

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)		Attending: Ginger Brath, Provider (Chair); Jennifer Bibler, DPI; Jacci Borchardt; Provider Jillian Clemens; DCF; Tessa Freedberg (Proxy for Daria Hall), DCF; Linda Hall, Office of Children's Mental Health; Lisa Hankes, DCF; Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Wisconsin State Representative; Rebecca Jarzynski, UW-Eau Claire; Jill Kelly, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance; Kristine Nadolski, DPI/McKinney-Vento; Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent; Deb Rathermel, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services; Theresa Wixom, Parent; Kelly Pethke; Provider Council Members Excused: Trisha Wicinsky, Provider State Attendees: Elias Garringer, BCS; Regena Floyd-Sambou, BCS, Jessica Ford-Kelly, BCS
Date: 8/13/2025	Time Started: 9:00 AM Time Ended: 12:00 PM	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath, Chair
Minutes		

Welcome

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introductions – Ginger Brath, Chair
 - Ginger Brath called the meeting to order and introduced herself
 - Council members introduced themselves and shared updates.

Public Comments

- None

General Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 9, 2025
 - MOTION TO APPROVE: Linda Hall SECONDED: Kelly Pethke
- Deb Rathermel shared that the Office of Special Education (OSEP) allocated \$440 million to states and territories. Wisconsin received \$500,000 less than last year.
- Deb Rathermel shared that the state passed the biennial budget on July 3, 2025.
 - There was no increase in state general purpose revenue (GPR) to fund early intervention in the budget.

Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Data

- Elias Garringer presented on Birth to 3 child outcomes data for FY 2024 annual performance report to OSEP
 - Children are scored on entry into B-3 and again at exit on three outcomes: Positive Social Emotional Skills, Acquisition and Use of Knowledge of Skills, Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Needs.
 - The percentage of children who have made substantial progress in Wisconsin' Birth to 3 Program has substantially increased each year since FY 2021.

Wisconsin Birth to 3 Early Intervention Program Recommendations for Sustainability

Clare O'Brien, Milwaukee County, and Christina Courtney, Brown County, presented on Recommendations to support Birth to 3 program fiscal stability.

- Efforts to begin the sustainability project were to address the program's resource gap across the state
- Children served in the Birth to Three program are gradually increasing.
- The state allocation has been flat over the last 15 years and the program has relied heavily on county contributions
- The Program Recommendation Report has three recommendations for program sustainability:
 - Recommendation 1: Create a ForwardHealth Handbook to guide billing practices
 - DHS will host sessions to highlight the Handbook for counties and providers.
 - Council questions:
 - Ginger Brath shared that providers may not know how to appropriately bill Medicaid, and that it is difficult for some providers to access reimbursement via private insurance.
 - Christina Courtney shared that no-show rates and cancelled visits have been a struggle for Birth – 3 providers.
 - Recommendation 2: Private Insurance Reimbursement
 - Many counties indicate a high volume of private insurance denials for Birth to 3 services
 - Workgroup will analyze why this happening and will address their concerns with the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.
 - Recommendation 3: Targeted Case Management (TCM) rate increase for service coordination
 - Increasing TCM will have no impact on GPR.
 - Council Questions:
 - Theresa Wixom asked if counties encourage families to apply for CLTS
 - Christina Courtney shared that it is different on a county-to-county basis. Shared that some families are concerned about accessing Medicaid or other public programs because of federal changes related to data sharing and general uncertainty.
 - Recommendation 4: GPR increase and Medicaid State Plan Amendment
 - Make a recommendation to the Governor to increase GPR for Birth to 3.
 - Request a Medicaid benefit for special education teachers that serve on Birth to Three teams.
 - Recommendation that DHS request a Medicaid State Plan amendment for special education services to be billable.
 - Council Questions:
 - Jaclyn Borchardt shared that teachers with special training to care for children eligible for Birth to 3 should be reimbursed by Medicaid too, and that the program recommendations include other state's Birth to 3 models.
 - Motion to draft a letter of support for the presented recommendations in the Fiscal Sustainability Report made by Ginger Brath
 - Motion seconded by Linda Hall.
 - Letter will be shared with Representative Jenna Jacobson and DHS will deliver the letter to the Governor's office.

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Birth to 3 Program State Determinations

Regena Floyd-Sambou presented on state and local determinations for FY 2023.

State Determinations

- OSEP determinations measure how well the state is meeting the requirements of Part C (early intervention) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- There are four Determinations status categories that states received based on the results. They are:
 - Meets Requirements
 - Needs Assistance
 - Needs Intervention
 - Needs Substantial Intervention
- Compliance Data Components used by OSEP to make determinations are based on four federal indicators

- OSEP determined that Wisconsin continues to Meet Requirements
 - Results are based on data quality, data completeness, and children's performance outcomes
 - Wisconsin's overall score decreased by 8.92% from FFY2022 to FFY2023.
 - Wisconsin's results score decreased by 12.5%.
 - Wisconsin's compliance comparison score decreased by 5.36%.
 - BCS plans to the review factors leading to these decreases and identify next steps at the state and local level.
 - Based on the findings, these efforts may include additional monitoring and supervision activities.

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Birth to 3 Program County Determinations

- OSEP measures how well each county Birth to 3 Program is meeting the requirements of Part C (early intervention) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- County results are issued after state results and are based on the same data.
- County determination status categories can be found on the Birth to 3 Program: County Performance Data web page. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/reports/county.htm>
- For FY 2023 (Issued in July 2025)
 - 45 county programs are in meets requirements (63%)
 - 23 county programs are in needs assistance (32%)
 - 3 county programs are in needs intervention (4%) and
 - 1 county program is in needs substantial intervention (1%)

Birth to 3 Program Determinations Technical Assistance for County Programs

- After the issuance of annual county Birth to 3 Program Determinations, DHS conducts monitoring and supervision activities including technical assistance and enforcement actions.
- County Birth to 3 Programs in status categories Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, and Needs Substantial Intervention are required to analyze their Determinations results and provide DHS with a summary of that analysis.
 - Counties, based on their determination, are required to engage in varying levels of technical assistance task.
- DHS held two Technical Assistance Forums to support counties with their improvement plans
 - DHS staff help counties determine potential focus areas, improvement strategies, and action items to assist with developing improvement plans based on their findings.
 - 14 counties attended.

Birth to 3 Program Outcomes Rating Process

Lana Edwards and Becky Hoffman, RESource Professional Development Specialists presented an overview on why and how child outcomes rates are necessary and shared the processes and protocols, including some of their professional development resources related to child outcomes work.

- Every child who is found eligible for Birth to 3 gets an entry and exit outcome rating from a team at the county.
- The ratings are based on how the child compares to typically developing, same aged peers.
- The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) has a decision tree to guide teams in a child's rating
 - <https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cosform.asp>

Wrap-Up & Overview of Future Agenda Topics

Next Meeting: November 12, 2025

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Jaclyn Borchardt SECONDED: Jillian Clemens at 12:01 pm.

Prepared by: Jessica Ford-Kelly on 8/14/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 11/12/2025