Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Early Intervention

Day 1 Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

Meeting Recording Part 1

Meeting Recording Part 2



Department of Developmental Services

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, use chat, and submit written comments to DDS.
- Dr. Marie Poulsen welcomed everyone. Marie also gave a special welcome to new community representatives, Jennifer Pearsall, Christina Blevins, and Joe Perales.
- Anne De Medeiros performed roll call. Anne requested Community Representatives use the chat to introduce themselves.

AGENDA REVIEW AND MINUTES APPROVAL

Agenda Review

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

Approval of Minutes

- Doug Erber moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Susan Ducore seconded the motion. ICC appointed members approved the minutes by roll call vote.
- Shanice Orum flagged that her name was spelled wrong in the minutes and requested an edit to the notes to correct her name. Anne De Medeiros confirmed the minutes will be updated to correct that.

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 Importance of Early Start/Providers & Families.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Anne De Medeiros opened the public comment period.
- Laurel Benjamin conducted a grant funded study to understand the needs of neurodivergent parents whose children had received early intervention services. The study seeks to identify strategies to improve parent engagement in these

services. Eligible neurodivergent parents, early intervention providers, and service coordinators may participate in a 45-minute Zoom interview and receive a $30 gift card.

  - A Parent Interest Form or a Provider Interest Form can be completed to determine if one is eligible to participate in the study.
  - Flyers are available and can be requested by emailing labenjamin@health.ucsd.edu.

- Andrea Davis requested that ICC address a disparity affecting families in Imperial County and San Diego. She noted that San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) approved an adaptive skills training program using developmental, relationship-based intervention (DRBI) grounded in DIR Floortime, but DDS prohibited the program determining it was not evidence-based. She stated that families are only offered ABA without being informed of other evidence-based developmental options. She requests the ICC to provide a transparent review of published evidence by subject matter experts and individuals with lived experience, while ensuring service coordinators are trained to inform families about all evidence-based autism intervention choices.
- Joshua Feder supported broader access to DIRFloortime and other DRBIs and drew on his experience as a physician, researcher, and parent. He noted that DRBIs are supported by research and funded by regional centers in other parts of California and other states. He requested that DDS recognize and support these interventions, including San Diego.
- Kristine Gose supported DIR and other developmental relationship-based interventions as evidence-based interventions for DDS's adaptive skills training program. Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) has vendored Touchstone to provide DIRFloortime after previously refusing to recognize DIR as evidence-based. Three families requested fair hearings for their children and the administrative judge ruled for all three children that DIR is evidence-based and ordered CVRC to fund their DIR services. Families in San Diego and other areas are facing the same barriers. DDS should recognize qualified providers trained in evidence-based DRBI approaches and permit all regional centers across California to fund their services.
- Diana Cullinane presented research support for DRBIs and DIRFloortime. She emphasized that research does not establish one best intervention for every child and that families should be offered alternatives to ABA. If anyone would like the specific references, they can email her at dacullinane@gmail.com. She requests that DDS review the current research and reconsider its position on DIR.
- Janelle Brasil requests that regional centers provide families with informed choice when entering Early Start and regional center services. She noted that families are sometimes presented with intensive behavioral interventions as the

only evidence-based option and advocated for more balanced information about DRBIs and DIRFloortime. She also noted that access to intervention should not depend on where a family lives. DDS has a responsibility to ensure all Early Start and regional center families receive informed consent, balanced information about developmental relationship-based interventions.

- Jeanne White supported making developmental models such as DIRFloortime available through every regional center in California. She shared her family's experience using DIRFloortime and described positive outcomes for her son. She advocated for a "menu of options" so families can select interventions that align with their child's needs and values.
- DJ Tomko provided public comment via chat regarding trends SCDD has tracked throughout the state:

    Systemic Barriers to Equitable Service Delivery - Availability of culturally competent and bilingual providers remains limited, creating barriers for individuals who require services in their preferred language and cultural context.

    - Provider Reimbursement and Contracting Issues - Providers cite reimbursement rates not keeping pace with costs, leading to reduced vendor participation. Contracting delays, administrative backlogs, criminal background/fingerprinting delays can slow vendor/provider onboarding.
- Yvette Baptiste thanked everyone via chat who made public comments in support of DRBI types of services. She noted that it is important to consider a uniform policy and transparency in the decision-making process.

