

# Early Intervention Summit Agenda

## “Stronger Together: Partnering for a Better Future”

*A California Summit to Advance Early Intervention for All Young Children*

Time	Activity
	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>
<b>9:00–9:30</b>	Lou Vismara, MD Founding Member, UC Davis MIND Institute
<b>9:30–10:15</b>	<b>Keynote: The Neuroscience of Early Brain Development &amp; Policy Implications</b> Dr. Martha S. Burns, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Carnegie Learning
<b>10:15–10:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>10:30–11:30</b>	<b>Interactive Panel + Dialogue: “Collaboration for Better Outcomes- Breaking Silos with Shared Purpose”</b> <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michi Gates, Ph.D., Deputy Director of Programs, California Department of Developmental Services</li><li>• Jackie Wong, Executive Director, First 5 California</li><li>• Stephen Propheter, Director, Early Education Division, California Department of Education</li></ul>
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>Interactive Element:</b> Audience question prompts placed on tables, submitted live
<b>12:00-1:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00–2:15</b>	<b>Working Group Roundtables: Table discussions: Strengths, Barriers, and Opportunities</b>
	<b>Report Out &amp; Synthesis</b>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
2:15–2:30	Break
	<b>Organizational Leadership Panel: Building a Shared Early Intervention Framework through common threads and big ideas</b>
<b>2:30 – 3:30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michele Rogers, Ph.D., Executive Director &amp; Chair, Infant Development Association</li> <li>• Dr. Deborah Ross-Swain, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-CL, Early Intervention Committee, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association</li> <li>• Swati Shah, Founder &amp; Occupational Therapist, Ascend Rehab Services, Inc.</li> </ul>
<b>3:30 – 4pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks: Call to Action</b>

## **Approach to Presenting “The State of EI” Without Sounding Negative**

Rather than a “gap analysis,” structure the session around:

### **Framing:**

- “California’s Early Intervention Landscape: Momentum & Missed Opportunities”
- “Where Bright Spots Can Become Blueprints”

### **Focus:**

- Present data visualizations that celebrate progress (e.g., county-level gains, success of early screening campaigns, First 5 wins).
- Identify challenges as “stress points” or “missed alignment opportunities” — not system failures.
- Possibly embed real-life stories of children and families who succeeded with early services **and** those who were delayed, humanizing the data.

### **Collaboration Without Calling Out**

#### **Messaging:**

- Emphasize the mutual desire to improve child and family outcomes.
- Use language like “We all have pieces of the puzzle” or “Let’s partner and network for better outcomes, success and communities.”
- Frame collaboration around child outcomes and system efficiency, public health not system flaws.

#### **Strategies:**

- Use panel questions that model transparency (“What have we learned about what isn’t working any longer?”).
- Facilitate shared wins: Highlight even small inter-agency partnerships that are working or have worked.
- Offer a follow-up virtual opportunity post-summit for agencies to co-convene shared workgroups with neutral facilitation (possibly led by CSHA or the CSUS partner).

## **How a Panel Can Kick Off the Working Discussions**

The panel sets the tone by:

- Outlining the human and systemic dimensions of disconnection (missed referrals, communication breakdowns, data silos, unmet family needs).
- Highlighting low-cost, scalable collaboration wins.
- Validating the importance of every stakeholder's role, expertise, and professional contributions from pediatrician to policy leader.

### **Suggested Topics for Panel:**

1. "What's One Moment You Knew Early Intervention was Essential for human success?"
2. "What's the biggest barrier to serving more children earlier?"
3. "What would it look like if our systems were truly aligned?"
4. "If you had one wish for California's next EI policy move, what would it be?"
5. Other suggestions

## **Thoughts on Deliverables and Follow-Up:**

### **Post-Summit Follow-Up Recommendations**

#### **1. Immediate Digital Follow-Up (within 3–5 days)**

- Send out a thank-you message with:
  - Link to summit slides and notes
  - Summary of top priorities shared
  - Link to express interest in participating in the interim committee
  - Optional survey for feedback and resource contributions

#### **2. Forming the Interim Committee**

- **Name:** *California EI Systems Alignment Workgroup* (possible working title)

- Composition: 10–12 members representing CDE, DDS, First 5, Regional Centers, pediatric health, parent advocacy, IDA, and CSHA
- Purpose:
  - Draft short-term priorities and shared principles for working across systems
  - Engage with California HHS to open lines of communication about oversight, alignment, and solutions
  - Propose a model for sustained cross-agency coordination (e.g., standing advisory council or collaborative)

### **3. 60-Day Post Summit Touchpoint**

- Host a virtual roundtable or town hall for all attendees to hear:
  - What the interim group has drafted
  - What engagement with HHS has looked like
  - Opportunities for feedback or continued participation

### **4. Deliverables for Advocacy and Public Awareness (Optional depending on resources)**

- Develop a **California EI Call to Action Brief** (2 pages, for policy and philanthropy)
- Create **infographic-style shareables** summarizing outcomes for:
  - General public and media
  - Policymakers
  - Families and professionals

### **Final Thoughts:**

This format and structure allows for rich cross-sector interaction, creates a feedback loop between panel and participants, and lays the groundwork for concrete outcomes without shaming or blaming. Framing collaboration through the lens of child well-being, public health impact, and long-term cost savings allows stakeholders to rally behind shared values—even with different mandates.