

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

October 2, 2008
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Present:

Jerry Allen	Division of Welfare, Child Care Financing
Nora Behrens, Co-Chair	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Ann Bingham, Co-Chair	UNR, Department of Educational Specialties
Yvonne Brueggert	Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
Paula Crawford	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Joti Bhakte for Chuck Duarte	Dept. Health Care Financing 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	DCFS, Early Childhood Mental Health
Sherry Manning	Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Kristen McIntyre	Parent Representative - South
Pamela McKay	Division of Insurance
Johnette Oman	Northwest Nevada Early Intervention Services
Kimberly Palma	Parent Representative – Southern Region
Betty Sherwood	Parent Representative - Rural
Michele Tannock for Nancy Sileo	UNLV, Department of Special Education
Shannon Springer	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Sherry Waugh	Early Head Start
Mary Wherry	Health Division
Bodi Wallace	Parent Representative – Southern Region

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Absent:

Myra Berkovits	Clark County School District Title I HOPE
Alice Chernich	Sunrise Hospital
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services

Office of Disability Services/IDEA Part C Office Staff Present

Todd Butterworth, Chief	Office of Disability Services
Wendy Whipple	Part C Coordinator
Daniel Dinnell	Family Resource Coordinator
Melanie Whitney	Part C Data Manager
Eddie King	Part C Contact/Community Providers
Iandia Morgan	Part C Contact/Southern NEIS

Public/Guests

Catherine Armstrong	Health Division/Autism Program
Brianna Bollinger	Autism Program
LaVonne Brodes	HIS ABA
JoAnn Blake	The Continuum
Robert Burns	Therapy Management Group
Shauna Buxton	Family Ties
Patty Cavanaugh	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Margot Chappel	Head Start State Collaboration

Stephanie Christensen	
Jan M. Crandy	Autism Coalition of Nevada
Tammy Dillon	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Randy Figurski	Health Division/Autism Program
Kate Green	UNR/UCED
Gina Greisen	AFSCME Local 4041
Wendy Hruska	Parent
Rowen Hruska	Parent
Mark James	Therapy Management Group
Kate Katseanes	Northeastern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Bill Kohls	Northwestern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Jana Koubi	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Becky Lake	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Mary Liveratti	Dept. of Health and Human Services/Director's Office
Cheryl Means	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Janelle Mulvenon	Bureau of Early Intervention Services
Jennifer Murphy	Easter Seals of Southern Nevada
Marcia O'Malley	Family Ties
Margaret Paoli	Northeastern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Toni Richard	ACON/Parent
Elkee Sauls	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Martha Schott-Bernius	Northeastern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Melanie Smerdon	ACON/Parent
Barbara Stoll	Northeastern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Ralph Toddre	Autism Coalition of Nevada
Kelly M. Upp	Parent
Korri Ward	Northern Nevada Autism Network
Judy White	
Pam Young	Northwestern Nevada Early Intervention Services

CALL TO ORDER

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

Introductions and Announcements

She welcomed all present then asked for a count from the South to establish that quorum was present. Introductions were made in Reno and Las Vegas.

Public Comment

A. Bingham, Co-Chair, called for the public comment cards that had been submitted, the following public wanted to make comments, but chose to wait until the agenda item that they wanted to comment on was being discussed by the Council.

- Korri Ward – Agenda Item #4
- Ralph Toddre – Agenda Item #4
- Marcia O'Malley – Agenda Item #4
- Briana Bollinger – Agenda Item #4
- Wendy Hruska – Agenda Item #4
- Toni Richard – Agenda Item #4
- Randy Figurski – Agenda Items #4 through #8

New Member Biographies

Kimberly Palma, new ICC member from the South, introduced herself and gave a brief family history. Her daughter Korina was born eight years ago, her first child to be diagnosed with Bermeyer Syndrome that she initially learned by self research and talking with others. . Four other children have subsequently been born, including a son who was also born with Bermeyer Syndrome. She gained increased knowledge from the clinic where the children received their care. After completing her college education, she became a member of the ICC. Her training through the Families in Policy Making has contributed greatly to furthering her knowledge. Now, as a member of the ICC, she feels ready to better advocate for her children and for others with special needs.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 10, 2008

MOTION: Move that the minutes of the July 10, 2008 ICC meeting be approved as presented.