ICC MEETING STRUCTURE PROPOSAL

Becky Vang provided the following overview of the proposed 2027 ICC meeting structure:

- 2025 Mentimeter feedback identified common concerns including caregiver accessibility, work schedules, and length of meetings. ICC participants expressed interest in shorter and more manageable meetings. It has been noted that attendance has declined for the Friday portion of the ICC quarterly meetings.
- DDS proposed committee meetings on Wednesday afternoon and ICC quarterly meetings on Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This format will offer a more focused setting for committee meetings, improved accessibility for families, providers and community members, and stronger participation and engagement.
- The proposed 2027 ICC meeting dates are:
    - February 3rd and 4th

    - May 5th and 6th
    - August 4th and 5th
    - November 3rd and 4th
- Michelle Oliver supported considering participant feedback and hoped that the new schedule would improve family attendance. She raised the concern that shortening the meeting could reduce time for discussion and dialogue.
- Yvette Baptiste supported Michelle's comment and asked for clarification on the change in format for the committee meetings held on Thursday afternoons.
- Anne De Meideros clarified that both meetings will be held hybrid, but participants can attend both meetings in person and travel that evening or the next day. Anne also clarified that only appointed members will vote on the amended format and that appointed members can bring a matter for vote at any meeting if there is a need to adjust or change in the future.
- Yvette Baptiste noted that she preferred to keep the meeting structure as it currently is, as the meeting time is used entirely for discussion.
- Jeanne White commented via chat that she agreed with Michelle's comment to allow for discussion of public comment, which in this case has been extremely important.
- Marty Omoto commented via chat that he also supported Michelle and Yvette's comments.
- Apple Sepulveda agreed with Michelle's comments via chat. Time is already limited.
- Patty Moore commented via chat and agreed. She worries that the shortened schedule limits valued participation and the opportunity to get the work done as there are many things that must be prioritized while other valued concerns are set aside.
- Susan Ducore commented via chat that she agreed with Michelle's comment and had concerns about the proposed schedule in terms of offering adequate time for the business of ICC to be conducted. She would also like to know more information about the input and respondents of the Mentimeter survey, as she is concerned that the ICC may lose participation from the proposed meeting schedule change.
- Marie Poulson noted that the ICC should experiment with new ways of approaching the meeting structure to ensure that important work and discussion are not lost.
- Fran Chasen questioned whether the 2025 Mentimeter feedback reflected the current ICC audience. She noted a decline with in-person attendance and

expressed concern that reducing the meeting time could limit educational presentations, outreach, and meaningful discussion. Fran is concerned that with this change, it may eliminate some of that richness of learning that occurs. She suggested reviewing the ICC's outreach and strategic planning and how families are engaged.

- Fran Chasen also commented via chat to request for a direct survey of current ICC participants and requested clarification on how many of those surveyed in 2025 are still involved. She commented that in person attendance has dropped and asked if virtual attendance increased. She stated that changing days might not encourage more family participation as there are other reasons for families not showing up and it might be a good step to collect information from this group directly.
- Yvette Baptiste discussed efforts by Family Resource Centers Network of California to increase family (particularly Latino family) engagement. She noted that some families may currently be less comfortable participating in large public meetings due to concern about immigration enforcement and safety.
- Pablo Velez suggested strengthening connections between the ICC and local interagency meetings at the regional center level. He recommended developing a better system for bringing local concerns and feedback to the ICC.
- Yvette Baptiste added some context on local interagency meetings and noted that there are some local meetings that remain active while others no longer exist. She recommended strengthening these structures to improve community input and feedback.
- Michelle Oliver commented via chat that the shift to Wednesday and Thursday will help with travel, but she was concerned with the lack of time.
- Yvette Baptiste commented via chat that the ICC needs more committee meetings outside of the two days that are optional.
- Lisa Schoyer commented via chat that she agreed with Yvette's comments and noted that even ramping up the Co-Occurring Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) Program at Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), is a challenge to explain the ICC and its relevance, particularly for the age 0-5 mental health providers.
- Andrea Davis commented via chat that the new schedule seemed to provide significantly fewer hours and therefore even less time for conversation.
- Heidi Brahms commented via chat that she agreed with the day of the week change and the ICC should perhaps reconsider the time for conversation.
- Michelle Oliver commented via chat that another consideration is following the example of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) that host watch parties.

- Lisa Schoyer asked via chat how the ICC can make meetings safe for families threatened by ICE activity.
- DJ Tomko commented via chat that he agreed with the thought of incorporating more committee meetings throughout the year to produce more work with the idea of the main ICC being the convening of the committee's work.
- Michelle Oliver commented via chat that she would like to recommend voting members consider the shift to Wednesday/Thursday (potentially 10:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. to allow travel options; first day in person used to start at 10:00) as a start for the first 2027 meeting.
- Maricris Acon proposed separating the schedule into two decisions because there appeared to be more agreement on the Thursday meeting than the Wednesday meeting. She suggested delaying the Wednesday decision and proposed to vote on the second day.
- Michelle Oliver commented via chat that her concern on delaying vote is that many ICC members need to know the dates for calendar planning. She noted that the length of the day could continue to discussion, but the ICC should confirm/vote on the actual dates.
- Marie Poulsen moved to vote on the Thursday meeting schedule. Karen Chang seconded that motion and requested that the committee meetings review the meeting schedule and develop recommendations at the next quarterly meeting. Anne De Medeiros confirmed the committees will discuss.
- ICC appointed members approved the 2027 ICC Thursday meeting schedule. The discussion of the Wednesday meeting schedule was deferred to the November meeting.
- Michelle Oliver asked via chat if each meeting will have in-person options. Jane Lee responded by chat that each meeting will be hybrid.

