



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers

Family Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes - Approved 4.16.26

Virtual Meeting

March 19, 2026

8:30am - 10:00am

The role of the ICC is to advise, assist, and advocate for the Arizona Early Intervention Program and its partnering agencies to administer, promote, coordinate, and improve early intervention for families and professionals.

Mission Statement:

To support AzEIP in creating a partnership with families to work together to improve services in early childhood programs, engage families in advocacy, and bridge the gap in parent involvement by encouraging authentic feedback, providing opportunities for collaboration, & helping families feel comfortable to share their voice, all to better our state services for young children.

Attendance

Members

Alissa Eromae (present)
Dani Merrill (present)
Sonia Samaniego (present)

Marisol Vazquez (present)
Lana Graber (present)
Tammy Sergent (present)

Staff (AzEIP)

Lisa Vallee (present)
Brittany Page (present)

Amanda Honeywood (present)
Tanya Goitia (present)

Public

None

Minutes

1. Call to Order: meeting called to order by Alissa Eromae at 8:35am
2. Alissa Read Public Member Notice
3. Minute Approval from February 19, 2026 Family Engagement Committee Meeting
 - a. Dani Merrill motioned to approve, Sonia Samaniego second, all in favor - minutes approved

4. Discussion Items/Topics

a. Welcome and introductions

- i. The group introduced themselves as members of a family engagement committee connected to Arizona's early intervention program (AzEIP). Members include professionals and parents with backgrounds in speech-language pathology, infant mental health, education, and family support, many of whom have extensive experience working with young children and families in early intervention. Several participants also shared personal connections as parents of children who have received services. AzEIP staff described their roles in community outreach, administrative support, and quality improvement, emphasizing collaboration and a shared commitment to supporting families, providers, and early childhood development across Arizona.

b. Facebook Posts

- i. The committee discussed their use of a Facebook page to share daily posts with families about events, resources, articles, and child development ideas. Members are encouraged to email content ideas to the group, where designated admins, primarily Alyssa and Danielle, manage and post updates. The page also serves as a tool to increase awareness of the committee and recruit more family participants. New members asked clarifying questions about communication and roles, and it was confirmed that the platform is currently limited to Facebook, not Instagram.

c. Community Feedback

- i. The committee discussed community feedback about early intervention services, highlighting that many families—and even some educators—are still unaware of AzEIP. A major barrier identified is families' fear of participation, particularly concerns about labeling their child or having providers come into their home. Members shared that offering services in neutral, community-based settings like family resource centers can help reduce this fear and increase engagement. Overall, experiences with these alternative approaches have been positive, and the conversation emphasized the importance of clear communication, flexibility in service delivery, and continued outreach to improve awareness and trust within the community.

d. Family Story -

1. The committee reviewed and finalized the family story recruitment process, confirming upcoming presenters and continuing efforts to identify additional families as backups. They discussed minor updates to the document, including contact information, language support roles, and creating a 2026 version. Members also addressed scheduling considerations and agreed that finalizing edits could be handled efficiently. The group formally approved the revised document and voted to submit it to the executive committee, ensuring the process is standardized and ready for broader use. The group also discussed challenges with the application process, such as complexity and intimidation, and proposed making it more user-friendly with added support and potential collaboration with another committee. Overall, they identified next steps including sharing updates, gathering feedback, and developing future projects to better support families.
- ii. Review Mission Statement
 1. The committee refined and approved a shorter, more family-friendly mission statement focused on increasing awareness of early intervention, improving access to services, and enhancing family experiences. They emphasized their role in elevating family voices, identifying barriers, and making systems more accessible.

e. Application Process

i. The committee will review at the next meeting.

5. Action/Follow-up - none
6. Public Comment - none
7. Next Meeting: 04.16.26 1:00pm
8. Adjourn 9:49am

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