BY: Pam McKay

SECOND: Joyce Larsen.

VOTE: Motion Passed. Ann Bingham abstained because she had not attended that meeting.

ICC RELATIONSHIP TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE ICC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES Margo Chappel gave a brief background history of the Head Start State Collaboration office in Nevada. The first grant was written by Wendy Whipple in the late 1990's. Head Start Reauthorization took place in 2007. It stated every governor would have a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood. The National Governors Association released small planning grants \$10,000 to 12 states, Nevada included. The proposal was to pay for travel for a committee to meet three times to come up with a suggestion about whether to merge the following: ICC, Maternal/Child Health Advisory Board, and the Child Care Advisory Board to become the Governor's Council on Early Childhood, or at least work more closely together. That project has been completed without reaching the goal they wanted, though they continue with that planning process. Discussed was whether there ought to be an executive order, or maybe a bill draft, to create the Governors Council. M. Chappel stated she will continue to keep ICC informed; she hoped to have a report ready by their next meeting in January. She noted that some ICC members have been involved in the planning process. W. Whipple pointed out that federal requirements for ICC membership may preclude inclusion completely into the Governors Council. She said that there has been talk of the possibility of an umbrella under which ICC might be one of the sub-committees. Wendy stated that when she spoke with Nevada's OSEP contact, Jackie Twinning, about the feasibility of joining ICC with a broader body, she was reminded of the necessity of looking at funding directives and meeting federal mandates. Margo was assured that ICC is definitely interested in being represented at the planning talks. It was pointed out that coordinating and collaboration are difficult because each body has its own directive..

PAST 5-YEAR PERFORMANCE DATA

Melanie Whitney, Part C Data Manager asked members to refer to her handout *The Reorganization of Early Intervention Services/Five Year Performance History, Prepared by the Office of Disability Services – IDEA Part C Office*. M. Whitney reviewed, in detail, the statistics included in the handout, pausing to respond to questions and to provide clarification for members, as requested.

- The arbitrary choice of December 1 as a comparison date for number of children being served each year was questioned by B. Wallace, and whether or not that was a point-in-time data count or a yearly cumulative data count. M. Whitney explained that it was a point-in-time data count that all states were required to report to the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.
- A question was raised as to why there had been a drop in psychological services and in family training counseling. M. Whitney explained that it had been a data correction due to the early intervention programs use as a generic definition for family counseling services. W. Whipple explained that family training and counseling are provided by the various disciplines, to all families, based on the IFSP determination of services required. The programs do not have designated psychologists on staff; families are assisted in finding access to those services through providers in the outside community.
- There was a question of what data is kept on the cost of assisted technology. It was explained that it is difficult to calculate a cost per child. Some assistive technology is purchased by the family and there are a lot of items that programs own and loan to families.
- A question arose of when are children waiting? M. Whitney explained that the programs are not having difficulty meeting the 45-Day timeline around eligibility, assessment and the development of the IFSP, but that programs are having a difficult time meeting timeliness of services. M. Whitney explained that the decrease in number of service providers accounts for longer wait times.

At this time some of the Parents who had filled out Public Comment Cards wanted to discuss their frustrations they have experienced, especially during their first contacts with Early Intervention Services personnel, when they are still coping with the fears and emotions of having a child with a disability. They don't know what to expect or what is expected of them. They don't know the questions to ask or the answers to give. Having a child with special needs can be overwhelming to the parents and disruptive to family life; siblings will get less attention. After initial adjustments, parents may wish to be taught more about their child's condition and want to learn what they personally can do to help their child reach its potential for progress. Kelly Stringer stated she has looked at both sides of the issue. She has worked as a Family Specialist with NEIS South and has a child with disabilities. From her perspective, parents supporting each other is critical. They best understand what other parents are going through; they share each others fears, frustrations and hopes. Kelly stated that service providers are limited in how much they can do; there are limits to funding and time, so parent involvement is essential and extremely valuable to the welfare of their children.

