

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

April 17, 2008
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Present:

Jerry Allen	Nevada Division of Welfare, Child Care Financing
Ann Bingham, Co-Chair	University of Nevada, Reno, Dept. of Educational Specialties
Nora Bryan Behrens	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Yvonne Brueggert	Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
Paula Crawford	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Jyotikaben Bhakta for Chuck Duarte	Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
Robin Kincaid	Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents
Stefanie Kujaczynski	Nevada Department of Education
Joyce Larsen	Division of Child and Family Services, Early Childhood Mental Health
Kristen McIntyre	Parent Representative - South
Johnette Oman	Northwest Nevada Early Intervention Services
Kimberly Palma	Parent Representative - South
Betty Sherwood	Parent Representative - Rural
Sherry Waugh	Early Head Start
Sherry Manning for Richard Weathermon	Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Bodi Wallace	Parent Representative – Southern Region
Amy Roukie for Richard Whitley	Health Division

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Absent:

Sheila Leslie	Assemblywoman, Nevada Legislature
Nancy Sileo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Dept. of Special Education
Shannon Springer	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Pamela McKay	Division of Insurance
Dianne Farkas	Family to Family Connection, Las Vegas West
Alice Chernich	Sunrise Hospital
Myra Berkovits	Clark County School District Title I HOPE

Department of Health and Human Services Staff Present

Brenda Bledsoe, Part C Staff	Office of Disability Services/IDEA Part C Office
Daniel Dinnell, Part C Staff	Office of Disability Services/IDEA Part C Office
Wendy Whipple, Part C Coordinator	Office of Disability Services/IDEA Part C Office
Melanie Whitney, Part C Staff	Office of Disability Services/IDEA Part C Office
Edie King, Part C Staff	Office of Disability Services/IDEA Part C Office

Public/Guests Present:

Janelle Mulvenon, Bureau Chief	Bureau of Early Intervention Services
Randy Figurski	Autism Training and Technical Assistance Office

CALL TO ORDER

A. Bingham, Co-Chair, called the strategic planning meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Announcements

A. Bingham stated public comment cards will now be used at each ICC meeting in an effort to make the public feel more welcome and to streamline the meeting. Concerns from members regarding the potential intimidation factor the cards might present for parents attending the meetings were discussed. A. Bingham asked for members to be patient while trying this new process and agreed to limit the time for each person making public comment to three to five minutes instead of five minutes for persons representing organizations and three minutes for all others.

A. Bingham welcomed the newest members, Stefanie Kujaczynski who is the 619 coordinator for the Department of Education (DOE), Kimberly Palma and Kristen McIntyre who are parent representatives for the southern region, Betsy Crumrine who is the state foster care representative to the ICC and Sherry Manning who is awaiting her appointment and currently the proxy for Richard Weathermon who has retired.

FAMILY SURVEY

Strategies for Obtaining 50% Return Rate

Wendy Whipple remarked that at the last ICC meeting concerns regarding return rates were discussed. Return rates of 20% are low but this is not unusual for mail out surveys. OSEP has not given a definite percentage that they have determined to be appropriate for return rates. The IDEA Part C Office is working with the Nevada University Center for Excellence at the University of Nevada Reno on the family survey and has met to brainstorm on strategies of how to increase the return rate. The main concern is that the returned surveys reflect a representative sample of the early intervention population. Also due to the lack of extra funding, strategies implemented to increase the return rate will have to be provided through the current budget.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

A. Bingham and Nora Behrens spoke regarding their perceptions of what the purpose of this meeting is beyond the mandate that ICC meet quarterly. It is known that the ICC bylaws state a face to face strategic planning meeting be held on the biennial. Both co-chairs related how excited they were to have everyone in attendance and felt that this is a great opportunity to energize the ICC. It is their hope that the ICC will stay focused on what the purpose of the ICC meetings are for and can work with Part C to provide the best services possible for those infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. It was noted council members are the most informed people about early intervention in the state and are looked to for help in guiding the Part C system. N. Behrens added she is interested in discovering what the role of the ICC is supposed to be and how each member's role affects the ICC as it relates to the lead agency as well as the community. Another goal of hers is to improve the collaboration between parents, parent groups and agency, and agency groups. A. Bingham also pointed out that increasing the recognition of ICC as the advisory board to EIS is important. She announced the ICC letter to the governor's office had been delivered and had received a nice response from M. Willden who recognized the ICC efforts in representing their budgetary concerns. Both co-chairs stated they have made it a personal goal as ICC chairs to be involved with the Strategic Planning Accountability Committee (SPAC) to make sure they are aware the ICC is the advisory board for early intervention services in the state and there will be ICC representation present when determinations regarding early intervention are made. The co-chairs made these personal goals in order to better represent the ICC as a body.

A. Bingham introduced Sharon Walsh who would be the facilitator for the strategic planning portion of the meeting. She described S. Walsh's experience and accomplishments in the area of advocacy for children with disabilities.

S. Walsh gave a brief introduction of what was hoped to be accomplished within the meeting; to identify two or three main goals that will direct the work of the ICC over the next two years. These goals should be agreed upon by the members of the ICC, be achievable and measurable. These goals should include what the first step is going to be, a few of the activities for year one, and what activities will be saved for year two. She noted her task is to provide information but mostly to facilitate so that at the end of meeting a list of goals has been created.

