

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Improving State Systems Committee Minutes

August 6, 2026

[Meeting Recording](#) Starts at 01:15:34



MEETING MINUTES

OPENING

- [Committee Agenda](#)
- Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. Susan Ducore welcomed newcomers to the committee.
- Housekeeping Items were outlined by JJ Fernandez, DDS.
- Introductions/Roll Call: Anne De Medeiros, DDS asked the committee members to conduct roll call via the chat.
- Review of the Agenda and the Committee's purpose was conducted by Co-Chair Susan Ducore and Yvette Baptiste.

EARLY START SURVEY REVIEW

- Susan Ducore reported that the survey was sent out, people were expected to send it out to their constituent groups, and the survey is now closed.
- Angela McGuire and Yvette Baptiste reviewed the results of the Early Start survey.
 - There were 336 English responses and 48 Spanish responses since May 1st. Survey outreach was not designed around a target number of respondents.
 - Susan Ducore asked how many people the outreach included, and Angela McGuire and Yvette Baptiste responded that we do not have an answer to that. We did not design the outreach to track that information.
 - Angela McGuire will give committee members access to the SurveyMonkey so that they can analyze responses by respondent type.
 - There were a roughly equal number of parents and providers, with relatively strong responses from early care and education professionals.
 - The largest challenges include knowing the Early Start program exists, getting into the program, getting/understanding services, understanding the Early Start program, and transitioning into services after age three.
 - The survey reported positive responses regarding whether respondents felt comfortable asking for support, whether they were satisfied with responses to requests, and whether they received adequate support to accomplish goals.

- JaRita Pichon asked for clarification on the number of respondents, as there were 300 respondents but only 45 respondents answered the support question. Yuko Johnson also commented via chat that 45 respondents answered the support question.
 - Angela McGuire responded that not all questions were required, and providers and parents/caregivers received a different set of questions. There were over 300 respondents, but they did not have to answer all the questions.
 - JaRita Pichon noted that this context was helpful in reviewing the survey data.
- Karen Chang commented via chat that the Child Care and Development Division sent the survey to everyone on its listserv.
- Gigi Ostrowsky commented via chat that the CDE's Early Childhood Support Unit/Special Education Division sent the survey out via listserv as well.
- Yuko Johnson asked via chat if this survey is a different survey from the one Teresa Anderson is conducting that includes interviews. Susan Ducore also asked if the existence of Teresa Anderson's separate survey might be causing confusion and whether families were receiving multiple surveys from different organizations.
 - Yvette Baptiste confirmed that Teresa's survey was separate but expressed concern that families may be experiencing survey fatigue from these surveys, along with other family outcomes surveys.
- Angela McGuire and Yvette Baptiste noted that the survey response rate was strongest in May and had subsequently slower since then. Yvette noted that the survey could remain open with a defined closing date, and the data analysis could specify which date through which responses were included.
- Yvette Baptiste and Angela McGuire suggested increasing outreach, particularly to Latino families and Spanish-speaking respondents. Angela confirmed that the Spanish response rate was only 50 compared to more than 300 English respondents.
- Pablo Velez argued against leaving the survey open indefinitely to merely accumulate more responses. He noted that the overall response rate was substantial, but the Spanish-speaking population appeared significantly underrepresented. He recommended a more intentional outreach strategy to Spanish-speaking families rather than simply repeating the previously distribution method.
- Joe Perales asked if regional centers are distributing the survey to clients?

- Yvette Baptiste responded no. Only if the members of this committee have forwarded to their clients. There has not been any intentional outreach in that way.
- Yuko Johnson asked via chat if the survey is complimenting the other surveys, if the survey is necessary, and if there are other families who are not being reached.
- Marty Omoto asked via chat if the committee could revisit the intention of the survey and its results.
 - Yvette Baptiste responded that the survey was intended as a post-COVID assessment of how families were doing, whether their needs were being met, and what early intervention issues were emerging that the Committee could address.
- Yuko Johnson asked via chat what providers are not being reached.
- Marty Omoto asked if other language groups, such as Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog, would be included in the survey.
 - Susan Ducore noted that other language groups were not represented by the translated versions of the survey. Only English and Spanish.
- Pablo Velez asked if we had people identified as Latino in the survey. Angela McGuire responded no. Pablo said if we had asked which ones were Latino, we could see what percentage of them answered, but if we didn't ask for the racial profile then we still have a hole.
- Yvette Baptiste and Angela McGuire discussed whether demographic information could help determine who was represented among English respondents. Angela clarified that the survey did not collect race/ethnicity data.
 - Susan Ducore responded that the committee could identify which organizations/listservs distributed the survey to determine which populations were reached.
- Yvette Baptiste emphasized that the survey had already gone through extensive development and could not be amended retroactively. She recommended analyzing the information already collected, identifying gaps, and using the findings to determine what additional information might be needed.
- Yvette Baptiste proposed bringing a full analysis back to the committee and then addressing what the committee intends to do with the results.
- Joe Perales asked if we could ask the regional centers to assist with distributing the survey to clients.
 - Susan Ducore stated that there were a lot of challenges getting this survey out and intended to get it out much sooner and it was to collect some

preliminary information so they would know what direction they should be taking.

