

Interagency Resource Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026
Office of Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay
Carvel State Building, 10th floor/ Hybrid Meeting
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

IRMC April 20th, 2026: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/DGJhmO1vet9o8JL-4fIXAsyqXHaSfSBQy5VG3FnQIYqVbmfK8SKz8862mxiZZhib.rfggAL0oDgmmDrNB?startTime=1776708029000>

Passcode: ks2b!c1u

Committee Members Present:

Lieutenant Governor Kyle Evans Gay, State of Delaware
Department of Education Secretary Cindy Marten, State of Delaware
Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Services Lisa Scheiffert, State of Delaware
Department of Services for Children, Youth, & Their Families Secretary Steven Yeatman, State of Delaware
Office of Budget and Management Deputy Director Ann Visalli, State of Delaware
Delaware Early Childhood Council Chair Madeleine Bayard, State of Delaware
Senator Elizabeth Lockman, Delaware State Senate
Caitlin Gleason, Department of Education
Controller General Ruth Ann Miller

Facilitator: Lizzie Cosse, Director, Watershed Advisors

Staff from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor: - Sarah Stowens, Chief of Staff

- Alexis Wrease, Director of Communications
- Mark Brainard Jr., Director of Policy
- Pelumi Adesina, Office Manager

Overview

The Interagency Reform Management Committee (IRMC) held its April meeting to discuss progress on unifying Delaware's early care and education system. The meeting focused on

reviewing early insights from the landscape analysis, which identified fragmentation as a key challenge rather than a coordination problem, with discussions centered around governance structures, funding alignment, data, and quality. Key updates included DECC's work on professional licensing standards and the strategic plan's emphasis on increasing access and enrollment, while public comment highlighted the importance of maintaining provider support and workforce stability during system changes. The group discussed next steps for their June meeting, including guided decision-making around six key questions focused on ensuring access to high-quality early education experiences and creating an outcomes-based system that functions for those who use it.

Delaware Early Care System Progress

The IRMC April meeting focused on reviewing progress toward building a unified early care and education system in Delaware. The group discussed their charge to develop an implementation-ready vision covering four key areas: governance, funding alignment, quality, and data. The meeting covered the landscape analysis framework focusing on three pillars: strategy, communication, and implementation readiness, with the goal of demonstrating a coherent strategy to increase access, affordability, quality, and meet the needs of the public good.

Delaware Early Childhood Education Updates

The meeting included updates from DECC and discussions about early childhood education initiatives in Delaware. Madeleine presented on the DECC's strategic plan and outlined plans to release a vision document in July. The discussion highlighted efforts to move toward a licensed profession for early childhood educators. The group also reviewed progress on a landscape analysis examining the current state of the early childhood system in Delaware. The analysis aims to understand the current landscape and identify ways to achieve desired goals and outcomes, and is based on stakeholder input and system data.

Service System Challenges

The discussion emphasized the need for better coordination at a governance level to understand spending requirements and policy implementation, particularly by engaging program managers at a more operational level rather than just directors. The conversation ended with plans to review past reports and analyses while focusing on practical applications of system accessibility, with follow-up discussions scheduled for June to address identified challenges. IRMC members also discussed the challenges in serving children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) within the current system.

Delaware Early Care System Challenges

The discussion focused on challenges in Delaware's early care and education system, highlighting a lack of formal structure despite strong personal relationships and collaboration. Key issues identified included unclear ownership of decisions, fragmented data systems, lack of

full visibility into investments, and the need for shared definitions and measurements of quality. The group acknowledged that while coordination exists, fragmentation remains a significant challenge that needs to be addressed through better infrastructure and alignment.

Early Childhood Program Fragmentation Discussion

The discussion focused on fragmentation in early childhood programs across state agencies and its impact on families accessing services. The Lt. Governor explained that while coordination relies on relationships, the current fragmented structure creates complexity for families as programs run in parallel without clear visibility or decision-making authority outside their silos. A participant raised concerns about potentially unifying child welfare services under early childhood education, warning that moving DSCYF functions could create additional challenges and compliance issues with federal regulations. Participants emphasized that unification should focus on creating seamless experiences for families rather than simply consolidating departments, with examples given of challenges faced by foster care families accessing services.

Early Childhood Education System Alignment

The discussion focused on addressing challenges around alignment and fragmentation in early childhood education systems. Secretary Cindy Marten emphasized the importance of having a strategic plan to track progress and measure success, particularly in increasing access and enrollment in programs. They discussed the need for coordinated efforts across agencies and departments, even when direct control is limited. The group also touched on the first meeting of the Legislative IRMC Advisory Group, which aimed to align legislative efforts with broader system improvements.

Next Steps

Next steps include developing a draft plan for review in June, with plans to examine lessons learned from other states and share experiences from past consolidation efforts.

Public Comment

Jamie Schneider

Adjournment: Lt. Governor Gay thanked all in person and virtual attendees for attending the Interagency Resource Management Committee meeting and shares the date and time for the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22nd.