

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)		Attending: Ginger Brath, Provider (Chair); Jennifer Bibler, DPI; Jaci Borchardt, Provider; Jillian Clemens, DCF; Tessa Freedberg, DCF; Linda Hall, Office of Children's Mental Health; Lisa Hankes, DCF; Rebecca Jarzynski, UW-Eau Claire; Jill Kelly, Officer of the Commissioner of Insurance; Kristine Nadolski, DPI/McKinney-Vento; Kelly Pethke, Provider; Deb Rathemmel, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services; Trisha Wicinsky, Provider; Theresa Wixom, Parent
Date: 1/21/2026	Time Started: 9:00 AM Time Ended: 11:26 AM	Excused: Rep. Jenna Jacobson, Wisconsin State Representative; Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Parent  State and Presenting Members: David Sorenson, BCS; Emma Flanagan, BCS; Elias Garringer, BCS; Lana Edwards, WI RESource; Becky Hoffman, WI RESource; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Nancy Bills, BCS; Beth Gullickson, BCS; Dana Romary, BCS; Kat Baker, Rep. Jenna Jacobson's Office; Kaycee Kienast, BCS; Lori Wirkus, BCS; Regena Floyd-Sambou, BCS; Emily Brach; BCS, Tiffany Schanno, BCS Representative  Public Members: Eric Linn-Miller; Shantelle Petroff, Dane County, Michelle Davies, Director of Early Childhood CESA 5
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 | Wisconsin Department of Health Services: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/b3icc/members.htm>

**Public Comments**

- None.

**General Business**

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2025:** [November 12, 2025, Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) Minutes](#)
  - MOTION TO APPROVE: Linda Hall; SECONDED: Kelly Pethke at 9:17 AM

**Annual Performance Report (APR), presenters David Sorenson and Emma Flanagan**

- **Overview and Results**
  - Reporting on Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 with an overview of the federal indicators and the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP)'s determination categories
  - Targets were met for both indicators 5 and 6 related to Child Find; these refer to the percent of children age birth to 1 and birth to 3 entering the program compared to the state population.
  - Indicator 7, which is the percent of eligible infants and toddlers who had an initial eval and IFSP meeting within the 45-day timeline, reached 99.56% of the 100% goal.

- Indicator 1, timely services, is a compliance indicator and met 99.97% of the 100% goal.
  - The change in measurement needs ICC approval to re-establish the baseline number for Indicator 1.
- Indicator 2 consistently meets well over the 99% target, and most services are completed in natural environments.
- Indicator 8 is broken into 8A, 8B, and 8C, which are all related to transition. These all show increases from previous numbers and are consistently over 99% rebounding from COVID numbers.
- Indicator 3 looks at child outcomes and is broken into 3A, 3B, and 3C. 3A is slightly below the target. All targets were met for 3B. Target was exceeded for 3C-1 and slightly below target for 3C-2.
- Indicator 4 looks at family outcomes. Targets were met for 4A but not for 4B and 4C.
- **Next Steps:** (1) Explore ways to include children who have not yet received services in their IFSP. (2) Continue to create processes that allow monitoring compliance outside of the APR indicator. (3) Inform counties over the next few months about additional ways to monitor compliance. (4) Continue to implement strategies to increase the response rate for the Family Experience Survey.
- **Council Discussion of the APR**
  - Question resolved from Rebecca Jarzynski on the source of data used for the APR being the PPS data system.
  - Question from Rebecca Jarzynski on why Indicator C was lower than expected.
    - If we get kids at the right age for their access and keep them in early intervention this number should increase.
- **Council Vote**
  - MOTION TO APPROVE change to Indicator 1 to reflect timely services to newly enrolled infants and toddlers, changing the baseline: Linda Hall; SECONDED: Jillian Clemens at 9:45 AM. No objections.
  - MOTION TO APPROVE for ICC approval to submit the APR to OSEP: Tessa Freedberg; SECONDED: Rebecca Jarzynski at 9:46 AM. No objections.