- Laurie Jordan noted that respondents may be experiencing survey fatigue. She described families asking why they should complete yet another survey when they rarely hear the results or see changes afterwards. She cautioned against confusing families with multiple surveys and recommended utilizing the data already collected.
- Nancy Mendoza asked if the survey was still open and Yvette Baptiste confirmed that it is. Nancy noted that her DDS-funded work specifically targets underserved communities, including Black, Hispanic, Native, and Asian families, and offered to incorporate the survey into presentations and workshops. She noted that even when 50 parents attend a workshop, only about 20 may complete surveys.
 - Yvette Baptiste welcomed Nancy's offer but reiterated that any future survey outreach should be more intentionally coordinated with regional centers and Early Start programs.
- Jadolphus Fraser suggested using social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and social media influencers to distribute the survey, especially to each Spanish-speaking families and providers.
 - Amy Wall, DDS confirmed that DDS has a communications team and an established network with regional center communications teams. The group could request that the survey be distributed through those channels.
- Joe Perales provided insight into reaching Latino families. He noted that successful outreach requires repeated reminders (potentially three to four times a week) because completing surveys is not a priority compared to family/work priorities. He also cited lack of trust, lack of understanding about the survey, and technological barriers and major obstacles.
- Eun Kim explained that regional centers already have numerous required surveys, including the NCI and intake surveys, making additional survey distribution difficult. She noted that regional centers may not be able to distribute additional surveys unless DDS specifically requests/prioritizes them. She also noted that paper surveys can produce higher response rates for some families.
- Lisa Schoyer reiterated the issue of survey fatigue and lack of feedback. She suggested that respondents might be more motivated if they could see what other respondents are saying after the survey, creating an immediate benefit for participation.
- Yvette Baptiste proposed a formal analysis of existing data as the next step, followed by a decision about whether targeted outreach, particularly to Spanish speaking families, was warranted.

- Susan Ducore asked the committee if the survey should remain open or whether further distribution should pause until analysis is complete.
 - Pablo Velez recommended setting a firm closing date and using the remaining period to facilitate targeted outreach.
 - Yvette Baptiste recommended keeping the survey open through the end of August.
- Pablo Velez suggested using machine translation. The committee discussed whether additional language versions should be created. There was concern about the cultural appropriateness of machine survey translation and insufficient capacity to translate the survey properly at this stage.
 - JaRita Pichon offered future assistance with translation and interpretation resources for future surveys, acknowledging that the current survey was near the end of its data collection period.
- Yvette Baptiste recommended closing the survey as it is currently designed. She suggested addressing any specific gaps identified after the analysis and documenting the underrepresentation of Spanish-speaking respondents.
- Amy Wall supported closing the survey, noting that her organization had experienced significant hesitancy among Spanish-speaking families to complete surveys.
- The committee agreed to close the survey and proceed with analysis.
- Lisa Schoyer asked via chat if the group could look at other differences/similarities in responses between the English and Spanish language answers, despite response numbers. She also commented that it is not possible to relate how survey distribution compares to the representation of the responses received.
- Yuko Johnson commented via chat that it would be great to collaborate and share findings from all the various surveys and utilize information to address common system outcomes concerns, such as family outcomes and disparities.
- Yuko Johnson asked via chat how [the Department of] Education could be involved with the distribution of this survey.
- Marty Omoto commented via chat that he agreed with Yvette Baptiste but wanted to underscore that the group has no idea what other families outside of English and Spanish language groups are not represented in the survey.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Susan Ducore briefly discussed committee membership updates.

- Existing membership who had become inactive had been contacted regarding continued participation. She stressed the importance of active committee participation for current members.
- New members have joined the Systems committee.
- Committee members were invited to contact the co-chairs with any membership questions or concerns.

COMMITTEE PLANNING FOR 2027

- The committee discussed the proposed schedule and structure for the 2027 ICC meetings. Anne De Medeiros reported that the Thursday time had been largely agreed upon, but committee members discussed the structure of the Wednesday meeting. The proposal was to have a 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. meeting on Wednesday.
 - Susan Ducore questioned whether two hours will provide enough time for committee work, especially given the reduced time available on Thursday.
 - Yvette Baptiste agreed and noted that the Wednesday time may not be sufficient. She suggested a longer committee session so that the committee has ample time to conduct its work rather than simply listening to presentations.
 - Yuko Johnson agreed via chat that the current Wednesday meeting schedule would not provide enough time, unless there are more frequent meetings in between quarterly meetings.
 - Susan Ducore proposed extending the Wednesday meeting to 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. The committee was generally in agreement with this suggestion.
 - Pablo Velez emphasized the need for the committee to make meaningful system improvements rather than allowing issues to remain unsolved. He proposed a structured meeting schedule. Example: issue presentation → discussion → decision → formal recommendation for Thursday ICC vote. He expressed concern that prolonged discussion would drain members' energy and prevent action.
 - Anne De Meideros supported the proposal for a more structured meeting schedule and noted that additional committee meetings could occur outside of the quarterly ICC meetings.
 - Yvette Baptiste emphasized keeping the committee's work family-centered, with a focus on children and families who benefit from Early Start rather than becoming primarily system-centered.
 - Susan Ducore agreed that the committee needs clearer structure and a stronger focus on making progress.