M. Whitney completed reviewing the handout and asked for any questions, M. Wherry asked for confirmation on the federal funds, that her understanding that federal grant dollars also include almost a half million dollars from Maternal and Child Health for Children With Special Health Care Needs for some of the specialty clinics and follow-up of the newborn screening program with a registered dietitian. She said those are not all Part C services so it is important that the integrity of those other services be maintained.

Parents stated they appreciate all that staff does to support them and their children. Parents and staff acknowledged the importance of communication.

REPORT ON HEALTH DIVISION RESTRUCTURING OF EARLY INTERVENTION

M. Wherry began her presentation by stating that she was not aware of any changes other than community partners joining NEIS. She indicated everybody knows that every agency is being expected to comply with the budget gap. Details of the budget should be posted on the Governor's website sometime this month, possibly around October 15. If anyone has questions after the posting, please call for clarification.

M. Wherry looked at what actions would have the least impact on the direct service delivery for children; where could we cut throughout the hierarchy of the Division without it affecting direct service? There have been conversations with Brian Patchett, of Easter Seals, about creating a bill draft request for a parent sliding fee scale as a way to offset the decrease in general fund dollars. M. Wherry stated her goal has been to understand as much as she can about early intervention services before they testify in February. She wanted to use a fresh eye, without influence, without prejudice, and without emotion to listen to staff perceptions about opportunities for creating efficiencies; what are the issues and frustrations that people have. Beginning in July, she met with staff and supervisors throughout the state, asking for ideas for cutting the budget. M. Wherry referred to her handout as a way for ICC members to track her meetings with staff and note issues that were brought to her attention. She had separate meetings with Family Ties, REM, Easter Seals, NEIS South, NEIS Northwest NEIS Northeast, early intervention physicians and the people who hold the Maternal and Child block grant. She stated that she organized the results of her meetings by issues. Subsequently, she asked for volunteers for Early Intervention Services and community partners to meet with her to talk about the opportunities around the issues. Her goal is to be prepared by November to meet with Janelle Mulvenon, Bureau of Early Intervention Chief and Wendy Whipple, Part C Coordinator, to determine how to work through the issues. Some may require public hearing, others may be internal procedures. Her overall goal is to have staff fully trained about the opportunities available before the legislative session begins. For herself, she wants to have a good confidence level to be able to respond to any legislative concerns. Lastly, she thanked the ICC Council for holding her accountable and asked all members to contact her regarding their participation on the issue groups.

Several expressed concern about delay in services to families who have been evaluated and diagnosed. Early therapy is very important to a child's progress, for instance children with Autism, PKU and feeding problems. It is difficult to tell a parent after evaluation and the IFSP that in spite of what had been determined the child needed; they would have to wait for services to begin. Research has demonstrated the importance of early intervention for the outcome of the child and the ability to meet their full potential.

B. Wallace informed M. Wherry that he and other parents are not going to be content with just a FYI answer to what is being planned. If parents are not included in decision making, they are not going to be okay with that. He stated that he is open and willing to work with her, but he is not going sit by as the train goes past. K. McIntyre stated that she agreed with B. Wallace, even with the short time frame, things should be done properly from the beginning. Parents need to be included in the Health Division's planning meetings.

REVIEW, DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE ICC 2-YEAR STRATGIC PLANNING DOCUMENT TO INCORPORATE POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS OF ICC MEMBERS OR COMMITTEES

Finance Committee Update

This committee has not been able to meet because quorum was not met, and therefore there was no update.

Parent Committee Update

Y Brueggert reported that the committee is working on a series of articles to be submitted to UNR to be published in the Nevada Access Newsletter. W. Whipple and A. Bingham have agreed to be co-editors of this issue. Several people agreed to write articles for this edition.

