

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

July 10, 2008
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Present:

Nora Bryan Behrens	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Myra Berkovits	Clark County School District Title I HOPE
Yvonne Brueggert	Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
Paula Crawford	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Chuck Duarte	Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
Dianne Farkas	Family to Family Connection, Las Vegas West
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
Pamela McKay	Division of Insurance
Johnette Oman	Northwest Nevada Early Intervention Services
Betty Sherwood	Parent Representative - Rural
Sherry Waugh	Early Head Start
Bodi Wallace	Parent Representative – Southern Region
Mary Wherry	Health Division

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Absent:

Jerry Allen	Nevada Division of Welfare, Child Care Financing
Ann Bingham, Co-Chair	University of Nevada, Reno, Dept. of Educational Specialties
Alice Chernich	Sunrise Hospital
Sheila Leslie	Assemblywoman, Nevada Legislature
Sherry Manning	Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Kimberly Palma	Parent Representative - South
Nancy Sileo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Dept. of Special Education
Shannon Springer	Parent Representative – Northern Region

Office of Disability Services Staff Present

Brenda Bledsoe, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office
Daniel Dinnell, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office
Wendy Whipple, Part C Coordinator	IDEA Part C Office
Melanie Whitney, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office
Edie King, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office
Iandia Morgan, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office

Public/Guests Present:

Margaret Paoli	Interim Service Coordinator and Parent, Northeast Region
Martha Schott-Bernius	Program Manager NEIS Northeast
Kate Green	UNR/UCED
Sally Reeves	Nevada PEP
Lynn Coutu	REM Nevada
Jennifer Murphy	Easter Seals of Southern Nevada

CALL TO ORDER

N. Behrens, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Introductions and Announcements

Introductions were made in Reno and Las Vegas.

Public Comment

No comments were made.

New Member Biographies

K. Palma was not available to present her family biography. K. McIntyre introduced herself and her son, Carson, who has Autism. She briefly related her experiences in getting her son diagnosed and the services they have since received. She reported that based on the most recent updates he has progressed to within normal limits in all developmental areas except speech.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2008 AND APRIL 17, 2008

In the January 10, 2008 minutes, R. Kincaid requested that the phrase "give them pause" in the last line of paragraph four on page four be changed to "create barriers." She also requested that "south" follow NEIS in the first sentence of the second paragraph on page six to designate which program the parents were referring to in their comments. In the April 17, 2008 minutes, S. Waugh noted two small changes. The first was to remove the "I" from the next to last sentence in paragraph three of page two and change "they" to "the" in the third line of the second paragraph on page three.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of both meetings as amended.

BY: Y. Brueggert

SECOND: B. Wallace

VOTE: Motion Passed

REVIEW AND DISCUSS ICC 2-YEAR STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENT

Finance Committee

P. Crawford reported discussions around grant sources, parent fees, private insurance, Medicaid and funding from the state took place. The committee determined obtaining grant sources was not seen as feasible due to the lack of staff to do the research and write the grants. The pros and cons of instituting a system of family cost participation was discussed. It was decided a cost analysis of potential revenues and expenses should be done. J. Oman added that there are other states similar to Nevada in demographics and layout who are successfully implementing services fees. P. Crawford noted they are aware of the Governors position on increasing fees and taxes. It was suggested that Assemblywoman S. Leslie, as a member of the ICC, be contacted to inquire about the possibility of her presenting a legislative perspective to the ICC on potential strategies for increasing funding support for early intervention services. It was also suggested that she might discuss issues related to bill drafts, instituting a system of cost participation and/or other legislative strategies to support the viability of the State's early intervention service system. The committee also discussed the availability of private insurance and Medicaid funding along with the opportunities to obtain additional funding from private insurance. It was felt that the potential of accessing private insurance as a significant resource is slim because most insurance programs in the State are self-funded programs. Medicaid is a good resource of funding although the proposed changes in what is covered could severely impact support for case management. However, these changes are on hold for a year. P. Crawford stated she is most excited about the forming of a Governor's Council on Public/Private Partnerships where private corporations would form a partnership with public entities in order to bring funds in to early intervention services from birth to six years. There are currently 11 or 12 states that have this type of council. Governor Gibbons has formed a committee which has been meeting and is now looking into drafting a bill to establish an Early Childhood Advisory Board in legislation so they may bring revenues in that could support statewide early intervention programs. W.

