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

DRAFT

STATE OF WISCONSIN

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)			Attending: Ginger Brath, ICC Chair/Provider; Jennifer Bibler, DPI; Jacci Borchardt, Provider; Jillian Clemens, DCF; 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 Rathermel, DHS/Division of Medicaid Services; Trisha Wicinsky, Provider; Theresa Wixom, Parent; Elizabeth Valitchka, DCF; Michelle Steffen, Parent; Linda Hall, Office of Children's Mental Health; Kathryn Baker (Legislative Staff Proxy for State Representative Jenna Jacobson). Excused: Rosemarie Navarro-Red Hail, Native Representative/Provider State and Presenting Members: Dana Romary, BCS; Eli Garringer, BCS; Lana Edwards, WI RESource; Becky Hoffman, WI RESource; Michelle Davies, WI RESource; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Nancy Bills, BCS; Phil Zell, BCS; Regena Floyd-Sambou, BCS. Public Members: Eric Linn-Miller
Date: 11/11/2026	Time Started: 9:00 a.m.	Time Ended: 11:57 a.m.	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Ginger Brath, Chair

Minutes

Welcome

- Call to Order, Greetings, and Introduction
- Council Member Updates and Announcements
- New Bureau of Children's Services (BCS) Staff: Phil Zell, Program and Policy Analyst, Policy & Initiative Section, BCS
- Members: Birth to 3 Council: Members | Wisconsin Department of Health Services: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/b3icc/members.htm
  - Welcome Michelle Steffen
  - Welcome Elizabeth Valitchka

Public Comments

- None.

General Business

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2026:** August 12, 2026, Governor's Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Minutes
  - MOTION TO APPROVE: Kelly Pethke; SECONDED: Kristine Nadolski at 9:14 AM

Transition | Dana Romary, Eli Garringer, Lana Edwards, and Becky Hoffman

- **Overview | Dana Romary**
  - Definition of Transition.
  - Early intervention transition ensures families are informed, lessens caregivers' anxiety, and prepares families for a child's future services and supports.
  - Overview of Part C federal compliance indicators for transition, namely Indicator 8.
- **Overview | Eli Garringer**
  - Eli Garringer presenting on exit and transition data for the Birth to 3 Program using data from 2023-2025.
- **Data**
  - Exit totals by month show a steady trend from 2023-2025 of around 600 exiting participants.
  - Age at exit (age ranges 0-1, 1-2, and 2-3) consistently shows most participants exiting in the 2-3 range.
  - Race and ethnicity demographics reflect state population demographics, with a noticeable increase in Hispanic/Latino participants in recent years.
  - Average time spent in-program fluctuates from 11-12 months across years, with participants spending more time in-program in 2025. Children entering under 18 months stayed an average of 16 months and children entering after this period stayed an average of 9 months.
  - Most cited reasons for exit at under 3 years old include successful completion of individualized family service plan (IFSP) and families choosing to discontinue services.
  - Most cited reasons for exiting at 3 years old include referral to local education agency (LEA)/child found eligible for special education and referral with eligibility pending for special education.
  - The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is seeing an increase in children entering under 12 months and children completing IFSPs.
- **Discussion**
  - Eric Linn-Miller asked whether Health Engagement and Reporting Tool (HEART) would have different data compared to the Program Participation System (PPS). Eli is hopeful that new data will arise; however, the final product has not yet been released.
  - Question from Elizabeth Valitchka on whether DHS tracks workforce representation. Deb replied that Wisconsin does not track workforce demographics.
- **Professional Development**
  - Lana Edwards and Becky Hoffman presented individual stories to contextualize data trends related to transitioning out of the program (children's names changed to maintain confidentiality).
  - Tara was eligible for Birth to 3 due to being born at 30 weeks. Because services were started right away, she did not develop common issues like plagiocephaly or container syndrome. She caught up on all developmental areas after her second birthday.
  - Opal entered Birth to 3 at seven weeks old with torticollis. Opal's mother completed all activities between visits and asked great questions. By the 3-month check-in, Opal could turn easily on both sides and was holding her head up to follow her parents. It was determined at check-in that she met all IFSP goals and at developmental level with peers.
  - Kai entered the program at 14 months old due to issues with walking and eating. After being in the program for three months, Kai began walking independently and could eat a wide variety of solid foods.
  - Max entered at 18 months with behavioral issues and language delay. At his six-month review, it was determined that Max was progressing and met all his goals.