### **Birth to 3 Access and Referral Data, presenter Elias Garringer**

- Review of the overall totals of the number of referrals over the last years, with a note that 2025 data is preliminary due to end of year delays in data entry. Trends are consistent with the past few years, and consistent with population trends for children under age 3 in Wisconsin.
- The data shows a relative increase in referrals for children under age 1 and a slight decline for children between 1 and 2 and between 2 and 3.
- Race and ethnicity trends show an increase in referrals for children identified as Hispanic Latino and Asian.
- Top referral sources include physicians, parents or relatives, and hospitals, with county social service agencies making up 90% or more of all referrals each year.
- The data shows a slight decline in the percent of children found eligible after evaluation, which is a consistent trend over the past few years.
- **Data Highlight:** Continued increase in referrals for children under age 1, both in the number of children referred and the referrals received.
- **Discussion**
  - Question from Linda Hall on how the percent of evaluations after referrals compares to the rest of the country. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) can look into this.
  - Question from Rebecca Jarzynski on whether the decline in children found eligible reflects more accurate qualification tools or otherwise. Deb said we lack specific data for this.
  - Question from Linda Hall on whether families are being encouraged not to sign up or screened out prior to the program. This is also not a data point that has been collected.
  - Eli Garringer highlighted the difficulty in drawing insights from data points that are not a requirement and variability in local program requirements. The slightly lower referrals also seem to reflect population trends.
  - Trisha Wicinsky noted that sometimes parents request a bit more time after being contacted about a referral.

### **Child Find and Referral, presenters Lana Edwards and Becky Hoffman**

- **Family Stories**
  - Story about Julian from Pierce County whose mother was worried about potential developmental delays. Julian's mother sees an ad at the movie theater for the Birth to 3 Program and connects with the program

- **Child Find and Referral – the process and the experience**
  - Overview of Child Find, a legal requirement under Part C with an emphasis on proactively reaching out to underrepresented populations.
  - Spotlight on different county approaches to Child Find:
    - Fond du Lac County holds a child development screening day in conjunction with their local school district.
    - Milwaukee County has an excellent Birth to 3 Program webpage and introductory video.
    - Rock County’s assistant program leader serves as the chairperson for the community baby shower.
    - Rusk County’s program leader does home visits and is also an early childhood teacher in one of the local schools.
  - Overview of resources on the DHS website.
  - Becky Hoffman emphasized how Child Find and referrals go together. Child Find educates communities on who can make referrals beyond doctors and physicians.
- **Discussion**
  - Ginger Brath noted that some counties host events during holidays and county fairs to share information on Birth to 3.
  - Jennifer Bibler discussed how school districts often host child development days to share resources with families and talk about development milestones.
  - Question from Linda Hall about how success is measured.
    - Lana Edwards pointed out that there is not specific professional development around child find requirements beyond targeted medical presentations. DHS and RESource support local programs with child find questions and resources.
  - Shantelle Petroff mentioned that Dane County has a program called Babies and Beyond where parents can come and get resources.

**Part C Grant Application – Preplanning for FFY 2026 Federal Application, presenter Deb Rathermel**

- Background on the annual state application: Wisconsin receives a formula grant from OSEP to support state Part C operations
- Wisconsin experienced a decrease in funding due to projected declines in the newborn population, the next funding round will likely remain the same or possibly decrease further.
- The public notice is scheduled for mid-March with the federal allocation finalized for May.
- Overview of the allocation buckets with an emphasis on the Part B allocations.
- **Discussion**
  - Rebecca Jarzynski noted that keeping professional development is critical.
  - DHS anticipates reducing from the training support funding in category B in anticipation of a reduction in funding. No objections from the ICC on this plan.

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

- Future Meetings: May 15 (at Circles of Life Conference in Stevens Point), August 12 and November 11
- **Next Meeting:** May 15, 2026
- MOTION TO ADJOURN: Jaclyn Borchardt; SECONDED: Rebecca Jarzynski at 11:25 AM.

Prepared by: Sarah Ybarra on 1/21/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 5/15/2026