



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
IDEA Part C Office
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Carson City, Nevada 89706
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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), Child Find Subcommittee

Date of Meeting: June 23, 2015

Meeting was held via Teleconference at:
IDEA Part C Office
4126 Technology Way, Suite 200
Carson City, NV 89706

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Sherry Waugh called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m. and quorum was established.

Members Present: Deborah Aquino, Sally Cannon, Marty Elquist, Dr. Rutu Ezhuthacham, Sherry Halley, Sarah Horsman, Thomas Kapp, Robin Kincaid, Marnie Lancz, Erika Magana, Mary Pennington, Angela Tate, Dr. Debra Vigil, Sherry Waugh, Tammie Williams, Jack Zenteno

Members Absent: Lisa Cridland, Sarah Cwiak, Naomi Davidowitz, Terri Golish, Kate Green, Aimee Hadleigh, Stephanie Houle, Janice Lee, Dr. Catherine Lyons, Julie Ortiz, Ann Polakowski, Christine Riggi, Martha Schott-Bernius

Public Present: Brooke Lombard, Advanced Pediatric Therapy (APT), Kelly Ebure, Nevada PEP

Part C Office Present: Brenda Bledsoe, Dan Dinnell, Mary Knight

II. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

III. Review and Approve Minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting

Ms. Waugh asked for any corrections to the minutes but none were offered.

MOTION: Approve the minutes as written.

BY: Deborah Aquino

SECOND: Marty Elquist
VOTE: PASSED

IV. Presentation on the “PINK Project” which is Coordinated through the Immunize Nevada Program

Ms. Waugh began with reviewing the hospital list provided as a handout for the “PINK Project.” Dr. Rutu Ezhuthacham explained the “Protect and Immunize Nevada’s Kids” (PINK) Project was started to insure immunization right at birth. Brenda Bledsoe asked if Immunize Nevada was where the “PINK” Project started. Dr. Rutu replied this was correct and it was developed around 2005 to promote immunization for Nevada youth.

The list of hospitals that was provided indicates the hospitals which received the completed packets and it is up to the designated person at each hospital to ensure those are distributed to new parents. It was noted the list is not complete and seems to reflect only birthing hospitals. Ms. Bledsoe discussed the concerns Martha Schott-Bernius voiced at the last meeting about distribution of the pink packets in Elko and the rural regions. According to the list it does not look as if distribution has happened in the rurals. Ms. Bledsoe added Emily Ruzzine from Immunize Nevada, provided the handout for this meeting, unfortunately she was unavailable for the call today.

Dr. Debra Vigil inquired as to what is in the PINK Project packets. Ms. Bledsoe stated they included resource information for new parents and families. The IDEA Part C Office provides the “Babies Have a Lot to Learn” brochure for the packet. Ms. Knight added that about 17,000 brochures, both English and Spanish, were printed to be placed in the packets. Dr. Vigil asked if the Milestone Moments Booklet could be included in the packet. Dr. Rutu indicated they could be but, the only drawback would be if the sharing of printing cost would be needed with Immunize Nevada. Dr. Rutu then gave an overview of the packet contents. Dr. Rutu stated the Immunize Nevada staff was currently assessing the effectiveness of the information provided in the packets.

Dr. Rutu stated she is on the Immunize Nevada board and will reach out to the members to get a more comprehensive hospital list for the next meeting. Ms. Bledsoe stated this was a great project and is excited to keep it up and running. It is a great opportunity to get the information out.

V. Update on Customizing the “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” Milestones Moment Booklet and Growth Chart for Nevada

Dr. Vigil stated she has no updates because she has not had a response back from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Dr. Vigil inquired if anyone has any experience working with “In-Design” which is the program to update the booklet layout. Deborah Aquino said her program has that program and would be willing to help. The committee discussed the growth chart and how it should be similar to the milestones booklet. Ms. Bledsoe stated some thought should be put in to whether the growth chart should be representative of the Early Intervention System or the Early Childhood System. Thomas Kapp suggested that it be for the Early Childhood System.

Dr. Vigil reminded the committee that the CDC would have to approve the way it looks. Therefore, a template needs to be designed and sent to the CDC for approval prior to printing. Ms. Bledsoe asked Dr. Vigil if there was an electronic copy of the milestones booklet. Dr. Vigil responded that she will speak with Jan Crandy since she was the person who did the original milestones booklet layout.

