Aulds, DDS
Cathy Schulze, DDS	Lisa Gonzales, DDS	Van Pham, DDS
Courtney Chandler	Maria Moberg	Veronica Valenzuela*
Danielle Calloway, Mission	Maricris Acon, DDS	Vicky Wheeler, Mission
DJ Tomko*	Marie Wecker	Yvonne Gratianne
Dulce Flores	Marisol Segura, DDS	
Erika Quezada	Mini Nandakumar, DDS	

* Indicates attendance at the in-person meeting location



Questions?

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