Whipple clarified that these statewide initiatives are not specific to early intervention but to all early childhood programs such as child care, head start initiatives, and statewide pre-k programs. These initiatives also look at ensuring the quality of services for children birth to six.

B. Bledsoe distributed an article regarding data on the cost effectiveness and cost benefit of early intervention programs. She explained the article is not referring to early intervention necessarily in the sense of the disability program but those programs that have intervened on behalf of young children, typically those children that are in disadvantaged situations. It was noted the article has statistics verifying that the return on the investment in these children is anywhere from \$2 to \$17 per dollar spent.

M. Berkovits commented that public entities such as the Nevada Department of Education, Clark School District or the Washoe County School District have grant writers who might be willing to collaborate on obtaining grant funds. W. Whipple stated that it would be wonderful to partner with groups that can grant write. She believes the challenge is early intervention is through state agencies and it is believed that it is the State's responsibility to provide funding Exploring different public/private collaborative partnerships for grant writing would be welcome because it is obvious current funding for the programs is not sufficient. D. Farkas noted UNLV has a public administration masters program with a focus on non-profit which might be an incredible resource to help the ICC accomplish its goals.

Y. Brueggert suggested trying a program similar to the "Adopt a School Program" used by Washoe County School District. This is where larger private or community businesses support specialized programs. These businesses can be very generous with their funding especially when they are given specifics on how the funds will be used and see an outcome. N. Behrens added Friends of Special Children, through NEIS-North, does partner with a few larger companies in Reno.

M. Wherry stated the Health Division is looking at using a billing company for direct services to ensure they are claiming every dollar allowable. In regard to the discussion of Medicaid funding, she reported she has had conversations with Mojave about providing targeted case management for early intervention. Mojave has been doing targeted case management for the Medicaid population and are very adept at billing and understanding the federal and state rules and requirements.

R. Kincaid remarked there has been tremendous improvement in collecting Medicaid dollars. However, there still needs to be more information so families understand when the school district bills Medicaid it is paid from a different funding source than when they use their Medicaid card to take their child to a medical provider. M. Wherry responded by stating there could be a conflict because of misunderstanding the idiosyncrasies of the date of service rules. She explained there are different funding streams from a provider type perspective; however, there are federal rules that do not allow someone to receive the same service from two different providers on the same day.

S. Kujaczynski stated she just came from Michigan which was one of the states that levied an initiative similar to what is happening now with the Governor's Council on Public/Private Partnerships. Michigan's Governor appointed an Early Childhood Investment Corporation which initially many state representatives sat on. This committee brought together all early childhood services but they found, as state employees, they could not lobby against their Governor to ask for funding. Therefore, community representatives were appointed to run the committee and were paid by committee dollars. They were then able to receive funds and funnel those funds to the early intervention programs. W. Whipple reported the trend nationally is to create these groups as foundations with an actual executive director. The foundation sits outside state government so that the funding goes to them where it is earning interest and they are using that interest to help build support. Here in Nevada, the E. L. Cord Foundation and Redfield are groups like this who could potentially be partners in such a venture.

S. Waugh commented these discussions are about two different, but very integrated activities. The Governor's Council and the Early Childhood Advisory Committee are really looking at state level systems integration. The Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant in the Health Division, and the Head Start State Collaboration

Project, all federally mandated programs, have some grant funds and have been looking at system development. There needs to be very connected comprehensive planning that still is not in place in Nevada.

W. Whipple remarked the finance committee discussed their knowledge of Governor Gibbon's current position on no new taxes and no new fees, but it does not mean to not plan for the future. The committee is exploring what a fee plan might look like, cost benefits, feasibility and the possible options while acknowledging the Governor's position.

J. Oman thanked everyone for their comments and advice. She explained this was the first meeting of the committee and the purpose was to look at every possible option for increasing funding support for early intervention. They brainstormed the pros and cons of each to determine what could be done now and what needs to be reconsidered in the future.

MOTION: To approve all of the ICC Strategic Planning Document 2008.
BY: C. Duarte
SECOND: Y. Brueggert
VOTE: MOTION PASSED

Y. Brueggert asked for clarification regarding the ICC's recommendation related to the statewide parent mentoring program and inquired as to how the information will be formally disseminated to program staff. W. Whipple suggested having the committee draft a letter or some type of correspondence to the programs that the Part C office could distribute statewide.

