

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
F-01922 (12/2019)

Name of Governmental Body: Governor’s Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)		<p>Attending: Ginger Brath, Provider (Chair); Jillian Clemens, DCF; Tessa Freedberg, DCF; Linda Hall, Office of Children’s Mental Health; Lisa Hankes, DCF; Jenna Jacobson, WI State Assembly; Rebecca Jarzynski, UW-Eau Claire; 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</p> <p>Absent: Jennifer Bibler, DPI; Jacci Borchardt, Provider; Jill Kelly, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.</p> <p>State and Presenting Members: Deb Rathermel, BCS; Lana Edwards, WI RESource; Becky Hoffman, WI RESource; Elias Garringer, BCS; Emma Flanagan, BCS; Laura Zimmerman, BCS; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Olivia Antlfinger, BCS; Kaycee Kienast, BCS; Beth Gullickson BCS; David Sorenson, BCS; Lori Wirkus, BCS</p> <p>Public Members: Eric Linn-Miller, Dane County; Shantelle Petroff, Dane County; E. Renae, Public; Vanevenhoven, Geri (Fond du Lac County).</p>
Date: 5/15/2026	<p>Time Started: 9:00 AM</p> <p>Time Ended: 11:00 AM</p>	
Location: Stevens Point, WI and Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath, Chair

Minutes

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 January 21, 2026:** [January 21, 2026, Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council \(ICC\) Minutes](#)
 - **MOTION TO APPROVE:** [Linda Hall](#); **SECONDED:** [Kelly Pethke](#) at 9:18 AM

Part C Grant Application Status and Final Grant Amounts, presenter Deb Rathermel

- Overview of the Part C grant application, which hovers around \$8 to \$8.5 million year-over-year. Last year, we received a \$450,000 reduction. This year, we received an increase of \$397,730 for a total Part C Federal Grant amount of \$8,450,792.
- With additional funding, we were able to restore UW Capstone certification scholarships.
- We made \$100,000 available via grants to local Birth to 3 programs.
- Other funds went to our systems redesign, moving out of the Program Participation System (PPS) and into an updated system.

Eligibility and Enrollment, presenters Lana Edwards, Becky Hoffman, Elias Garringer

- **Processes and Practices**
 - Lana highlighted that service coordinators have a 45-day window to complete many tasks under tight timelines.
 - Three case studies were presented to demonstrate different pathways to eligibility. These pathways are (1) qualifying diagnosis, (2) developmental delay, and (3) atypical development.

- Becky addressed the increase in enrollment for children under one. Examples were gathered from EI in WI Ambassadors working in the Birth to 3 Program across the state
 - Aryn, physical therapist (PT) working in Monroe County, shared an example that premature infants who are referred from newborn intensive care units (NICUs) due to their diagnosis of prematurity sometimes have immediate delays while other delays appear later in other children. Earlier enrollment helps support earlier developmental milestones and offers parents a better understanding of how to support their child.
 - Angela, a service coordinator working in Racine County, shared an example that the WE-TRAC system has helped identify babies with hearing loss. She stated that this is a crucial time period for addressing hearing loss and for making family coaching and resources available.
 - Katie, a leader/service coordinator/educator in Fond du Lac County shared a success story about an infant referred for motor issues by a pediatrician. She emphasized that referral rates increase when face-to-face meetings are arranged with local clinics.
- Lana provided Ambassador examples of how children might qualify under atypical development which is a category of eligibility that is increasing.
 - Speech intelligibility that does not meet developmental delay criteria but is adversely affecting communication that cannot be measured (example shared by Sara, speech-language pathologist (SLP), from Columbia County)
 - Children with conditions such as torticollis that are not a qualifying diagnosed condition and do not meet developmental delay criteria but have atypical developmental concerns that can be addressed through intervention (examples from Aryn, PT, in Monroe County and Karlie, educator/service coordinator in Fond du Lac County)
- Becky shared that 5% of families with children found eligible for the Birth to 3 Program decline services. Examples from Sara, SLP, included: pending medical procedures, financial burden of the parental cost share, cultural considerations, situations when participation in the evaluation process helped parents to be confident in trying new strategies, and an anonymous provider shared an example of when lack of trust in government agencies caused an immigrant family to not enroll.
- Eric Linn-Miller brought up that counties have local control over cost-share and that in Dane County, fees are waived if they are a barrier to families.
- Tricia Wicinsky brought up that families referred through CAPTA (Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act) often decline services because they are under stress from other priorities.
- Lana discussed the success of recent in-person training events that reached 56 Wisconsin counties and over 150 participants. Event feedback showed that service coordinators who attended plan to make positive changes in the initial process with families (the first 45 days) including how they share information with families, how the document, and how they describe their role.

- **Data and Trending, Eli Garringer**

- Analysis of Birth to 3 data across 2023-2025.
- A decline in the state population of under three and under one mirrors lower program numbers.
- Compared to general census data, Birth to 3 serves a higher proportion of children identified as Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino.
- Asian children are underrepresented in the data, while White, Indigenous, and Pacific Islander representation aligns closely with state averages.

- **ICC Member Discussion, Questions, Ideas:**

- Lisa Hankes noted that all demographic groups had seen a yearly increase with the exception of Black/African American
- 81-84% of children qualify via a 25% developmental delay or atypical development.
- Lana Edwards replied to Linda Hall's question about defining "self-help," saying that it is one of the five core areas evaluated for eligibility and covers daily tasks including feeding, sleeping, dressing, self-care, and toilet training.
- One council member mentioned that the data strictly tracks a child's initial reason for eligibility, and children often demonstrate different needs later in the program that the data does not capture.

- **Opioid Settlement Funds Initiatives, presenter Deb Rathermel**

- Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program was selected for participation in our state's opioid settlement funds.
- Funds will be made available to all local programs using a formula that recognizes local program size. Local programs will decide whether or not to access a share of the funds.

- Year 1 is meant to cast a wide net to test different strategies, to be refined in future years based on experience and feedback.
- Link: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/040926.htm>

Follow Ups and Situational Awareness | presenters Elias Garringer, Emma Flanagan

- **Baseline Review and Target Setting**, DHS is preparing to review and update our state targets for results-based indicators. Additional attention to this topic will be dedicated to the August ICC meeting.
- **APR Clarification Period** Wisconsin's Annual Performance Review (APR) was submitted in February, and the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) only requested one clarification on non-response bias in the family outcome survey. Edits were submitted and the state expects the final federal determination this June.
- **Medicaid Special Instruction Benefit Planning**: The state is on track to allow Medicaid reimbursement for special instructors who serve children in the Birth to 3 Program who are eligible for Medicaid.
- **Local Determinations Memo updated**: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/memos/num/dms-num-2026-02.pd>

Wrap-Up & Overview of Future Agenda Topics

- Future Meetings: August 12, 2026 and November 11, 2026
- MOTION TO ADJOURN: Jenna Jacobson; SECONDED: Trisha Wicinsky at 11:00 AM.

Prepared by: Sarah Ybarra on 5/15/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 8/12/2026