**ICC General Session Minutes**

**March 13, 2025**

**Appointed voting member attendees:**

Asha Abdullahi, Dina Tedeschi, Corinna Rae, Sandy Brown, Nicole Constantino, Scott W. Geer, Chris Hunt, Mallorie Brown, Lori Russell, Michelle Grewal, Emily White, Melissa Adams, Colleen Wellman, Amy Whitehead-Pleaux, Madi Wachman, Judith Alexandre, Colleen O'Brien, Jennifer Clark, Shirley Fan-Chan,

**Appointed Members Excused:** Edith Benisty, Terry Senio, Sanya Agrawal

**Public non-voting attendees:** Kathleen Amaral, Liz Cox, Kris Martone-Levine, Lauren Meatty, Amy Muehlberger, Chrissy Kammel, Victoria Karlsen, Laurie Tobey-Freedman, Maggie Johnson, Mary Bishop, Danielle Thibodeau, Michele Biagini, Carie Miele, Elizabeth Small, Erinne Gorneault, Jessica Leonard, Jessica Nuhibian, Sarah Stone, Lianne Renaud, Maura Murphy

Roll call and meeting called to order at 11:38 am.

The chairs reviewed the agenda. The chairs then asked if anyone wished to discuss the January 9, 2025, minutes. The discussion included a review of some requested edits

Roll call on minutes approved at 11:42 am

Open Items

* General Session – June 5, 2025, in person at the DPH Office at 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA
* Guest speaker: CDC Ambassador, who is confirmed.

**Committee Updates**

The Membership Committee updated the committee's next meeting will be May 7, 2025. The committee is working on clarifying procedural support for ICC chairs so that everyone understands expectations, roles, and responsibilities. The membership chair updated the committee on open vacancies in the following categories.

* Parent representatives
* Provider representatives
* State agency representatives
* Other EI Champions

The Service Quality Committee chair updated the ICC that the January 28 meeting had to be canceled due to technical difficulties. Molly Gilbride will present on missing DQ scores for BDI evaluations at the next meeting **on March 25, 2025**.

The Fiscal Committee updated that they are advising on fiscal monitoring procedures, DMS2.0 visits, and updating the reimbursement manual. They announced the new EI Fiscal Manager starts on 3/17/25, and the next meeting will be on April 10, 2025.

The Family, Equity & Engagement Committee chair reminded the ICC they are seeking a co-chair. The committee is also considering a name change to Family & Community Engagement. The chair noted they want to move the meeting to the 2nd Wednesday of each month. They are continuing to focus their advisory efforts on discussions related to survey changes from sampling to census approach and how to advise on encouraging better survey engagement.

**Director's Update**

Emily shared federal updates, including recent executive orders, and added that we await clear guidance. Emily explained that OSEP does not enforce immigration law and shared DPH's recent statements about being committed to language access.

Other topics within Emily's report include

* Autism CARES Act
* FFY25 Funding
* Massachusetts's "first in, first out" approach to grants
* If the Government shuts down, Part C will be able to draw down from existing grants that are within
* Linda McMahon confirmed
* IDEA may be better administered under HHS
* Canceled $900m in research at the Institute of Education Sciences (89 contracts)
* ED's "Final Mission"
	+ Anticipate EO of cancellation of DOE
	+ A reminder that this requires congressional approval.
* DMS 2.0 Timeline
	+ Discovery – June 2025
	+ ICC Members may be asked to participate in focus groups, interviews, etc.
	+ Onsite Visit – November 2025
	+ Written Report Release – June 2026
* Cyclical Monitoring
	+ Mini version of DMS 2.0 for EI programs
* Eligibility data.
	+ We recently switched from BDI-2 to BDI-3. This is a big shift—not apples to apples. We have heard concerns about children who are not eligible. BDI-3 is based on 2002 norms, while BDI-2 is based on 2014 norms. Emily provided specific examples to illustrate the concerns from the field.
	+ Emily informed the committee that ed and psychological testing standards are amended periodically. (BDI-1984, BDI-2- 2005, BDI-2 NU 2014, BDI-3 2020.) We did not update to BDI-2 NU. Emily reviewed the differences. The ICC reviewed clinical judgment data from FY24 and sought to understand it better than other eligibility categories.
* Emily shared that the Part C Grant application and public participation period is posted to the web through March 21. She provided a walkthrough of what the application looks like.
	+ All of it will be what is on file—there will be no substantive changes. The GEPA Section 427 form is the same as submitted a few years ago.
	+ Emily then updated the committee about budget pay raises. The legislature mandated it but didn't give money for it, so you'll see the increased costs. Reduced cost to EICS due to staff managing EICS enhancements. Incentive programs and grants for providers. Section C direct services. Req to report breakdown IDEA statute. Billing codes (child visit, EI only visit) do not align. Next, providers do not reliably report NPI # on claims. Reduced to reflect actuals. D "optional activities" (at-risk) no change. Section E (other state agencies) ISA. 7,000 DALA (hearings/mediation) was also money budgeted to DESE for our half of the vendor overseeing vendor for transition activities.

Emily opened it up for questions.

Nicole C asked what falls under those categories (e.g., CLAS, public awareness). She would like more details on what constitutes public awareness. Lori R agreed that more details would be helpful. What does it look like in practice (examples of what it looks like)? Does it trickle down to the local level? If you go back to the slide (cost of EICS savings), we could better outline what this means regarding what is in our RFR. We are seeking better definition of incentives.

EAW closes with a thanks! Tireless work. Light the path to a greater future.

Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.