

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

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| Name of Governmental Body: Governor’s Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) |  | <p>Attending: Ginger Brath, Provider (Chair); Jennifer Bibler, DPI; Jaci Borchardt, Provider; Jillian Clemens, DCF; Linda Hall, Office of Children’s Mental Health; Lisa Hanks, DCF; Jill Kelly, Officer of the Commissioner of Insurance; Kristine Nadolski, DPI/McKinney-Vento; Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent; Kelly Pethke, Provider; Deb Rathermel, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services; Trisha Wicinsky, Provider; Theresa Wixom, Parent, Tessa Fredberg, DCF</p> <p>Excused: Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Wisconsin State Representative; Rebecca Jarzynski, UW-Eau Claire;</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>State and Presenting Members: Lana Edwards, RESource; Becky Hoffman, RESource; Beth Gullickson, BCS; Lori Wirkus, BCS; Laura Triller, BCS; Eli Garringer, BCS; Dana Romary, BCS; Kaycee Kienast, BCS; Emma Flanagan, BCS; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Michelle Davies, RESource; Michelle Lund, Division of Public Health; Tiffany Schanno, BCS Fellow</p> <p>Public Members: Shantelle Petroff (Dane County); Eric Linn-Miller (Dane County)</p> |
| Date: 11/12/2025  | <p>Time Started: 9:00 AM</p> <p>Time Ended: 11:28 PM</p> |   |
| Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting  |  | Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath, Chair  |
| <b>Minutes</b>  |  |   |

**Welcome**

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introduction
- Council Member Updates and Announcements
- Members: Birth to 3 Council: Members

**Public Comments**

- None.

**General Business**

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2025:** [August 13, 2025, Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) Minutes](#)
  - MOTION TO APPROVE: Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail; SECONDED: Kelly Pethke
- **Federal Update**
  - Department of Education and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP): We are in day 42 of the federal shutdown.
  - 95% of OSEP staff furloughed, this includes Part C and civil rights staff,
  - Wisconsin’s federal grant is forward funded, meaning funding is available during the shut down
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits issued in Wisconsin after federal court decision.
  - Head Start programs: some programs have been able to receive alternative funding/Wisconsin state supplements, while other programs are suspended.

- **ICC Updates:** The council chair sent a letter for the Birth to 3 Program to the governor supporting recommendations from the Birth to Three Sustainability Workgroup.
- **Membership renewals for 2026:** Jacci Borchardt, Ginger Brath, Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail

### Professional Development (PD)

- **Supporting Transitions through Professional Development:** Becky Hoffman and Jenny Bibler presented on transitioning children from Birth to 3 (Part C) to Local Education Agency (LEA) or school-based services (Part B) at age 3.
  - Presentation today specific to the transition to LEA at age 3, which is federally mandated.
  - PD teams have developed a transition toolkit available on their website, [Early Intervention in Wisconsin - EIWI](#)
  - Fictional case study presented on “Amos,” a program participant, to demonstrate transition steps
  - The transition process focuses on family-centered care and understanding that each family’s situation is unique.

### Transition Support to Local Programs

- **Highlights from Bureau of Children’s Services (BCS) Statewide Program Connect Discussions:** Presentation by Beth Gullickson following statewide forums in October and November, during which BCS hosted regional events. Including discussions on transitions from Birth to 3.
  - Technical assistance focuses included:
    - Strengthening family-centered transition practices: The goal is to support timely and coordinated transitions.
      - Interagency partnerships: Birth to 3 programs and local education agencies must develop strong relationships to support successful transition.
    - Promoting consistency, compliance, and continuous improvement: The goal is to prevent delays and missed timelines, while providing the local level with tools to help track, monitor timelines, and stay proactive.
    - BCS will continue to support transition compliance and quality through technical assistance and targeted support as needed.

### Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Data

- **Transitions and Exit Data in Review 2022-2024:** Presentation by Eli Garringer on Birth to 3 exit data trends from 2022-2024.
  - Exit Data
    - Total yearly exits range from 6,600 to around 6,900 from 2022-2024.
    - Monthly range 500-630 exits.
    - These trends have remained relatively stable following peak increase in 2020.
  - Demographics
    - 83-86% exit between ages 2-3.
    - Trend of more children exiting under age 2.
    - Race/ethnicity trends hold steady with slight increase in Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, and Indigenous.
    - Sex ratio remains steady at around 65-67% male, 33-35% female.
  - Time in Program
    - Average is 11-12 months overall, showing slight increase, stabilizing
    - Earlier entry predicts a longer time for transition conversations and more time between services and next steps, with an increased likelihood of completing individualized family service plan (IFSP) goals.
  - Exit Reasons
    - At age 3: 65-67%; About 55% referred to LEA and eligible or eligibility pending.
    - Under age 3: 13-14% have successful IFSP completion.

- There has been an increase in children entering under age 2.
- Discussion
  - Lisa Hanks discussed barriers to transition and whether there are patterns among some districts, neighborhoods, or communities. Factors like poverty levels or community resources might affect transitions differently.
  - Jenny Bibler clarified that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) does not collect demographic data beyond federal requirements.
  - Linda Hall recommended identifying communities that need extra attention to help providers better serve families.

### **Local Findings of Non-Compliance**

- Each year, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reviews county level data for adherence to Part C compliance indicators, local corrections are required for any instances below 100%.
  - 1: Timely IFSP services initiative
  - 7: timely IFSP development
  - 8A: Timely transition planning
  - 8B; timely transition referrals
  - 8C: Timely transition planning conference
- 2025 results: This was our best year yet, as Wisconsin had its lowest amount of pre-finding corrections and findings of noncompliance.
- Pre-finding correction breakdown: 2 late services, 7 late IFSPs, 1 late transition step, 8 late LEA referrals, 6 late transition planning conferences.
- Historical context: About 17-20 counties per year is typical. 2024 had 50 files across 20 counties, while 2025 had 24 files across 17 counties. State compliance was 99.98% statewide.
- The primary challenge to compliance is staff shortages, triggered by quits, leaves, and vacancies. This caused delays in timeliness. Provider availability also causes delays, but these are situational errors rather than systemic issues. The PPS system has reports that flag late items.

### **Differential Monitoring Supports 2.0**

- OSEP's revised monitoring system kicked off in 2021 and was originally scheduled to wrap up in 2028 but may be delayed by government issues. It monitors Part B and Part C programs to ensure Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) compliance.
- Three Phases:
  - Discovery: OSEP requests documentation and meets with state staff.
  - Engagement: An onsite or virtual visit with interviews focusing on systems, not child-level issues.
  - Close Out: Within 120 days, OSEP issues monitoring report identifying noncompliance issues to address.
- The four component areas are general supervision systems, data (SPP/APR), fiscal management, and dispute resolution.
- Members of the ICC Council may provide input during discovery or onsite visits.

### **Wrap-Up & Overview of Future Agenda Topics**

- The January meeting will be data-heavy, focusing on APR

**Next Meeting:** January 21, 2026

- MOTION TO ADJOURN: Jaclyn Borchardt; SECONDED: Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail at 11:28PM.