

**ND INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 9, 2025
Via Teams**

PRESENT

Danielle Westerhausen
Louise Greff
Michelle Ragan
Annie Skiba
Emily Dolinar
Eric Gault
Matt Nelson
Sarah Carlson

Carolyn Kueber
Jody Hulm
Shannon Grave
Danielle Hoff
Kayla Stastny
Jennifer Withers
Kendra Vander Wal
Missi Baranko

Staff:

Jackie Adusumilli
Colette Perkins

Guest:

Stephanie Bouche, Olmstead Commissioner Coordinator

TOPIC: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone introduced themselves and told about their first car they had.

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

TOPIC: JUNE & SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Jodi Hulm and seconded by Michelle Ragan to approve the June 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Missi Baranko and seconded by Louise Greff to approve the September 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TOPIC: FAMILY STORY

Carolyn stated that they got their granddaughter into foster care, and they are kinship and process of being licensed in foster care and she has turned 2. Learning the process and early intervention is coming in and will evaluate. Had 1st visit with the supervisor where she felt her granddaughter was and to understand the process. 1st evaluation for her on Monday and looking forward to that and seeing the process and how it works and making sure she is thriving. Thankful that she knew program was there and part of the process. Will see if she qualifies for services and on aboard for whatever our granddaughter needs. They are so rural and hard to get respite care and relying on family to give them a break. Going through foster care licensing and getting licensed just as a relative. This has been eye opening and understanding where her daughter is at and where she is at and why early intervention is so important for kids going through this.

Jennifer stated her oldest niece born at 24 weeks and now 15 years old. She was in the southeast and wanted to be close and moved back. She was in Mayo for 4 ½ months. Fascinating to go through all the processes and procedures with her brother and family. Had to go through lots of training, feed tubes and oxygen for her and the family. Jennifer's background is actually medicine. Helping them to navigate through the system and helping her niece to prosper.

Shannon stated her early intervention son is now 24 and he started before his 2nd birthday. Before that they did a few screenings and evals and didn't qualify. Diagnosed with autism at 24 months old. Worked hard and responded beautifully with early intervention and supports. She had the knowledge but having early intervention was such a helpful service. Remember being so thankful they had early intervention. He graduated from college and in grad school. Matt asked about having Shannon's son be a part of the ICC.

Missi stated that her daughter is 27 and was in early intervention and has a brain disorder and working at ACC. She is working with kids that live there. Her reflecting that it could have been her space. She has a boyfriend, and they are celebrating their 1 year anniversary.

Sarah has been on the ICC for 12 years and Beckett was 1 and now he is a teenager. This is fun graduation thing and things look different for him now. Learning advocacy pieces and embracing the place you are at and when

Beckett was first in early intervention and we met the DDPM in the NICU and important piece for us to start services. Keep the NICU families connected with their region. Their exp parent was Missi Baranko and she should mee the family voices group. This week is dec and she was going to be repeat presenter and with federal government the way it is stopped her plans to be there. Did 30th birthday for early intervention about 10 years ago. Advocate for others to see his gift.

TOPIC: NEW BUSINESS

Cross Disability Advisory Council Update

Dept is doing a public comment for the Waiver – potential children’s waiver. Jackie forwarded it to ICC members. Opportunity to provide public comment on this and hear about work CDAC is doing. What are the next steps to stay involved and top of the information. Opportunity for public comment on the cross disability waiver is out for public comment.

Priority Setting

Last year John from Utah with TACE and he walked us through a priority setting process. We will break off into groups and have discussion and then come back together. Last year we had set was defining roles and responsibilities with each ICC membership category; compensation for parents of ICC – felt work was complete and going through state approvals; increasing public awareness parental portal and ICC work has been completed and state has picked up the work and being involved and familiar with DMS process and more of a specific priority and working on revising policy and procedures.

Are there other priorities to add to this and maybe an additional 2; DMS one and monitoring previous priorities.

