

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

March 9, 2009
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Present:

Nora Behrens, Co-Chair	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Ann Bingham, Co-Chair	University of Nevada, Reno, Dept. of Educational Specialties
Yvonne Brueggert	Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center
Paula Crawford	Southern Nevada Early Intervention Services
Dianne Farkas	Family to Family Connection, Las Vegas West
Tina Jeeves	Easter Seals of Southern Nevada
Robin Kincaid	Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents
Sherry Manning	Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
Pamela McKay	Division of Insurance
Kristen McIntyre	Parent Representative - South
Dan Olsen	Division of Health Care Finance and Policy
Johnette Oman	Northwest Nevada Early Intervention Services
Michelle Tannock for Nancy Sileo	University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Dept. of Special Education
Sherry Waugh	Early Head Start

Interagency Coordinating Council Members Absent:

Jerry Allen	Nevada Division of Welfare, Child Care Financing
Alice Chernich	Sunrise Hospital
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Joyce Larsen	Division of Child and Family Services, Early Childhood Mental Health
Kimberly Palma	Parent Representative - South
Betty Sherwood	Parent Representative - Rural
Shannon Springer	Parent Representative – Northern Region
Bodi Wallace	Parent Representative – Southern Region
Mary Wherry	Health Division

Office of Disability Services Staff Present

Wendy Whipple, Part C Coordinator	IDEA Part C Office - Reno
Melanie Whitney, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office - Reno
Edie King, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office – Las Vegas
Iandia Morgan, Part C Staff	IDEA Part C Office – Las Vegas
Brenda Bledsoe	IDEA Part C Office - Reno

Public/Guests Present:

Janelle Mulvenon	Bureau Chief, Bureau of Early Intervention Services
Mary Liveratti	Department of Health and Human Services

CALL TO ORDER

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

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE POSSIBLE ICC ACTION ON THE HEALTH DIVISION'S EARLY INTERVENTION PROPOSED BUDGET AND THE BUDGET HEARING ON MARCH 19.

Wendy Whipple provided an overview of the legislative process explaining the process begins approximately one year prior to the legislative session with budgets being revised several times. The early intervention budget is built based on existing enrollments and caseload growth. Melanie Whitney, Part C Data Manager, uses the TRAC database to do linear regressions which look at the history of early intervention enrollment and program growth to come up with a caseload projection for the upcoming biennium. The proposed budget has money designated for the wait list and for caseload growth in the new biennium. The Governor's recommended budget provides for just under 10 million dollars for early intervention services. However, the legislature still needs to approve this budget and they can make changes to it. The ICC Finance committee thought it was important that the ICC be aware of several different options regarding the support of the Governor's budget.

Discussion by members of the best way to proceed took place. W. Whipple advised that the council has several options. First would be to provide something in writing which would state four or five reasons why the budget should be supported. Another is to have an ICC representative attend the hearing to give testimony and provide written statements. A third option would be for the ICC to sanction a parent who is already planning on attending the hearing to testify and have them add to their introduction the statement "as a parent and on behalf of the ICC" so they can speak to the ICC's support of the budget. ICC Members agreed a multifaceted approach would be best. The suggestion of drafting a support letter using the language from a letter previously sent from the ICC to the Governor was given.

MOTION: To use wording from the previous letter sent to the Governor to draft a new letter in support of the budget, the new letter is to be signed by the ICC co-chairs then forwarded to all legislators, and provide copies of the letter to the parents who are planning on testifying at the March 19 hearing asking them to also present the letter on behalf of the ICC.

BY: Sherry Waugh

SECOND: Yvonne Brueggert

VOTE: Motion Passed

Nora Behrens reported she would encourage parent participation by emailing everyone on her parent lists from the CP Parent Network and partners group to see if there are additional parents who would be willing to write letters of support or come and provide testimony on the benefits of early intervention services.

UPDATE ON BDR637 RELATED TO THE SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE AND DETERMINE WHAT ACTION THE ICC WOULD LIKE TO TAKE

W. Whipple stated at the ICC Strategic Planning Workgroup last April a finance workgroup was created and work was started on a sliding fee scale. Brian Patchett, from Easter Seals of Southern Nevada (ESSN) and a member of the finance workgroup, was successful in having Senator Barbara Cegavske hold a Bill Draft Request (BDR) position for early intervention. The wording for the BDR in relation to the fee scale has not yet been determined. B. Patchett continues to have ongoing conversations with the Senator and the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) in regards to this BDR. The Senator's office was supportive of wording in the BDR that would allow early intervention to create a sliding fee in Nevada. The second part of the language to be included in this BDR relates to mandating the provision of early intervention. W. Whipple reported when she had last spoken to B. Patchett he was hesitant about the inclusion of the language in the BDR related to the mandate. He indicated the Senator's office feels the addition of the mandate language could potentially increase costs and in this economic climate they do not want to do anything that would create a higher price tag. They also feel that because there is a Governor's Executive Order already in place it is not as urgent. She concluded by saying it is unsure at this time if the mandate language will be going forward in this BDR and what the status of the language related to the sliding fee scale is since neither issue has language yet developed and BDRs must be written and introduced by March 16.

Members discussed the perception that the public and legislators would have of early intervention not needing more funding if a sliding fee scale was introduced now. Many members felt they needed to see the actual language in the bill before making a decision to support it or not. A concern of families not accessing services due to the fee scale was also noted. A question was raised regarding the successfulness of other state programs using a fee scale and how much of the money these programs collected was actually returned to the program.

W. Whipple gave a status of the Family Income Survey stating the survey demographics data had not yet been completed. She did state that 30- 40% of the population is Medicaid and would not be affected by the sliding fee scale at all and a percentage of uninsured in the state would not be affected either.

Start up costs for the sliding fee scale was discussed but due to the unknown language of the bill this could not be addressed. The question of whether the Governor may look at this as an additional tax was brought up. Paula Crawford stated B. Patchett was told by Senator Cegavske's office the Governor did not view this as a tax.

MOTION: The ICC will take a "wait and see" position in regards to this BDR before any official action is taken.
BY: Y. Brueggert
SECOND: J. Oman
VOTE: Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janelle Mulvenon stated that a Request for Information (RFI) was released and posted on the State of Nevada's Purchasing website. The Health Division is requesting interested citizens, individuals and agencies input on how to deliver early intervention services. The RFI was forward to all members and to contact her regarding any questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair A. Bingham adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.