DDS UPDATES

Steven Pavlov provided the following updates on the DDS budget:

- The total 2026-2027 DDS budget is $21.5 billion, including $13.5 billion general funding, representing approximately a 15% increase over 2025–26. The budget is described as primarily driven by caseload and workload growth.
- Regional center operations are budgeted at $1.8 billion, including $1.2 billion General Fund, an increase of approximately $150 million. DDS projects the system to grow by about 39,000 individuals (8%), with significant growth in the Lanterman caseload and provisional eligibility.

    - Funding Summary Update Enacted Budget Compared to May Revision
    - Department of Developmental Services 2026 May Revision
- Purchase of Services represents the largest portion of the DDS budget at $19.3 billion, including $12.3 billion General Fund, an increase of approximately $2.7 billion. Growth is attributed to caseload, utilization and services such as day programs, residential services, respite, support and training.
- DDS identified several policy changes, including $15 million for center-based Early Start intervention rate methodology, $4.7 million for equitable and consistent needs assessment, and approximately $2.4 million for implementation of federal Home and Community-Based Services access rules.
    - Pablo Velez raised concerns regarding Early Start reimbursement and insurance billing. He noted that regional centers and California taxpayers are paying for services that may be reimbursable through Medicaid/Medi-Cal and private insurance. He recommended that DDS take a larger statewide role in billing insurance companies and maximizing federal reimbursement rather than leaving responsibility with service coordinators and families. He stated that insurance denials and delays can result in children missing critical early intervention opportunities. He emphasized that California should recover available federal and insurance dollars and use those savings to support appropriate provider reimbursement and Early Start services.
    - Steven Pavlov responded that there is an ongoing internal working group focused on maximizing federal participation, generic resources, and health plan funding. DDS has already drawn down approximately $400-500 million in additional federal dollars across two fiscal years.

Maricris Acon provided the following DDS updates:

- DDS is actively working to maximize Medicaid reimbursement for Early Start services and plans to work with the Department of Managed Health Care to develop an easier process for obtaining reimbursement from private health insurance when services are covered.
- DDS continues work on the State Systemic Improvement (SSIP). DDS will initially focus on standardizing the family-directed assessment, beginning with two to three pilot sites. In July the first collaboration meeting with regional centers and family resource centers took place to discuss current practices and share more information on pilot site selection. These meetings will be held regularly to engage in discussion regarding the SSIP.
- DDS is administering the Family Outcomes Survey to evaluate ways to increase family response rates. Surveys were scheduled to be mailed this week or next to selected families who received at least six months of Early Start services during

FY 2024-25. Surveys are due October 30, 2026. Regional centers and FRCs were asked to encourage families to participate and share.

- DDS assumes state-level responsibility for the allocation of federal Part C grants to local education agencies (LEAs) which was previously carried out by the Department of Education. The Special Education Local Plan Area Directors and superintendents of LEAs were notified to submit their Part C applications last spring. Grant award notices were expected to be sent out in August 2026.
- DDS reported on monitoring of 29 LEAs for 2024-25. Compliance ranged from 71% to 97%. DDS identified timely notification regarding transition from Part C to Part B as an area needing improvement. Other areas, including timely Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), service provision, transition plans, and transition conferences, showed good performance.
- DDS discussed the new Self-Assessment Model Platform for LEA monitoring. The platform is intended to support DDS monitoring, documentation, workflow, and record review. It does not replace existing school data systems.
- DDS provided an update on California's federal determinations based on the DDS Annual Performance Report (APR). California improved from "Needs Intervention" to "Needs Assistance". DDS credited regional centers and department staff for improvements in data and reporting and stated that additional progress is expected. You can read more in the 2026 Determination Letters on State Implementation of IDEA.
- DDS hosted successful Service Coordinator Day events, a professional development workshop for Early Start service coordinators and managers. Two separate sessions were held in Northern and Southern California and there were close to 500 attendees across both events.
- The Early Start Partners Symposium (ESPS) is scheduled for October 19, 2026 in Burlingame, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. The theme is "Golden Beginnings," with an emphasis on strengthening the Early Start system and family-centered approaches.
- DDS discussed the new Post-Intake Survey directive issued July 2nd. Regional centers are responsible for informing families about the anonymous online post-intake survey regarding their Lanterman or Early Start intake experience. Beginning August 1st, regional centers must include the survey flyer in the individual's preferred language with written notice.
- DDS provided an update on Senate Bill 805, which is now a law. The legislation adds practitioners who may provide evidence based behavioral health treatment for autism and requires DDS to adapt regulations that establish the rates and education, experience, and supervision requirements for those practitioners. SB 805 regulations package is currently under review outside of the department. Public notification will be made when the package is filed with the Office of

Administrative Law. For more information, please sign up for rulemaking activity updates on the Laws & Regulations section of the DDS website..