Parent Committee

Y. Brueggert, the committee co-chair, stated the committee had met twice. During the first meeting they discussed the goals and listed strategies. They came to the realization the strategies, like writing newsletter articles and discussing the Parent Mentoring Program, were actually the activities the Family Support Resource Committee (FSRC) were already working on and were concerned about the duplication of efforts. During the second meeting, the committee determined the Parent Mentoring Program was a function and goal of the FSRC also and it was decided to recommend to the ICC that they support the Parent Mentoring Program by recommending to early intervention services staff they collaborate with the FSRC. Training was also discussed. Training for staff, especially new staff, by panels of parents on specific topics and conversely, the continued need for parents to receive training from staff on a number of topics, one of which was the continuing issue of transitioning to Part B programs. Finally, they talked about recruiting parents which is the main idea for the committee. They are working with Nevada Access, published by the University of Nevada, Reno, to hopefully do an edition that is devoted to early intervention and parent involvement. This would contain early intervention program highlights, the benefits of early intervention and also articles written by parents telling their story of how and why they got involved and the benefits they received. Nevada Access has a mailing distribution list of 10,000 which is web based and are internationally known as well.

Public Interaction Committee

K. Palma, committee chairperson, was unable to attend the ICC meeting due to a family emergency. In her absence, B. Bledsoe, Part C staff person to the Committee, provided an update on the committee's activities. She stated that three goals were identified during the strategic planning meeting. This included an ICC brochure and drafts have been initiated. The brochure will be designed to target legislators and community advocates to inform them of the existence of the ICC and what the ICC is charged to do. The second goal is to pursue membership on boards and councils where it might be possible to make the public and other entities more aware of what the ICC is and what they do. One committee goal is to focus on the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC). A recommendation has been sent to the office of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services requesting A. Bingham be appointed a member of this Committee. The third goal is a quarterly fact sheet that could be distributed to legislators and policy makers. A rough draft of content has been started for this. The first version of this fact sheet will focus on the current issues

regarding timely delivery of services. The ICC had a similar fact sheet several years ago and focused on the 45 day timeline when that was problematic for the state. They were also discussing other ways to publicize the ICC and make it more interactive with the public.

PROGRAM MONITORING

REM Nevada

E. King stated REM just finished their first comprehensive self-assessment monitoring. She noted because REM has not been providing services very long and this is their first monitoring many compliance issues were reported but not unexpected. The monitoring process included a chart review of 20% of the programs charts, reviewing all compliance issues, an observation of an IFSP meeting on video tape, community partner surveys, family surveys by telephone and staff interviews. It is the same comprehensive monitoring that all of the programs go through. All of the components required by OSEP are looked at with a letter being sent to the program describing the findings of the monitoring and that they are expected to be in compliance of all findings within one year of the dissemination of the report. REM has already developed their corrective action plan and has begun implementing it. E. King noted that the programs biggest challenge is documentation. She also reported the program is now fully staffed. The program served 140 children SFY08.

W. Whipple reminded members about the criteria related to this. If OSEP identifies an item as a compliance indicator, the requirement is 100% compliance. If a 95% or better is achieved, OSEP is calling that substantially compliant which indicates to the program to keep striving for 100% but there is no finding. Anything below 95%, OSEP has termed a finding. Part C is mandated to follow this guidance and it is a very rigorous standard.

REM Nevada Program Update

L. Coutu stated they have been working on trying to reconcile the audit and have provided training. She spoke of her appreciation of the process, and her appreciation of E. King's and I. Morgan's time invested in teaching her staff. She reported the audit was a very positive experience and any request for assistance was provided.

As for the program, they are currently working with Easter Seals of Southern Nevada (ESSN) to establish play groups because of the size of their program they do not have enough families to be able to do that effectively. The program now has five developmental specialists (DS) and one part time DS who will begin full time in August. REM is looking to serve 125 children in the next fiscal year. In addition, they now have a behavior specialist who is working with the children who have behavioral issues. She remarked they are trying to grow reasonably and responsibly and making sure that they don't sacrifice services in the process.