Discuss any priority and disagree with status and setting up to 2 new priorities for ICC to working on for this next year. Increasing public awareness is still one to keep a tab on and helps ensure collaboration of input; and Michelle stated she would like to keep tabs and assure it keeps moving forward and not a ton of materials to give out or a unified brochure to give out if doing marketing events. Lets keep and work on it again this year. Monitoring and that they are continuing completion on Rec to align with in home support rate – Jackie trying to figure out if we have the authority, under part c we have the authority but working with legal

and HHS is do we have the state authority; legal is confirming that the state has the authority to do this. Not sure when we would get a final response and this was discussed after the Legislature in May. Nothing for the ICC to do now and have as a monitor and updates at the meetings. Even if they are moved to monitoring; if we can have updates at every meeting.

What can we do to unite or unify the messaging and roles of experienced parents within our state and give experienced parents support with other experienced parents and not just coming from providers and providers are the ones paying. Some opportunity in defining roles and responsibilities and ways to do that. What do we do for professionals in the experienced parent world. Maybe an additional RFP and ICC to help formulate.

Missi watching peer support grow and the trainings. Interesting as she follows that she gets it has never been done but it was done years ago in the DD space. Uniting some of those spaces. This parent to parent world has grown in the disability space. How to make sure we continue to partner and grow with those peer to support spaces. There is a lot of overlap in the work. Having awareness or exposure to our e.ps that we don't have to recreate the wheel. How can it be billable? Think we have lost some support that goes to NICU families. What can an experienced parent do to make sure families stay connected to their region and not losing some of them and we shouldn't have to repeat child find after they come home because we already know about that. Jackie and Jordan have talked with Katie in BHD but would like to see more formal conversations around it. ICC to talk about turned contracts back to provider and experienced parent with a provider – if more than one and peoples hands are tied. How do we support and better utilize, and how to support families in NICU. Good thought on what is available if a region doesn't have an experience parent.

Last meeting had joint meeting – feel like it was a much better meeting this year. Some elements that Part B – listening and Part C and they are saying ok. Maybe some collaboration work, some actions we could all do together and seem more unified. How can we make the best of that time together. Statement that disappointed that no Part B people in person in Bismarck. Group in person felt disengaged and recommend as we go forward that we choose one or the other – in-person or teams. It was not beneficial for us. Make it worthy of travel. What can we do that is really

networking? This meeting needs to be relevant to everyone. Here are our priorities and how can we work together on these. Part B only meets virtually. Their group prefers virtual. Jennifer will encourage Part B Bismarck people to attend in person. Think of topics that are universal to both and break out times and part of the purpose to being together is to build relationships.

Eric stated when their daughter was in the NICU there was March of Dimes and that is how they got set up for DDPM. If people are not being connected to DDPM, it is very important. Not serving families in the NICU, the ownership is back on the family to get connected. We need to figure this out for families. So much work done 10/12 years ago with social workers in NICU and referring out and probably turn over and need to reconnect. What can be done to provide constant education to NICUs while families are in the NCIU? Jackie would love for this to be a priority.

Recommend keep on top of Cedac and children's waiver. Forming services, what waiver looks like and did this work, need to get this funded and supported through the state. Children income streams will not be considered nor child support. Federal level – no rules that have impacted Medicaid, things have calmed down. Going for therapy and the worker moves to another agency, the family has to pay for the eval-therapy out of pocket at the new agency as Medicaid will not pay.

ICC to be an area of early intervention and early childhood section working towards pyramid model for social/emotional development and early intervention started 2nd year of pilot programs. We should keep updating ICC regularly and obtain feedback and will approach a situation where we don't have funding for it anymore. REIL grant ends Oct 2026. Discuss sustainability and any ideas for supporting. Inclusion coaches will be starting modules this week and coaching and work through that. Good presentation to share information and for everyone to know this is continuum. Opportunity for parents to participate in the pyramid model. Eric would like to see those to learn more.

Pick 2 for the upcoming year and break out into small groups to flush it out a little bit.

