

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Improving State Systems Committee Minutes

May 7, 2026

[Meeting Recording](#) Starts at 3:34:16



MEETING MINUTES

OPENING

- [Committee Agenda](#)
- Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 2:45 PM. Fran Chasen welcomed newcomers to the committee.
- Introductions/Roll Call: The roll was completed via Zoom chat.
- Housekeeping Items were outlined by Co-Chair Fran Chasen.
- Review of the Agenda and the Committee's purpose was conducted by Co-Chair Fran Chasen.

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

- Fran Chasen shared the [Be Part of Early Intervention video](#) that reflects on the goals and purpose of Early Intervention. Fran asked for committee feedback on the video and if the video would be a useful tool for Early Intervention recruitment.
 - Patty Moore, Lisa Schoyer, and Yuko Johnson enjoyed the video and thought it was engaging. Yuko Johnson noted that it does not touch on themes that address health and health literacy that would be relevant to her colleagues.

EARLY START PERSONNEL MANUAL PROJECT UPDATE

- Ryan Digman and Angela McGuire provided an update. An advisory group who was tasked to provide recommendations to the ICC to revise the manual. There were five different work groups that were led by WestEd to go through each section. The group made several recommendations that streamline early intervention content and reorganize the manual specifically for easier navigation and easier access to practical information.
- WestEd and DDS will send the revised draft of the revised Early Start Personnel Manual (ESPM) next week, and ICC members are invited to complete a high-level review and submit input on text revisions and design dissemination by May 22nd. WestEd and DDS will work internally to finalize the Manual with the goal of including the final draft in the November ICC meeting agenda. Ryan Digman thanked the members of the advisory group for all their work.
- Fran Chasen asked if the revision of the ESPM was considering the reformed use of descriptions of personnel. For example, the difference between

a child development individual with a master's degree versus an early start educator. And there's also a credential available and a child development permit.

- Angela McGuire responded that the Manual focuses on the minimum requirements of qualifications for working with infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities.
- Fran Chasen asked if the group would be interested in a joint review of the ESPM.
 - Yvette Baptiste responded that she liked the idea but would not want the feedback to delay or derail the work that has already been done.
- Fran Chasen asked how the information from the input process will be disseminated.
 - Angela McGuire responded that DDS will send the public input process to the ICC members.
- Fran Chasen asked if there would be another public input process after May 22nd.
 - Angela McGuire responded that there would not be another public input process after May 22nd.
- Patty Moore asked if there is a framework that could be used for reviewing the Manual.
 - Angela McGuire responded that she would ask Jamie Michaud if they could provide guiding questions to facilitate structured feedback.
- Robin Millar asked about the extended timeline for the final draft of the ESPM, as there is a 6-month period to finalize the report.
 - Angela McGuire responded that the timeline accounts for graphic design and the review period at the Department.
- [Early Start Personnel Manual \(current version\)](#).

COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

- Ryan Digman shared the draft Committee Priorities discussed in October. The five priorities include: Strengthen intake and service delivery, health insurance and system impact, coordinated child find, ICC presentations and updates, and updates on addressing client cancellations and absenteeism that impacts service providers.
- Fran Chasen asked if there were any comments on the proposed priorities.
 - Yvette Baptiste noted that the committee may want to wait to review the Early Start Survey results to inform the Priorities. Fran responded that they asked for the survey to be returned by June 30th so she hopes there might be some reflection.

- Fran Chasen also noted that the Children Now Report Card (which gave Early Intervention in Special Education a D grade) and the Family Voices Survey could also inform the Priorities as well. Fran will send the results.
- The committee decided that it would not have an interim meeting in June and instead add the Committee Priorities discussion to the August ICC Committee agenda.