Easter Seals of Southern Nevada (ESSN)

E. King stated Jennifer Murphy, the new director of ESSN, had been present but had to leave because she still carries a case load. In her absence, E. King supplied a brief overview. She began by stating ESSN had their first comprehensive monitoring a year ago. A letter was sent to them regarding the review. She spoke of the drastic improvements achieved by ESSN within the last year. There are still several areas where they are deficient but compared to where they were; they are well on their way to being complaint in all areas. ESSN has had three directors in the last year and they have had a constant turn over in staff which is a challenge. As noted earlier by L. Coutu of REM, they are collaborating on group programs. Staff continues to receive technical assistance and training. ESSN will start their self assessment monitoring in early August.

B. Wallace gave kudos to staff who are working with the community providers. He stated it was an uncomfortable time during this transition period when bringing in private providers of early intervention services. Everyone knows there are more children than can be served. It requires flexibility and cooperation on everyone's part. It is not easy to do and it is not comfortable to do but sometimes it needs to be done. It makes a huge difference for the families.

NEIS Northwest and NEIS Northeast

B. Bledsoe stated the letters to these programs are slightly different than those presented for the other programs as they are responding to the program's quarterly progress report. She explained that when monitoring areas have on-going non-compliance beyond the one-year timeframe for correction and any new areas of non-compliance identified during self assessment requires programs to submit quarterly reports. The data reviewed for the quarterly report covers the preceding three-month period. This really becomes challenging for the Northeastern program because of the small number of children in that program. She noted she chose to waive the third quarter report for both of these programs because NEIS Northeast is initiating their comprehensive self assessment and NEIS Northwest will be doing their yearly progress report. NEIS Northwest demonstrated improvement in the areas of procedural safeguards and she spoke briefly about their issues with timely initiation of services. All are aware that this is an extremely problematic area right now. NEIS Northwest has a year-end progress report due October 1, 2008.

B. Bledsoe reported that NEIS Northeast brought two areas into 100% compliance. She stated one problem area is that the timely and accurate data percentage is based on failure to have data entered into the database in a timely manner and noted the date of the transition conference as the example. The child's record contains documentation that the conference happened but the data is not getting updated in the database. A small discussion on the number of records reviewed took place. A brief and condensed overview was given on how the percentages were calculated for the number of records reviewed.

R. Kincaid asked if low percentages in the report could be because of lack of documentation. She also asked if a system of utilizing substitute (similar to the school system's process of using substitute teachers) has been considered to temporarily compensate for staff vacancies. B. Bledsoe indicated that it was not specifically a lack of documentation issue and also stated that there was no current system for substitution and there would not likely be funds available to support such a system at this time. J. Oman and W. Whipple explained the restrictions on who can provide service coordination/services and how the state hiring freeze and budget cuts have affected this issue.

NEIS South

I. Morgan stated this program has similar issues as the Northeast and Northwest programs. A second quarter report was due April 1, 2008. During the record review that covered a three month period from December 2007 to February 2008, a total of 121 records were reviewed. Twenty-six (26) were exited charts and 95 were records comprised of initial IFSPs, 6 month reviews, and annual reviews. Of those 95 charts, 66 were not applicable because during the review period there were no new services added. There were still two areas of non-compliance that the program was trying to reach; procedural safeguards which was providing families with prior written notices at exit, and timely delivery of service. Twenty-six (26) records were reviewed for procedural safeguards and of those 26, they were 100% compliant. The child record review found that procedural safeguards issues were due to lack of documentation. In timely delivery of services, there was slippage. The program was at 80% at the last reporting period and this quarter they were at 17%. Generally, the issues can be attributed to lack of resources, lack of staff, and the hiring freeze. Currently, the program has 11 vacant DS positions that cannot be filled due to the hiring freeze. With these vacant positions filled, there would be a minimum of 220 more children that would be able to receive services. They are also getting ready for their comprehensive self assessment. K. McIntyre and Martha Schott-Bernius will be assisting the program with implementing this process.

STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN REVIEW OF INDICATORS 2, 5, AND 6

W. Whipple stated the Annual Performance Report (APR) is due to the United States Department of Education on February 1, 2009. There are 14 indicators in the report and work is being done on those indicators for which data are available to provide the ICC with a few indicators at a time rather than all at once.

W. Whipple reported that indicator 2 is the natural environment indicator and is not a compliance indicator. This is an indicator where the state is allowed to set a target. Our target is 96% and the data is taken from the

December 1 count. Statewide Nevada was at 99.5%; Northwest was 99.5%; Northeast was 100%, South was 99.5%, ESSN was 97.7% and REM was 100%. This shows the target had been met. This percentage may drop if more children are referred to community providers who do not provide services in a natural environment.