4 priority areas for the break out:
NICU

Part B and Part C joint meetings

Peer Support and Unified message for experienced parents

Public Awareness Campaign

Still have public awareness to keep and the DMS. DMS will be very state lead not discuss today; but have listed as a priority. DMS – visit from OSP in Jan and rec letter of findings in July to correct and by Nov 17. ICC – when we submit those procedures to OSEP/corrections. Have the ICC talk about these new procedures and how to get out to families and providers what this looks like. How to teach providers about new monitoring process. When approved by OSEP to help and support getting that knowledge out to the field. Dispute resolution, fiscal monitoring, and programmatic monitoring are the 3 areas. Jackie can write up the goals for DMS.

Room 1 recap – peer support and exp parent

Goal continuing parents are experts, support and payment. Agencies doing the work and how to bring everyone together and certain trainings that everyone is following.

Room 2 – NCIU

Families have surprised bills, support for apply for disability, getting on DD waiver, connected to supports in their area, role of DDPM and how training needed for what supports are available beyond waiver, support of project Carson and Designer Genes.

Room 3 – icc and part b – no attendance

3 areas – high bred format complaints – in person and hard to engage; break out rooms in person should work with in person and virtual with virtual; in person is it worth it is much networking; hybrid meeting see them across from you and meeting on projector most people don't log in and don't know who is there to collaborate and meeting in person building relationships. Meeting format – past formats; have 2 full days but too much away from home; have further conversation about past formats and select one we are comfortable with; transition has been the main topic from Part C to Part B and it goes smoothly; topics that both area interested in and an equal part in, focusing on indicator improvement and how early intervention effects them and indicators that are easily measurable; asking them what they think we should work on – discussion at the joint meetings what to work on or a subcommittee to meet ahead to discuss format and topics and

like joint mission and goal vs talking about each other to each other;
understanding norms of a typical meeting and an understanding of that.

BARR – building assets and reducing risk – tied into graduation. School intervention system – teaches skills and resiliency and relationships. Groups were asked to send their sheets to Jackie.

TOPIC: CONTINUED PARENT RECRUITMENT DISCUSSION

Matt and Sarah are aging out.

There are 9 parent slots with 2 aging out.

We need 3 parents. Matt is done in August 2026 and Sarah is done in August 2027.

How do we continue parent recruitment? We don't reach out to the public; through advertising. Not through newspaper and purchasing. It is through family voices and internal word of mouth conversations.

Did we update are SOP – did we allow for people to stay on past 12; we updated to the end of their term. One parent with child under 6 and ideally looking for those parents with younger children also. Send names to Jackie, any names and talk with them about the ICC. This is a public meeting and a parent that might be interested and invite them to come with you and sit in on a meeting. Jackie will check with Jordan on the infographic on the ICC for members to share. Could we add a QR code for families to access the website.

Parent Recruitment will be on the next meetings agenda.

Low attendance of members – expectations of members. We also need a Legislators. Jackie has reached out to 3 but hasn't heard back from any of them.

Parent Reimbursement to the ICC

TOPIC: STANDING NDICC AGENDA ITEMS

ICC Member Update

The meeting dates for 2026 and if you didn't receive an invite to these, please email Jackie.

Transition Guides - they are completed. They are going to train next week for DD Program Managers on Oct 14. It was sent to Infant Development Coordinators to share with their staff also. Doing an early children special education committee the next week and Part B coordinators will receive training there. Guides will be on the early childhood special education tab through the DPI website. Then put out for all. Working on a record training also and ready to be uploaded after the Oct 14 and Oct 22 trainings are completed with the actual guides. A Q&A document will be available also. It can be put in PeopleSoft also and a public one.

Family Survey:

Last year we received 732 survey responses this year we have received 725. Jackie thanked the subcommittee and the ICC for the changes they incorporated a few years ago.

TOPIC: NEXT MEETING

December 11, 2025

9am to 12pm

Virtual