- Pablo Velez raised concern about Burns & Associates' auditing process for Early Start. He stated that the rate methodology/audit process may have misunderstood California's professional supervision requirements and the comprehensive Early Start model. He asked DDS to help clarify the issue statewide.
    - Maricris Acon acknowledged the concern and stated that DDS is aware of the issue and is working with the Waiver and Rates Division on it.
- Yvette Baptiste asked how family resource centers are incorporated into Service Coordinator Day. She stated that information about their local FRC is important to be shared when Service Coordinators are together.
    - Anne De Medeiros clarified that FRCs were presented as an important resource for families and that DDS would welcome additional FRC materials and presentations.
    - Lisa Schoyer commented via chat that it makes sense to have FRC representation/presentation at the Service Coordinator Day to speak for themselves and put names and faces together.

- Andrea Davis commented via chat that she agrees with Maricris' comment, and the comments were to share that San Diego Regional Center reported to the vendor that DDS reviewed the SDRC Program and determined that SDRC could not continue the SDRC-approved vendorized program due to DDS stating that DRBI and DIR are not "evidence-based".
    - Maricris Acon clarified that Developmental Relationship-Based Interventions (DRBIs) may fit within Early Start when they effectively address developmental needs and support family engagement/coaching. However, if the vendor is applying for adaptive skills training, this is a different service code and the specific service code requirements and vendorization criteria must be taken into account.
- Pablo Velez thanked DDS for holding the ESPS and emphasized that providers value having a statewide opportunity to share experiences and best practices. He recommended returning to a two-day Early Start Symposium in future years rather than combining it with another conference.
    - Michelle Oliver agreed with Pablo via chat and thanked DDS for coordinating this year's ESPS.
- Yvette Baptiste offered a different perspective on ESPS, expressing concern that the symposium has become increasingly provider/service-focused even though

family resource centers helped establish the original event. She emphasized that FRCs need meaningful participation while recognizing the importance of continued professional development.

- Laurie Jordan expressed frustration that FRCs continue to feel insufficiently respected and represented at ESPS. She emphasized the historical role of FRCs in creating the event and requested greater recognition and dedicated opportunities for FRCs to connect.
    - Maricris Acon acknowledged the FRC concerns and apologized if stakeholders felt excluded. She noted that DDS recognizes the importance of FRCs, including the statutory requirement for families to be referred to an FRC at IFSP meetings unless they decline. She stated that FRC participation is already being considered in planning future ESPS events.
    - Maricris Acon also explained that DDS is also preparing for an upcoming U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) visit concerning California's Early Start program, which has required significant departmental preparation. DDS expects to return its attention to future ESPS planning afterward.
        - Julie Maier asked via chat when the OSEP visit will be occurring.
        - Maricris Acon responded around summer 2027 unless there is a change.
        - Anne De Medeiros shared via chat that reports for states that have been visited can be found on the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) website.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Disability Community Action Network – Marty Omoto

Marty Omoto reviewed the legislative federal calendar and California Legislature:

- The California Legislature reconvened on August 3 and must adjourn by August 31. The Appropriations Committees in both houses are approaching a major deadline to report bills currently being held. Bills that advance will proceed to the floor for final votes.
- The federal legislative calendar includes the U.S. House being in recess until September, while the U.S. Senate was expected to begin its August recess after addressing outstanding budget and presidential appointment matters.
- The November 3rd general election will include elections for congressional, Assembly, Senate, and statewide offices. Voter registration and ballot distribution deadlines were highlighted. The election could result in significant changes in

state and federal leadership, with potential implications for healthcare, Medicaid funding, and other issues affecting California.

