

## **Public Comment**

The Connecticut Interagency Birth to Three Coordinating Council on infants and toddlers (ICC) welcomes public comment from individuals, programs, agencies, etc about issues related to young children who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families. **We want and need your input.** In order to encourage public comment, this position statement was developed.

### **What is Public Comment?**

“Public Comment “is the opportunity to officially address the ICC. Persons making public comment may express opinions or bring issues of concern related to the delivery of early intervention services to children age birth to three who have disabilities and their families. Public comment often includes, but is not limited to, opportunities for improvements to the system, praise for concerns about, or criticism of the Birth to Three system, or about specific concerns or questions. Individuals are also invited to bring issues concerning agencies other than the Office of Early Childhood to the attention of the ICC as they relate to young children with disabilities. **NOTE:** Formal individual or system complaints are not under the jurisdiction of the ICC and should be directed to the Birth to Three System ([CTBirth23@ct.gov](mailto:CTBirth23@ct.gov)), not the ICC.

### **Who can make public comment?**

Anyone...the general public, agency representatives, families, service providers, or any other system stakeholder.

### **Why should I make public comment?**

Public comment is a “reality check” for members of the Council. It lets them know how the program is doing from people who are directly affected by it, such as parents and service providers. It allows agency representatives and others the opportunity to respond to situations, concerns, and issues.

### **How can public comment be given?**

Public comment can be made in a variety of ways:

1. In person at an ICC meeting (written comments may accompany verbal comments)
2. In writing designated as “Public Comment” and mailed to  
Office of Early Childhood - Birth to Three  
Rebecca Smith, ICC Lead Agency Staff  
450 Columbus Blvd Suite 205  
Hartford, CT 06103

Or faxed to: 860-622-2690

Or emailed to: [rebecca.smith@ct.gov](mailto:rebecca.smith@ct.gov)

Written comments will be read into the meeting record or attached to the minutes if time constraints prohibit all public comment being read.

How long do I have to make public comment?

Comments made in person at an ICC meeting are limited to three (3) minutes. Parents and family members of children with special needs wishing to testify will be heard first. Written comments should be limited to one (1)-typed page.

What happens after I make public comment?

The ICC may ask you questions and will often discuss your points and may even add issues to future agendas. The Executive Committee thoroughly reviews and discusses all public comments after each ICC meeting. All persons making public comment will receive a formal written response from the ICC Chair.

What if I have more questions?

Contact the ICC Chair or ICC Lead Agency Support, Rebecca Smith - [Rebecca.Smith@ct.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Smith@ct.gov)