Opioid Settlement Funds | Dana Romary

- Dana Romary presenting on DHS Opioid Settlement Funds for Birth to 3.
- $2M earmarked for Birth to 3 with funds to be released in February 2027.
- Grant to Local Birth to 3 Programs
  - To qualify, submitted plans must impact Birth to 3 participants. Reviews of submitted plans will answer these questions:
    - Does spending match activities in the plan?

    - Do activities align with plan scope?
    - Is it aligned with spend requirements?
  - Those submitting plans should expect DHS to reach out if there are questions or concerns.
  - Question from Ginger Brath about whether funds are to be used within the year. Deb clarified that DHS only knows for certain that this round of funding was received and are planning to issue contracts for a 12-month period starting in February.

- **In Touch – Train the Trainer | Lana Edwards**
  - Overview of In Touch, the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Model for Connected and Responsive Support.
  - In Touch will support how early intervention can foster meaningful connections with young children and their primary caregivers.
  - Current progress on the model: Research and preliminary development have been completed. If the model is approved, they will complete course development, write training materials, and start holding statewide trainings by April 2027.
  - Four early interventionists are being hired to facilitate professional learning events.

Status Updates | Regena Floyd-Sambou, Eli Garringer, Deb Rathermel

- **Technical Assistance (TA) Forums Determinations**
  - Regena Floyd-Sambou presenting Determinations, which measure whether Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements are met and the impact of early intervention on children's learning progress.
  - State determinations issued annually in June by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), with county determinations issued in July.
  - Overview of Child Outcomes 1-3.
  - For federal fiscal year (FFY) 24-25 state determinations, Wisconsin received a status of "Meet Requirements," a results score of 7 out of 8, and a compliance score of 16 out of 16.
  - Overview of federal compliance indicators and results indicators.
  - Question from Linda Hall on why scores are lower on the summary statement. Regena answered that more children are entering with complex needs and it is a topic that continues to be discussed.

- **Findings of Non-Compliance (Data) | Eli Garringer**
  - Overview of federal requirements.
  - DHS issued a memo to implement the findings of noncompliance process in July 2026.
  - Annual Process:
    - Jan-Mar: Data review period
    - Apr-Jul: Pre-finding correction
    - Aug-Oct: Issuance of noncompliance
  - The following covers the January to March data review period. DHS looks at county level data to monitor Part C Annual Performance Report indicators. Local programs with compliance under 100% for each indicator are contacted by DHS.
  - In 2026, DHS found that 34 child-level files across 18 counties needed correction. DHS contacted 8 of the counties about addressing the causes of noncompliance.

- **Situational Awareness**
  - **PPS to HEART –** Reminder from Deb that Birth to 3 data is migrating from the PPS platform to the new HEART platform at the end of 2026.

- **Special Instruction Medicaid Benefit Pause –** The initiative to include special instruction as a Medicaid billable benefit for Birth to 3 participants enrolled in Medicaid has been paused because it requires legislative approval.
- **Federal Update –** IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA) briefing shared with the ICC
- **Target Setting –** The orientation to data baselines and target settings required of states every six years has been paused because OSEP has not yet issued guidance to states.

Wrap-Up & Overview of Future Agenda Topics

- Future Meetings: January 20, April 14, August 2027, November 2027
- MOTION TO ADJOURN: Linda Hall; SECONDED: Jillian Clemens at 11:57 AM.

Prepared by: Sarah Ybarra on 11/11/2026.
These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 1/20/27