



Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers

Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes - Approved 5.21.26

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

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.

Attendance

Members (ICC Governor Appointees)

Kendra Benedict (present)
Stephanie Collier (present)
Lana Graber (present)
Olivia Lindly (absent)
Charlene May (present)
Aanya Metrakos (present)
Amy Munoz (present)

Marysol Vazquez (present)
Amber Neubauer (present)
Sonia Samaniego (present)
Dana Hutchings (present)
Melissa Busby (present)
Tammy Sergent (present)

Members (Subcommittee Appointees)

Frances Altmaier (absent)
Gini Britton (present)
Alissa Eromae (absent)
Crystal Ghica (present)
Billy Henderson (present)
Margaret Peixoto (absent)
Camille Verdugo (present)
Pilar Vargas (absent)

Leo Huppert (absent)
Christopher Keck (absent)
Bjorg LeSueur (present)
Danielle Merrill (present)
Amy White (present)
Nancy Gutierrez (absent)
Jennifer Forschino (present)

Staff (AzEIP)

Anissa Albert (present)
Ena Binns (present)
Lisa Casteel (present)
Annie Converse (present)
Chantelle Curtis (present)
Erica Melies (present)
Lisa Vallee (present)
Dayna Karnick Hultgren (present)

Tanya Goitia (present)
Jeremiah Hale (present)
Amanda Honeywood (present)
Jessica Jimmerson (present)
Brittany Page (present)
Pamela Meurer (present)
Amanda Tipotsch (present)

Public

Amy Morales Baum
Alicia Amundson

Robin Voreck
Sukhminder Nakhwal

Minutes

1. Call to Order 10:32am - Sonia Samaniego
 - a. Roll Call - Sonia Samaniego
 - b. Housekeeping Items - Marysol Vazquez
2. Read Public Member Notice - Sonia Samaniego
3. Approval of Minutes from January 29th, 2026
 - a. Charlene May motions to approve the minutes, Billy Henderson seconds, all vote in favor - minutes approved
4. Family Story - Dani Merrill / Suki Nakhwal
5. Educational Topic
 - a. 2026 EHDI Conference
 - i. Sonia shared key takeaways from the EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) conference, focusing on early identification, access to services, family support, and professional development. She highlighted common challenges such as delays in diagnosis, financial and transportation barriers, inconsistent messaging from providers, and families not being ready to engage with services. Sonia connected these insights to Arizona's system, outlining available resources like newborn hearing screenings, family support organizations, and training opportunities for providers. Overall, she emphasized the importance of improving awareness, strengthening partnerships, supporting families through the process, and enhancing provider education to better serve children with hearing and vision needs.
6. Discussion Items/Topics
 - a. Tracorp Training ADALAW2000
 - b. Future Educational Topic Suggestions
 - c. The committee discussed gathering ideas for future educational topics for general council meetings, encouraging members to share suggestions based on their community partnerships and expertise. The goal is to continue highlighting valuable work that supports children and families while also building a list of backup presentations in case of last-minute cancellations. Members can share ideas during meetings or via email to ensure a steady flow of relevant and meaningful content.
7. Committee Updates
 - a. Transition Committee (Camille Verdugo/ Pilar Vargas/ Chantelle Curtis)
 - i. No updates at this time
 - b. Fiscal Committee (Amber Neubauer / Leo Huppert / Lisa Casteel)
 - i. No updates at this time
 - c. Family Engagement (Alissa Eromae/ Dani Merrill / Tanya Goitia)
 - i. Danielle reported that the family engagement committee welcomed two new members and approved a more concise mission statement. The group discussed barriers in the application process for joining committees, noting that it can feel intimidating for families and professionals, and proposed creating clearer guidance and support resources such as application instructions and resume templates. They also considered collaborating

with another committee on this effort and plan to decide on additional projects at the next meeting while welcoming further suggestions from members based on family needs.

d. Development Committee (Christopher Keck / Amy Munoz/Erica Melies)

- i. Amy provided an update for the development committee, noting that they were unable to meet quorum in January, which delayed progress on agenda items. The committee is scheduled to meet again in April and hopes to have more updates at that time. She also expressed interest in collaborating with the family engagement committee on improving the application process, acknowledging that it can be a barrier and may cause people to drop out during the process.

8. AzEIP Updates

- a. The AzEIP team shared updates on leadership, monitoring, legislation, and parent engagement efforts. Updates included a leadership change within the Office of Special Education Programs and upcoming federal monitoring visits for Arizona's Part C program, along with opportunities for stakeholder input. They also reviewed key state legislation impacting early intervention, including bills related to language acquisition services, enrollment processes for children in unorganized territories, and funding for early intervention services. Additionally, the group highlighted ongoing parent engagement initiatives and reviewed federal performance indicators, focusing on child outcomes and transition services to ensure children receive timely, effective support as they move through early intervention systems.

9. Public Comment

- a. none

10. Action/Follow-up

- a. none

11. Schedule Next Meeting: May 21, 2026

- a. Next Executive Committee - April 16, 2026

12. Adjourn 11:46am

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