Indicator 5 and 6 are the child find indicators and are not compliance indicators but have state-established targets for performance and growth. Indicator 5 is looking at the population from birth to one and indicator 6 is looking at the population from birth to three. B. Bledsoe stated there was great progress for all programs. On indicator 5, the statewide data shows 372 infants under the age of one on the December 1 count. If the state demographer's numbers are used and compared, performance for SFY08 would be at .91%. The state demographer's numbers are usually higher than those released by OSEP for the state of Nevada; therefore, it is likely that the State will reach the national target of 1% for this reporting period. The Northwest region is at 1.42%, the Northeast region was 1%, and the Southern region was at .76%, which is up substantially from the year before. The activities that have to be reported on every year are the activities put in the State Performance Plan and Nevada did meet the state target. For birth to three the established target was 1.67%. Unfortunately, we have to wait on OSEP numbers to get a final percentage for statewide performance but regionally the Northwest was at 2.43%, the Northeast was at 3.13%, and the Southern region was a 1.40%. The state target for the period is 1.67%. The programs statewide did well in increasing the percent served in this reporting period and are to be commended.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS PART C COMPLAINT MATRIX

W. Whipple explained what the matrix contains. Y. Brueggert requested this agenda item and was asked what information she would like to see on the matrix. She requested the column titled "findings" be added back into the report. It was determined that the 2007 log contained information that was not included in the 2008 log. W. Whipple stated the log would be corrected to contain the same information as the 2007 log and staff would be more specific when writing the finding.

W. Whipple noted complaints have escalated and are all around timely delivery of service. From a systems perspective, parents have a right to complain and are part of the IDEA procedural safeguards which the Part C Office investigates. This process is taken very seriously. These types of complaints filed will resolve issues for that particular child but does not resolve things at a system level. She then spoke on the due process that was filed in the south and noted it is related to autism services. ICC members can receive the due process documents because they are public documents. It was a consensus that members would like to receive the executive summary only.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Y. Brueggert would like to see the card more parent friendly by adding a welcome and thank you comment on the card. The members briefly discussed modifying the card slightly to be less formal and to note on the agenda next to public comment that a card is to be completed. It was also suggested to remove the word "citizen" from the card.

MOTION: To amend the public card as discussed.
By: B. Crumrine
Second: J. Oman
Nays: R. Kincaid
VOTE: Motion Passes.

PART C INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

3rd Quarter CLEO Reports

M. Whitney briefly went over the report noting that Laura Freed, the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) Program Analyst over early intervention services, requested specific tables to now be included. These tables

are the monthly IFSP cost per child which comes from our Administrative Services Officer (ASO); the quarterly performance by program; the current service coordinator caseload, the number of FTEs authorized that are frozen; information on the single point of entry in the southern region; the number of children waiting for services greater than 30 days; a list of services the children are waiting for; quarterly referral by program; the table on 45 day timeline compliance; and a comparison of the demographers population projections to the caseload projections. The Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services has requested data around the 30 day timeline. The data reported to the Commission is as of June 25, from the state programs only, there were 600 children waiting for services. Of those 600, 502 of them are waiting over 30 days. This does not mean they are not receiving any services, it means they are waiting on at least one service. Those children waiting for services break out as follows: 128 for speech, 60 for occupational therapy, 36 for intensive behavioral services, 37 for physical therapy, 13 for audiology, 12 for nutrition, 11 for vision services, 2 for family training and counseling and 2 for medical services. M. Whitney also pointed out that for FY08 the legislature gave the programs funding to serve 79 more children and that the programs served closer to 600 children and this correlates to the number of children waiting.

ICC COMMITTEES – REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION FOR ACTION BY ICC

Child Find Committee (CFC)

Item was tabled for next meeting due to lack of quorum.

Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Workgroup

Item was tabled for next meeting due to lack of quorum.

Family Support Resource Committee (FSRC)

Biennium Parent Conference

Item was tabled for next meeting due to lack of quorum.

CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ITEMS

Schedule Future Meetings

- 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, NEIS, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno, and NEIS, 1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Elko

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was given.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair N. Behrens adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.