- An Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing addressed three DDS proposals that were not included in the enacted state budget: equitable access to intake and services, transition timelines for individuals in state facilities, and the consolidation of two DDS funding programs. The equitable access proposal generated significant public comment and concerns. Additional information from DDS regarding the proposals and their potential impact on families and individuals was recommended. The ICC may have an opportunity to provide input if the proposals move forward.
- An Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing examined the impact of federal healthcare legislation on indigent and low-income healthcare. These changes may affect some Early Start families and members of the service-provider workforce. Continued monitoring and advocacy were encouraged.
- Senate Budget Subcommittees, including the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, have hearings scheduled for August 12th. Specific agenda items have not yet been released.
- AB 126 includes changes to education governance and increased funding for special education. A future ICC presentation on the potential impact of these changes on Early Start families and individuals was recommended.
- The Master Plan for Developmental Services process included a July 16th meeting focused on recommendations. Additional meetings are anticipated, although the timing and format had not yet been finalized.
- Federal stopgap funding legislation is being considered to maintain government funding after September 30th and avoid a federal government shutdown. Further congressional action is expected in September.
- CMS has deferred federal Medicaid funding to California, including funding for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). An additional $646 million deferral was announced, following a previous $1.1 billion deferral, for a combined total of approximately $1.7 billion. California has challenged the federal actions. The issue may affect some ICC families and members of the service-provider workforce.
- California has established separate state agencies addressing business and consumer services and housing and homelessness. Housing affordability remains an important concern for Early Start families and the service-provider workforce, particularly given the difficulty providers may face in affording housing in the communities where they work.
- Immigration enforcement was identified as an ongoing concern for Early Start families and the workforce. The potential impact of fear and uncertainty on

families and providers was highlighted, along with the importance of sharing available resources, information, and support. The California Attorney General has also issued some resources.

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

Yvette Baptiste remarked that FRCNCA represents 47 Early Start family resource centers. She shared the following updates:

- FRCNCA's annual Directors Forum focused on the theme "Reflect, Restore, Lead" and provided leadership development, training on contracts and budgets, and an opportunity for Family Resource Center leaders to consider the future of family support in California.
- The statewide Family Resource Centers served more than 25,000 new families in 2025. More than 15,000 families received one-to-one support, over 7,000 referrals were made to Regional Centers, and more than 24,000 referrals were received from Regional Centers.
- The FRCNCA has been implementing the Community Navigator Program (CNP) through legislation and DDS funding. DDS conducted an analysis of the program's impact using UCI data to examine outcomes for individuals receiving navigation services and found that participants experienced an almost 50% increase in purchase of services, compared with a 28% increase among nonparticipants.
- FRCNCA and DDS established VALOR (Voices, Action, and Leadership Organize for Resilience), a statewide Latino leadership engagement initiative designed to develop leadership, increase system engagement, strengthen community partnerships, and expand diverse voices in developmental services. The VALOR initiative will develop a statewide Latino leadership network and host an annual summit in Sacramento that will also support statewide partnerships and increased Latino participation in policy and legislative discussions. For individuals interested in partnering with VALOR, they can complete the interest survey in either English or Spanish.
    - If you are interested in VALOR, please contact with Joe Perales at jperales@frcnca.org or 626-949-8546.
- FRCNCA continues to expand professional development opportunities for Family Support Specialists and others who provide one-to-one support to families. The network is developing e-learning courses to make training more accessible and strengthen family-support practices statewide. An example of an e-learning course is the FRCNCA Early Start M1-v2.00: Early Start Module 1: The Role of the Support Group Facilitator.

- Yuuko Johnson asked whether the extensive services provided through FRCs are integrated into IFSPs and whether family needs identified through FRCs can be incorporated into the coordinated service-planning process.
    - Yvette Baptiste responded that the relationship between FRCs, Community Navigator supports, and IFSP implementation remains an area for further exploration. The complexity of family supports provided through navigation services may affect the successful implementation of IFSPs, but the specific impact is not currently known. FRCs can help families identify and frame questions about available resources, particularly when families may not know what services or supports exist or what questions to ask.
- Yuuko Johnson noted that IFSPs include areas where referrals to FRCs and other non-required services could potentially be incorporated. She emphasized the importance of considering overall family outcomes and examining how the IFSP can better reflect the multiple layers of support available to families.
- Yvette Baptiste noted that the discussion highlighted the potential for FRC interactions with families to be captured within the broader system so that DDS and other partners can better evaluate effectiveness and equitable outcomes.
- Julie Maier commented in chat that it's so impressive to see how much work, activities, and products have been developed by the FRCNCA to support the work of the incredible, dedicated FRC staff and to build family leaders across the CA.

Department of Education - Gigi Ostrowsky

Special Education Division Updates:

- The Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) has arrived. Please find the following DRDP resources below:
    - Desired Results (DR) Access website
    - Desired Results Developmental Profile
    - Fall 2026 Professional Development Schedule
    - DRDP (2025) Infant/Toddler View
    - DRDP (2025) Preschool/Transitional Kindergarten View
- The California Early Childhood Special Education Network (CalECSE) fourth annual symposium will be held on October 20-21 in Burlingame.
    - Registration Information: "Tiny Steps to Golden Futures" CalECSE Symposium.
- Community Outreach and Constituent Resources
    - The Annual Performance Report: A vital tool for collecting feedback from families and parents.

