



Mike Braun, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

First Steps

402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083

First Steps Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

10AM-1PM (EST)

ICC Members in attendance: Cory Best (ICC Chair), Deanna Woodruff (ICC Vice Chair), Jason Berty, Laura Burklew, Mariann Frigo, Alexandra Hall, Charie Jones-Gibson, Kristi Linson, Jennifer Owens, Dr. Megan Purcell, Erica Deathe, Jessica Minor, Courtney Penn, Alyssa Christy (proxy for Ashley Walke), Courtney Willis (Proxy for Courtney Penn), Robyn Duffy, David Reed (proxy for Sarah Sailors), Tanya Merritt-Mulamba, Stacy Holmes-Williams

ICC Member not in attendance: Rachael Foster, DJ Glander, Lindsay Holley, Erica Miller, Representative Ed Clere

First Steps State Staff in attendance: Christina Commons, David Brandon-Friedman, Constance Young, Katie Moore, Marie-Therese Smith, Amy Torres, Danielle Ruffino, Andrea Dickerson

Welcome and Introductions

Cory Best, ICC Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All ICC members were asked to briefly introduce themselves, both in person and virtually.

No family story was available today.

Approval of October 2024 Minutes

A request was made by Dr. Megan Purcell to make an alteration in the Council Member Collaboration section, clarifying a resource she shared at the October meeting.

Cory Best asked for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as amended. Mariann Frigo made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Courtney Willis seconded the motion, and a vote was taken, with all members approving the motion. The motion was carried.

Early Childhood Spotlight:

Christina Commons shared that this agenda item will begin at the May 2025 meeting and thereafter. The purpose of this agenda item is to focus on engaging local programs and increasing access to resources to children with disabilities. The aim



is to invite speakers to share initiatives and engage partners in discussions. Christina requested that any spotlight suggestions are sent to Megan Hershey.

State First Steps Update:

Christina Commons, First Steps Director, shared recent First Steps staffing updates. She presented the number of children receiving at least one IFSP service between 7/1/23 and 6/3/24 (26,614 children).

The Indiana Early Intervention Conference will be held on June 12-13, 2025. First Steps is still seeking proposals. More information can be found here: <https://earlyintervention.iu.edu/index.html>

Christina Commons and Janet Ballard, Research Associate with IU Early Childhood Center, presented on the Indiana's Part C Annual Performance Report for FY2023 (see Power Point). A breakdown of all compliance indicators and results were presented. Janet Ballard emphasized the importance of the Child and Family Outcomes, which were met or exceeded in most cases. Christina Commons acknowledged the hard work of local programs and partners in improving the program's performance and expressed hope for further improvements in the coming years. February 3rd is the deadline to submit the APR to the Office of Special Education Programs.

Sub-Committees Updates:

- 1) Workforce Development:
 - a) Erica Deathe reported no new updates.
- 2) Technology:
 - a) Jason Berty reported no new updates since October 2024. The group continues to brainstorm new technology solutions.
- 3) Other State Systems:
 - a) Jennifer Owens reported that this committee recently met with Katie Herron (Director, Early Childhood Center, Indiana University) who shared IU's website for their tiered technical assistance. Jennifer reported that Janet Ballard will take a new role as the coordinator for this project.

May Strategy Session:

Cory Best reported that the next Strategic Planning Session will be held in May 2025. The Council approved the 2025 ICC meeting dates which will include a shortened meeting in May to allow for the Strategic Planning Session for ICC members only. This strategy session will focus on how to improve the ICC and the strategic direction for the next 3-5 years. Christina Commons added that if the Council needs any specific state data before the May session, please make your request as soon as possible. Council members should consider ideas and topics for the upcoming strategy session in May and share them with Megan Hershey.

2025 ICC Meetings:

1. January 8, 2025 (10am-1pm)
2. May 7, 2025 (10am-11am) followed by Strategic Planning Session for all ICC members
3. August 20, 2025 (10am-1pm)
4. November 5, 2025 (10am-1pm)

All 2025 meetings will be held at Easterseals Crossroads, 5th Floor. There will also be a Zoom link provided for virtual participation.

2025 Legislative Session Update:

Cory Best reminded the council that the 2025 legislative session started today. He encouraged members to consider attending public House and Senate committee meetings. <https://iga.in.gov/>

Council Member Collaboration:

Robyn Duffy reminded the Council that February 11th is Early Childhood Day at the Statehouse.

Public Comment:

Cory Best opened the floor for council members. No comments were made. He then opened the floor for public comment and no one from the public had comments.

Adjournment:

Cory Best requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

Next Meeting:

May 7, 2025

10AM-11AM (EDT) followed by Strategic Planning Session for ICC members only

Location: Easterseals Crossroads 4740 Kingsway Drive Indianapolis, IN 46205 Conf. Room 5th Floor

Meetings were respectfully submitted by Megan Hershey, Transform Consulting Group