- The committee recommended extending the Wednesday meeting time to 1:00 – 4:00 PM. This recommendation will be shared with the larger ICC committee.

PUBLIC INPUT | DDS

- Anne De Medeiros provided guidelines for the Public Input period.
- Pablo Velez provided a comment on the clinical supervision rate issue. He noted that services may not be available in culturally and linguistically appropriate settings without appropriate clinical supervision of assistants. He raised concern about the lack of Spanish-speaking and culturally appropriate providers and described this as an equity issue. He explained that the existing regulations require appropriate supervision and expressed concern that the current rate-study interpretation could undermine services. He called for alignment with existing regulations and stressed the urgency of this matter statewide.
- Andrea Davis also provided a comment on the rate-study issue and clinical supervision rate issue. She explained that clinical supervision is different from managerial supervision because it is family-centered, case specific, and necessary for quality services. She noted that treating clinical supervision as already included in provider rates could discourage adequate clinical oversight and quality control. She suggested that required additional clinical services should be adequately compensated.
- Marty Omoto commented via chat that he strongly supported Pablo Velez and Andrea Davis's public comments and the concerns raised during the main ICC public comment period.
- Yvette Baptiste asked whether providers establish their own rates or whether rates are assigned to them.
 - Pablo Velez explained that providers do not independently establish their own rates. Rates were established through the statewide rate study and are standardized across regional centers, with differences based on geographic areas of the state. They noted that this model may not adequately incentivize providers to work in underserved areas such as Inland Empire, San Bernadino, and Central Valley.
- Anna Schichtel commented via chat that it may be worth considering gathering feedback from Family Resource Center (FRC) employees who may hear about barriers from families daily.
- Apple Sepulveda commented via chat that supervision is one concern, but the drop in reimbursement rates for assistants has also pushed many vendors to stop using assistants altogether. This is an equity issue, because it affects the workforce and makes it harder for families to access services.

NEXT STEPS | COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

- The committee discussed whether to hold the planned September 15 interim meeting.
 - The committee decided to schedule an alternative meeting date that could accommodate Fran Chasen and Susan Ducore, among the other committee members.
 - Susan Ducore suggested that they send out an email asking for availability of another date.
- Susan Ducore thanked the group for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Levy*
Gigi Ostrowsky

Karen Chang, DSS
Michelle Dove

Susan Ducore (Co-Chair)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Apple Sepulveda
Gayatri Mahajan
Jadolphus Fraser
Joe Perales*

June Ursini
Laurie Jordan*
Lisa Schoyer*
Marty Omoto

Michelle Oliver
Pablo Velez
Yuko Johnson*
Yvette Baptiste*

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Vega, ASL
Alejandra Serrano, Spanish

Rick Haffner, ASL
Marc Gutierrez, Spanish

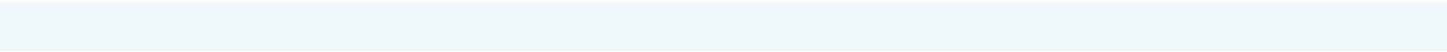
OTHERS PRESENT

Alex Guerrero
Amy Wall, DDS
Ana Barranco*
Andrea Davis*
Andrea Grimes
Angela McGuire, WestEd
Anna Schichtel
Anne De Medeiros, DDS*
Asami Saito, DDS
Ashly Perry
Cathy Schulze, DDS
Cynde Josol
Danielle Calloway, Mission

DJ Tomko
Drew Dunitz
Elizabeth Fuller
Elizabeth Jimenez-Winslow
Eun Kim*
Gary Johnson
Janelle Fong, DDS
JaRita Pichon, DDS
Jeffrey Stanley
JJ Fernandez, DDS*
Karima Boutmatar
Kayla Hung
Lisa Gonzales, DDS

Mahnaz Ehsan
Matt Chestnut
Mini Nandakimar, DDS
Marisol Segura, DDS
Nancy Mendoza
Natalie King
Niaisha Gonzalez
Rachel Nerland, DDS
Tara Sisemore-Hester
Vicky Wheeler, Mission
Vilay Meksavanh
Xochitl Gonzalez

* Indicates attendance at the in-person meeting location



Questions?

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