- Seeds of Partnership: Seeds of Partnership hosts a Family Outreach Webinar Series every 4th Thursday of the month. Register online via the Seeds of Partnership website or email contact@seedsofpartnership.org
- Constituent Support Services (SEDCO): Information and direct assistance for dispute resolution is available. Contact 800-926-0648 or SECDO@cde.ca.gov for more information.

Early Education Division Updates:

- The Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (IEEEP) has successfully completed its second programmatic report and third fiscal report. More information can be found at WestEd – IEEEP. For questions, please contact: IEEEP@cde.ca.gov.
- The Summer Inclusion Newsletter is now available. To access current newsletters and other inclusion resources please visit Inclusive Early Education Resources.
- Quality Counts California Site-Level Badging Pilot: As part of Quality Counts California, a new badging recognition system for early learning and care programs is being piloted. For more information please visit the Badging Guidance.
- Inclusion Toolkits were released in March 2026 to support early learning programs in implementing effective inclusion policies.
- Best Practices Recorded Webinars are available on the Inclusive Early Education Resources webpage.

CDE Homeless Education - Heidi Brahms

- Heidi Brahms shared the following updates on state funding for homeless education:
  - California is providing new state funding for homeless education. This is the first time California has provided state funding specifically to support homeless education at this level. This funding will support local educational agencies to increase the identification of, and improve educational outcomes for, homeless children and youths. Funding shall be available for encumbrance and expenditure through June 30, 2029.
  - The State Superintendent of Public Instruction hosted the Homeless Education Summitt on July 22, 2026. CDE brought together key stakeholders to build stronger networks and partnerships and to explore ways to increase the impact of proposed legislation supporting students experiencing homelessness.
  - AB 673 proposed legislation that would establish an accountability-driven grant framework to support unaccompanied homeless youth. The

proposed legislation included approximately $160 million in funding. It would provide LEAs with tools, resources, and partnerships to better identify and serve homeless students and unaccompanied homeless youth.

- Heidi Brahms shared the Homeless Education Resources listserv to receive information and updates via e-mail relating to the education of homeless children:

Head Start Agency – Michelle Dove

Michelle Dove provided an overview of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking/Regulatory Action (NPRM) Changes to Heart Start Performance Standards:

- The NPRM "Restoring Flexibility to Support Head Start Program Access" commented period closed Juny 11, 2026. The comment period focused on rescinding certain workforce compensation and benefits requirements in the Head Start Performance standards.
- There have been no further updates on the previous NPRM. Michelle Dove explained concerns that reducing compensation requirements could contribute to workforce instability and make it more difficult for programs to maintain quality, comprehensive services.
- Head Start is expecting another NPRM to be released imminently, and it could build upon the previous NPRM. Michelle Dove encouraged ICC members to watch the Federal Register for the release of the proposal and to submit public comments once it becomes available.
- There are two upcoming Heart Start California events:
  - Head Start Wellness Symposium, September 21–23 in Ontario
  - Head Start Health Institute, November 4–6 in Costa Mesa.

Department of Social Services – Karen Chang and Heather McClellan-Brandusa

Heather McClellan-Brandusa provided the following updates:

- New and Upcoming Resources and Professional Development
  - California Early Learning and Development
  - California Early Childhood Online (CECO)
  - WestEd DRDP 2025 Training
  - Desired Results Access Project Materials
- The Department of Social Services will be offering five separate webinars for the Beginning Together series starting in Fall 2026. The first session will be held on September 15th. CDSS will be offering no-cost access to the webinar and will

cover a variety of topics related to supporting inclusive care for children with disabilities. CDSS will also offer technical assistance as well.

- Heather McClellan-Brandusa shared her contact information if you think of questions afterwards: Heather.McClellan-Brandusa@dss.ca.gov.
- Yvette Baptiste asked if CDSS will be offering the Beginning Together facilitator certification this year.
    - Heather McClellan-Brandusa responded yes that CDSS will also be offering the annual Inclusion Facilitator Institute in March 2027 that ICC members can attend as a group or individually. Information on the Institute can also be found on the Beginning Together Events website.