As she began the strategic planning portion of the meeting, she requested the group begin by creating two or three ground rules for the day. The ground rules included using one voice at a time, signal to be acknowledged before speaking, be respectful, ask questions, write down questions, stop and explain when acronyms are used.

She explained the changes in the ICC roles over the last twenty-five years. In the beginning, ICC and lead agencies were doing everything; writing policy and procedures. Then in the middle period of time, the ICC was not as active as the system had been created and they were not as sure what their job was because of the focus on implementation rather than design and establishment of the program. In these last five or six years, the ICC has become more active again.

ICC ROLES AS IDENTIFIED UNDER THE IDEA

Introduction of Members as Related to Their ICC Role

S. Walsh informed the group introductions would be slightly different than typical. The members were put into pairs where each person introduced themselves to the other and explained what their role in the ICC is (i.e. parent, provider, advocate). Then each would ask the other two questions; “name one success or accomplishment of the ICC or early intervention service you were involved with” and “what is the biggest challenge or issue for the next two years.” The answers to these questions were written on separate sheets of paper. At the end, each person introduced their partner to the ICC as a whole and related to the group the answers given to the questions.

GENERATION OF LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

The results generated from the questions asked during the introduction were posted and would become the starting point for determining what goals the ICC would focus on during the next two years. S. Walsh observed there were strong challenges and great successes noted. The challenges seem to be around resources and funding themes with specific challenges around increasing availability of services, rural area struggles, and parent support and participation. She also explained the biggest challenge for the ICC is recognizing where the early intervention system is, what the challenges are and what role each person can play to assist and move it forward.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Goal Setting for Next Two Years

S. Walsh stated she was asked by the planning committee for this meeting to do two things during this segment. One was to go through what the federal statutes and regulations views as the role of the ICC and then to provide a national context on what is going on in Nevada in relation to other states. She noted this information in conjunction with other information to be provided during the day will assist in making an informed decision on the goals the ICC will focus on in the upcoming two years.

S. Walsh began by referring to two handouts, Subpart G of the federal regulations and a comparative chart of proposed regulations and showing a Power Point presentation. She briefly explained the intent of each section of the federal regulations and then contrasted those to the proposed changes. She also noted that the regulations have not yet been released and that Part C is due for reauthorization next year. Questions and comments pertaining to this section related to council composition and the concern that the current representation for homeless issues is from a regional component rather than a state agency; how the ICC can assist and become a partner with the lead agency and not just an advising party; issues surrounding transition policies; and the need for more parent supports.

S. Walsh addressed the second request of the planning committee by briefly discussing the Infants and Toddlers Coordinator Association (ITCA) which is a national organization that represents the state lead agencies in Part C. She explained Nevada is an original member of this organization. A survey distributed by ITCA to its 52 member states showed that system capacity was identified as the largest challenge and concern. The response from states to address this was: 10% of the states have reduced their eligibility, 35% of the states are considering reducing eligibility, and 21% of the states are discussing terminating Part C in

their state because it is a volunteer program. No states have dropped out of the program yet. A group discussion took place regarding Nevada's eligibility requirements. S. Walsh provided an overview of capacity issues such as the increase of children served, personnel recruitment and retention and salary competitiveness. She discussed the current realities of funding Part C and the shift from federal to state funding, increased use of private insurance and the decreasing funds from Medicaid.

W. Whipple provided an overview of data provided in the last APR, which was submitted in February 2008 to OSEP. She then briefly went over each State Performance Plan (SPP) indicator to provide a brief description and update as to where the programs are for each one. Lastly, she gave a status report of funding allocations.

Plan of How to Implement

S. Walsh established four discussion groups based on the priorities identified through activities earlier in the day. Attendees independently choose a topical group for participation. Each group was charged with discussion of key issues regarding the priority area and deciding on only two or three main goals to recommend as focal points for the ICC over the next two years. At the conclusion of the discussion, each group reported to the full group. Through synthesis of information reported by these groups, three global areas were identified as focal points for the ICC for the next two years. ICC members then chose one of the three focus areas to form membership for committees to initiate the development of outcomes and strategies for addressing each identified area. Three committees were established as a result of this process which are Finance, Public Awareness Regarding the ICC, and Parent Involvement. Each committee identified at least one specific goal and issues and strategies for consideration in meeting the goals. Preliminary goal statements reported by the committees included:

- Support the exploration of all possible funding streams to sustain and expand EI services to Nevada's families (Community and agency specific);
- Support the development/coordination of family networking and education
- Increase public's awareness and visibility of the ICC

Each committee also identified dates for a follow-up meeting to build on the work that had been initiated.

CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ITEMS

Schedule Future Meetings

- July 10, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Las Vegas via Videoconference— Locations: NEIS 4528 W. Craig Road, Las Vegas, and NEIS, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno.
- October 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Reno via Videoconference— Locations: NEIS 4528 W. Craig Road, Las Vegas, and NEIS, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno.
- January 8, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Las Vegas via Videoconference— Locations: NEIS 4528 W. Craig Road, Las Vegas, and NEIS, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was given.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair A. Bingham adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.