EARLY START SURVEY UPDATE

- Fran Chasen provided an update on the Survey. Fran has asked for the Early Start Survey to be disseminated again due to implementation issues. The survey was disseminated again using a QR code, and the survey is for families enrolled in Early Start and graduates within the last three years can complete it. Committee members will be able to see the results by June 30th.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Ryan Digman provided clarification on committee membership. For those who have not been attending the meetings, Fran Chasen and Susan Ducore will be sending an email regarding their interest in being involved in the committee. They are hoping for a response by the August meeting.
- Fran Chasen mentioned that committee members should review the proposed Trailer Bill for Early Start, as it is suggested that state preschools be considered a possible referral source. ICC committee members should review the Trailer Bill to see it indicates that state preschools are only referral sources and if the Trailer Bill should be re-worded so that it meets the needs of the child and family.

PUBLIC INPUT | DDS

- Anne De Medeiros provided guidelines for the Public Input period.
- Yvette Baptiste provided a comment on the relational therapy provision issues service providers are facing, such as DIR and floor play. Yvette would like to hear DDS's response to this, as it would be helpful to understand how decisions are made regarding clinical practices at the regional centers and how they are decided at the statewide and local level. What are the alternatives for families to access these services. She would like to see collaboration between service providers, regional centers, and the Department so that families can access a range of interventions.

- Laurie Jordan added that evidence-based interventions may work for most people but not for everyone. This can be difficult for parents to understand and accept, especially for those who have seen an approach helping their child but cannot afford it. She would also like to understand how decisions are made.
- Andrea Davis added that a local program that had been covered for 30 years at the federal level was recently rejected at the state level. She asked for more subject matter experts (SMEs) to be included in the determinations for what “evidence-based” means. She does not understand why the state government would not cover developmental relationship-based models if the federal government had indicated that Medicaid could cover it.
- Lisa Schoyer noted that applied behavioral analysis (ABA) can be detrimental to those with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder if there is no skilled implementation. She added that the relational method may be more effective.
- Yuuko Johnson put in chat that there also seems to be a disjuncture between focusing on family outcomes yet programs that have family “coaching”/relational are not being accepted at the state level.

NEXT STEPS | COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

- The next meeting will be held on August 6th and 7th and the agenda will focus on the Committee Priorities and the feedback from the Early Start Survey.
- Fran Chasen thanked the group for their time and adjourned the meeting at 3:56 PM.

MEETING ATTENDEES

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Levy*	Karen Chang, DSS	Shanice Orum
Gigi Ostrowsky	Marie Poulsen (Co-Chair)*	

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Edyth Gallardo*	Jadolphus Fraser	Patricia Moore
Elena Bramble	Johnathan Eckrich	Robin Millar*
Fran Chasen (Co-Chair)	Laurie Jordan*	Yuko Johnson*
Gayatri Mahajan	Lisa Schoyer*	Yvette Baptiste*
Interpreters Present		
Renee Souleret, ASL	Rick Haffner, ASL	Marco Gutierrez, Spanish
Yelka Vargas, Spanish		

OTHERS PRESENT

Alex Guerrero	Heidi Brahms	Mini Nandakimar, DDS
Ana Barranco*	Hely Lee Chan	Nicole Hsu
Andrea Davis*	Hope Beale	Penelope Knapp
Andrea Grimes	Jasmine Suo, DDS	Rachel Wilson, DDS*
Angela McGuire, WestEd	John Knight, DDS	Ryan Digman, DDS
Anna Schichtel	Joni Hasselbring, DDS	Shakshi Sharma
Anne De Medeiros, DDS*	Kaitlynn Truong	Sheri Farinha
Art Castellanos	Maria Gonzalez, DDS	Silvia Costichi
Ashly Perry	Maria Interiano	Suada Sergio
Ben Graff, DDS	Maria Moberg*	Valerie Sanchez
Cynde Josol, DDS	Marie Wecker, DDS	Veronica Valenzuela*
Danielle Calloway, Mission Analytics	Marisol Segura, DDS	Vicki Wheeler
	Michelle Dove	Xiaozhu Li

Erika Quezada

Michelle Oliver

* Indicates attendance at the in-person meeting location

Questions?

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