Karen Chang shared the following updates for the Multilingual Learners and Inclusion Section Child Care and Development Division (CCDD):

- Dual language learner data collection has begun, with two key collection periods planned over the coming year. CDSS expects to begin sharing data about dual language learners in its programs.
- CCDD highlighted its most recent webinars on suspension and expulsion prevention:
    - CCDD will be presenting at the First Five Summit that will focus on methods that prevent suspension and expulsion.
    - CCDD has also recently published new resources:
        - Policy on Suspsension and Expulsion
        - Parent Appeal Information Pamphlet
    - CCDD also hosted a webinar titled, From Calling Home to Collaborating: Partnering with Families Before Exclusion, on June 23 with 410 registered participants. The next webinar is in November on trauma-informed practices providers.
- Yvette Baptiste commented via chat that it is very important that providers in early intervention make themselves available for collaboration to ensure that as children move from early intervention to school or community-based learning that the providers on that side benefit from their skills and knowledge about children they will be receiving.
- CCDD Multilingual Learners and Inclusion Section Child Care and Development Division contact information:
    - Jawid Azin (Multilingual Learners and Inclusion Section Chief): Jawid.Azin@dss.ca.gov
    - Kami Kincheloe (Inclusion Specialist): Kami.Kincheloe@dss.ca.gov

- Valerie Sanchez (Dual Language Learners Specialist): Valerie.Sanchez@dss.ca.gov

Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing – Shanice Orum

Shanice Orum provided the following updates:

- CDSS recently held a drowning prevention webinar on June 23rd, which shared water safety practices for child care settings for CDSS licensees. 2,000 individuals attended the webinar and it was offered in English, Spanish, and Mandarin.
- The next webinar is on September 22nd and will include legislative updates and information on quality counts, workforce pathways, and an infrastructure grant. Registration information can be found on the Provider Information Notification dated July 17, 2026.
- There are approximately 44,000 licensed child care facilities, with the capacity to serve over one million children. Licensed child care facilities operated under Family Child Care Homes (FCCH) or Child Care Centers (CCC).
- AB 150 updated its laws to new health and safety requirements for Family Child Care Home (FCCH) licenses. These amendments include changes to the Health and Safey Code sections:
    - Temporary Absences for Family Child Care Homes: Health and Safety Code (HSC) 1596.81 and HSC 1596.866, HSC 1597.63 is added.
    - Medication Administration: HSC 1596.798
    - Anaphylactic Policy: HSC 1596.7985
    - Health and Safety Training Requirements: HSC 1596.866
    - Mandated Reporter Training: HSC 1596.8662
    - Emergency and Disaster Plans: HSC 1596.868
- AB 262 established the Children's Camps Workgroup, the state's first centralized health, safety, and oversight standards for children's camps. The Workgroup will develop formal regulatory recommendations for the state legislature to protect campers, specifically requiring vital input from parent advocates and special needs experts.
    - CDSS is seeking more parent participation, particularly parents of children with medical, physical, or developmental needs, so that training, accommodations, and emergency procedures reflect family needs.

    - For more information, you can visit AB 262 Children's Camps Workgroup or contact ChildrensCampWorkGroup@dss.ca.gov.
- CDSS released Provider Information Notices (PIN) that review the new legislation affecting child care facilities.
    - PIN 26-05-CCP - Statewide Lead Testing Data Map and Reminder of Funding Opportunities
    - PIN 26-06-CCP - Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELO-P) School-Age Implementation
    - PIN 26-07-CCP - Notification of Available Early Start Service Offered Through the Department of Developmental Services
    - PIN 26-08-CCP - New guidance for providing milk in a child care setting.

Additional resources can be found below:

- Regional Office Online Directory
- Please direct CCP questions, comments, and suggestions to ChildCareAdvocatesProgram@dss.ca.gov
- For information on complaints, please visit the Centralized Complaint and Information Bureau website.
  Phone: 844-LET US NO (844-538-8766)
  Email: letusno@dss.ca.gov or use the online complaint webpage

- Yvette Baptiste asked whether the Children's Camps Workgroup is ongoing or time-limited.
    - Shanice Orum responded that it is time-limited and that the report is expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year and emphasized the importance of a balance of voices in the workgroup.
- Pablo Velez raised concerns about programs serving children with autism or suspected autism for full-day, full-week periods. They asked what protections, reassurances, and licensing requirements exist for parents who leave their children in these programs while working, and whether Community Care Licensing is aware of the situation.
    - Shanice Orum responded that when a new type of care does not clearly fit an existing regulatory definition, multiple state departments may not have clear oversight authority. Within child care, complaints can be used to assess whether a setting is operating in a manner that requires a license. In some situations, the existing regulatory structure does not fit the business model, which can lead to consideration of a new category of care. She compared this issue to the situation that led to the Children's Camps workgroup.

- Pablo Velez emphasized that providers taking responsibility for children should be operating within clear legal and regulatory framework. He expressed concern that some programs serving children with disabilities may operate without adequate licensing or oversight, however parents make think there are no issues because private insurance pays for services.

Indian Health Service – Susan Ducore

Susan Ducore provided a brief update on the Indian Health Service's Office of Public health.

