



Mike Braun, Governor  
State of Indiana

***Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services***  
***First Steps***

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**First Steps Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting**

November 5, 2025

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. EDT

**Attending ICC Members:**

Cory Best (ICC Chair), Deanna Woodruff (ICC Vice Chair), Jason Berty, Laura Burklew, Mariann Frigo, Alexandra Hall, Charie Jones, Kristi Linson, Jennifer Owens, Adam Alson, Jessica Minor, Courtney Willis, Alyssa Christy, Robyn Duffy, Dr. Megan Purcell, Stacey Williams, Sonya Rush, Representative Edward Clere

**Attending First Steps State Staff:**

Christina Commons, Danielle Ruffino, Constance Young, Amy Torres

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Family Story**

Olivia Scott attended virtually and shared her First Steps story, with Spanish translation provided.

**Approval of August 2025 Minutes**

Cory Best called for a motion to approve the amended August meeting minutes. Mariann Frigo moved to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**2025 Legislative Session Update**

Holly Wimsatt, Director of the Bureau of Disability Services, provided a presentation and update on HEA1689. The presentation focused on the Home & Community Based Services Waivers program. Key topics included potential Waiver Amendments, updates related to Case Management practices, and strategic planning efforts centered on program sustainability and the forthcoming Waiver Reset.

Representative Clere noted that ICC members and the public are welcome to contact him as a resource.

**2025 ICC Governor's Report**

Cory Best and Christina Commons shared a high-level review of the 2025 Governor's Report. Copies of the report were provided to the council.

**First Steps Update**



Christina Commons delivered the quarterly First Steps Update. Key program data for Q1 SFY2026 shows that 17,026 children were served year-to-date, representing a 22% increase in the number of children served over a three-year period. The presentation also outlined the response to OSEP regarding 11 federal monitoring findings and upcoming efforts to advance operational excellence through the November 2025 EI Hub release and the new PEM 2.0 credentialing process.

### **ICC Highlight and Partner Collaboration**

Adam Alson from OECOSL provided high-level updates on the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) program and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), summarizing key developments and program overviews.

### **2026 ICC Nominations**

Following the elections, the 2026 leadership adjustments were confirmed:

- DeAnna Woodward will serve as ICC Chair
- Jennifer Owens will serve as Assistant Chair
- Kristi Linson will join the Executive Committee
- Jason Berty and Alexandra Hall will continue serving on the Executive Committee

### **Review and Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates**

The Council approved the 2026 ICC meeting dates: January 16, May 6, August 12, and November 4.

A motion to accept the dates was made and carried.

### **Public Comment**

Cory Best opened the floor for council member comments; none were offered. He then opened the floor for public comment, and no public comments were made.

### **Adjournment**

Cory Best requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

January 16, 2026

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. EDT

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

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Megan Hershey, Transform Consulting Group