Also a discussion took place around creating a workgroup headed by the ICC parents to address legislative issues. With the legislative session starting soon and only one ICC meeting prior to the start, members spoke about the need to schedule meetings with legislators, work on appropriate wording for a possible BDR, and get the word out about the need for Part C Early Intervention Services within the state.

MOTION: To create a workgroup who will meet and put together a proposal to legislators, specifically the ICC Legislative Representative Sheila Leslie, to make Early Intervention Part C services within the state of Nevada mandated.

BY: Nora Behrens

SECOND: Shannon Springer

VOTE: Motion Passed

Public Interaction Committee Update

The committee had not been able to meet so no update was given.

NEW GUIDANCE FROM OSEP ON ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT REGARDING TIME PERIOD OF REPORTING AND DESIGNATION OF FINDINGS

W. Whipple provided new guidance from OSEP in relation to correction of non-compliance. Anything less than 100% is a finding. The year of correction begins from the date of Part C's response to the programs monitoring report, which identified any areas of non-compliance (findings). During the program's year of correction any data that is provided to the Part C Office must be verified prior to being notified of correction.

PART C INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Complaint Matrix

E. King reviewed the updated complaint log identifying the issues related to the individual complaints. As noted the number of complaints are coming in rapidly due to the programs inability to meet the 30 day timeline.

A handout called *Investing in Infants and Toddlers: The economics of Early Childhood* was provided to ICC members as information only.

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

Child Find Committee (CFC)

There was no meeting held since the last ICC Meeting.

Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement Workgroup Review and Approve Workgroup Recommendations

Even with early applications for Early Childhood Special Education Endorsements, staff has no control over how long it takes the Department of Education to process their license application.

If the license is not submitted by their three year timeline, they may be subjected to being penalized and possibly being terminated. ICC is being asked to provide support in resolving this issue. B. Wallace stated that he supports the action. The requirement of three years work experience was brought up for discussion. It was noted that a person going directly from a bachelor program to a masters program may not have that experience. W. Whipple will investigate the existing personnel specifications to verify what the required work experience is for an applicant with a Master's degree.

MOTION: That the present document be accepted as ICC recommended policy with the exception of correction to one year work experience requirement for those with masters following verification.

BY: Johnette Oman

SECOND: Betty Sherwood

VOTE: Motion Passed

Family Support Resource Committee (FSRC)

Biennium Parent Conference Update

D. Dinnell reported on the status of plans for the Biennium Parent Conference. He stated that at the end of this month they will be sending out calls for presenters. There will be specifications for different kinds of presentations. Last year, Part C was able to contribute about \$7,000 of funding plus \$3,500 worth of mailings. D. Dinnell was questioned about plans for funding this year. The university is giving the conference space in the Joe Crowley Center for Friday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at no cost. Also, UCED paid for the conference web pages for the next two years and there is at least one organization that is looking at funding a keynote speaker. Y. Brueggert stated that the Parent Interaction Committee is preparing articles to promote the conference. A question of the availability of ICC discretionary funds for travel, etc. was raised. If there is money left over later in the year, a request can be submitted.

CHAIRMAN/MEMBER ITEMS

Schedule Future Meetings

- 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, NEIS 1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Elko.
- April 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Reno via Videoconference– Locations: NEIS 4528 W. Craig Road, Las Vegas, NEIS, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno, and NEIS, 1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Elko

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Legislative Issues

PUBLIC COMMENT

R. Kincaid stated there is a concern by families, who have heard a rumor, that services may be delivered differently, because public service interns positions will be phased out. She asked if anyone present could confirm or deny this rumor. Janelle Mulvenon reported she, Richard Whitley, and Tracy Walters were at NEIS for meetings with staff to indicate that with the Governor's targets some positions would be eliminated and not continued after July 1, 2009. The Health Division through Human Resources staff indicated they would help those displaced find other positions within Early Intervention or the Department of Health and Human Services. This was only a proposal no actual notices have been given out.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting ended at 2:15 p.m.