- The office works with internal and external partners to support continuing education, technical assistance, and competency among healthcare staff serving tribal and urban Indian health clinics and outreach settings.
- The California Healthcare Best Practices Education Webinar Series to meet the learning outcomes and objectives of staff. The series includes updated medical best practices, quality measures, Indian Health Service initiatives, and strategies to improve clinical outcomes. It also covers tools for communication and engaging patients and health-information technology to improve documentation of care.
    - Susan Ducore invited ICC participants to suggest topics to present during the webinar series related to ICC initiatives or other work that could benefit tribal and urban Indian health clinic staff.
    - Contact Susan Ducore at susan.ducore@ihs.gov

Department of Managed Health Care – Amanda Levy

Amanda Levy provided a brief update on the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC):

- DMHC protects the healthcare rights of 30 million Californians, regulates most commercial plans, and shares regulation with the DMHC on Medi-Cal managed care plans.
- Amanda will present its annual report at the November meeting, and it will include facts and figures from the DMHC Help Center and its various offices.
- Amanda also expects to provide a legislation implementation report in November.

Additional resources can be found below:

- DMHC Help Center: How to File a Complaint
- DMHC access/contact number: 1-888-466-2219

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND GOALS

- Robert Rochin and Susan Ducore provided a summary of committee composition and goals. They 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 2:30 p.m.; committees met separately.

MEETING ATTENDEES

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Levy (for Mary Watanabe)

Doug Erber

Heidi Brahms

Gigi Ostrowsky

Karen Chang (for Jenniffer Troia)

Maricris Acon, DDS (for Pete Cervinka)

Marie Poulsen*

Michelle Dove

Pamela Riley

Shanice Orum (for Kim Johnson)

Susan Ducore

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Apple Sepulveda*

Cristina Blevins*

Debbie Sarmento

Edyth Gallardo

Fran Chasen

Gayatri Mahajan

Jadolphus Fraser*

Jenifer Pearsall

Joe Perales*

Julie Maier

June Ursini

Laurie Jordan*

Lisa Schoyer*

Marty Omoto

Michelle Oliver

Pablo Velez*

Robert Rochin*

Yuuko Johnson*

Yvette Baptiste*

INTERPRETERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Vega, ASL

Richard Haffner, ASL

Marc Gutierrez, Spanish

Alejandra Serrano, Spanish

OTHERS PRESENT

Alex Guerrero
Amy Wall, DDS*
Ana Barranco*
Andrea Davis*
Andrea Grimes
Andrea Lisa King*
Angela McGuire
Angie Luu, DDS
Anna Schichtel
Anne De Medeiros, DDS*
April Wasjutin
Asami Saito, DDS
Ashly Perry
Austin Lyke, DDS
Becky Vang, DDS*
Ben Braun
Ben Graff, DDS
Breck Frye, Mission
Brigida Salinas
Cathy Schulze, DDS
Elizabeth Villanueva
Eun Kim*
Francelia Mora
Gary Johnson
Hannah Rosato
Heather McClellan-Brandusa
Hely Lee Chan
Hilda Jimenez, DDS
Isela Solorzano
Jane Lee, DDS*
Janelle Brasil
Janelle Fong, DDS
JaRita Pichon, DDS
Jasmine Fang, DDS
Jasmine Suo, DDS
Jeanne White
Jeffrey Stanley
JJ Fernandez, DDS
Johana Caicedo
Joni Hasselbring, DDS
Maria Lopez
Maria Zaparolli, DDS
Marie Wecker, DDS
Marina Bulkin
Marisol Segura, DDS
Martha Ornelas-Cruz
Matt Chestnut
Michelle Velaso
Mika Harris
Mike Odeh
Mini Nandakumar, DDS
Nancy Mendoza
Natalie King
Niaisha Gonzalez
Paige Richmond, DDS
Pam Alexander
Patty Moore
Rachel Nerland, DDS*
Randy Olson
Reyna Ambriz, DDS

Citlali Herguera-Acosta	Joshua Feder	Sarah Franco*
Courtney Chandler	Karima Boumatar, DDS	Shannen Cheng, DDS
Crystal Perez	Kathy Angkustsiri	Silvia Costichi
Cynde Josol, DDS	Kayla Hung, DDS	Steven Pavlov, DDS
Danielle Calloway, Mission	Kristine Gose	Tara Sisemore-Hester
Diane Cullinane	Laurel Benjamin	Van Pham, DDS
DJ Tomko	LaWanna Blair	Verenice Coronado
Drew Dunitz	Lisa Gonzales, DDS	Vicky Wheeler, Mission
Dulce Flores	Lori Luzader	Victoria Berrey*
Elena Bramble*	Mahnaz Ehsan	Vilay Meksavanh
Elizabeth Fuller, DDS	Maira Gutierrez	Xiaozhu Li, DDS
Elizabeth Hassler	Maria De Jesus Rodriguez	Xochitl Gonzalez, DDS
Elizabeth Jimenez-Winslow	Maria Gonzalez, DDS	Yvette Renteria

* 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