VI. Presentation on the Mission, Goals and Outcomes of the Child Care Block Grant

Jack Zenteno gave an overview of the Childcare and Development program and some changes that have been going on over the years. The Childcare and Development fund is a federal block grant that has been in place for several years. It was created somewhere around 1992. With welfare reform around 1996, the program was restructured and the amount of funding was increased. All the activities were combined to create childcare that exists in one agency for low income families and families receiving public assistance, giving them childcare so they can get and maintain employment. Currently, in Nevada, this falls under the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. In the last year or two, the Governor's Office identified some opportunities to streamline the system of early education with the K12 education system in the state. Through an executive order, it moved the program over to the Department of Education and this is one of those mechanisms used to start aligning the system to make sure that we are thinking about early childhood in addition to K12 education. For the closing year 2014, we have received \$42 million in state and federal funding to provide childcare and quality improvement activities throughout the state.

Our program is broken up in an unusual way. Most health and human services programs and most welfare programs are managed by state staff but, this program is managed by contractors. Northern and rural Nevada has Children's Cabinet which provides eligibility, child resource and referral and the quality improvement activities. In Southern Nevada the Las Vegas Urban League is responsible for the operations of the program. The quality improvement activities are managed through the Department of Education with the day to day activities are managed through contractors. Ultimately, the state staff is responsible for the administration of the program and the contractors are responsible for the implementation of activities. Eligibility for the program is based on where the families' income falls in regards to the state's median income. There is a citizenship criterion and children need to be under the age of thirteen or nineteen, if they have a physical or mental disability. Once eligibility is verified, the family is given a certificate to take to a childcare provider and the provider is reimbursed. Mr. Zenteno described other ways reimbursement to providers takes place.

At the end of last year, Congress reauthorized the childcare and development program for the first time since 1996. With early childhood education coming to the forefront of national agenda, when they finally started to have conversations the block grant was reauthorized with a number of changes being made. Mr. Zenteno highlighted some of the changes:

- Health and safety procedures for childcare providers require background checks on licensed and non-licensed providers and providing information to the public. This includes an easy access website for parents regarding available community childcare in their region.

- The Family Friendly Eligibility Policy which makes it easier for people to become eligible for this program. This program has a 12 months eligibility process which allows parents to stay in the program for an extended period of time.
- Required current market rates survey to see how much it actually costs to provide childcare for children. Rates have not increased since 2004 with this change, it will dramatically affect the amount of kids served, but they will be served in higher quality environments. The current market rates will be in place September 1 and hopefully the other eligibility policies will be implemented and be up to the standards of federal law.

At the conclusion, Mr. Zenteno asked if there were any questions. Ms. Aquino inquired if there is an anticipation of reduction of four year old children if there is an expansion of Pre-K. Mr. Zenteno explained some of the Pre-K programs exist at the county level therefore; they fall outside of our role of responsibility. The responsibility of this program is to ensure those children who do not fall into those Pre-K programs still have access to services. Ms. Bledsoe stated that she continues to try to figure out how child find links to some of these. This should be a conversation that we have and bring back to the committee. The opportunity needs to be identified on how to get the information out to the childcare providers regarding the Early Intervention system and encourage referrals. This is traditionally one of the lowest numbers of identification in terms of our primary referral sources.

The subcommittee discussed the effects of these changes on unlicensed providers. These changes are causing a better reimbursement rate and providing high quality providers, thus increasing the likelihood that referrals will go up. Robin Kincaid added there are required classes that must be taken and could these be required registry classes. Ms. Elquist stated they can definitely look into creating a resource class and get it registry exposed. Dr. Vigil inquired about addressing the unlicensed facilities. Mr. Zenteno stated that checks are done, but it is minimal compared to what the licensed providers receive.

VII. IDEA Part C Office Reports

Ms. Bledsoe remarked the IDEA Part C Office is very busy trying to get the yearend monitoring reports out to all programs.

- **Review New Program Child Find Reports**

Ms. Bledsoe began with thanking Positively Kids for their prompt response (**this sentence is confusing to me...prompt response to what?**) and acknowledged that Sally Cannon will be missed when she leaves.

Ms. Bledsoe explained the Child Find Reports that were handed out and stated this gives the idea of what is being reported. She provided the subcommittee with background information on how and why this report is needed. She added the format was laid out based on criteria from a national center on components of a comprehensive child find system, how we were linking those components, and how programs responded to the activities that they were doing. She then

requested the subcommittee for any suggestions regarding how to change the report to be more reflective of the needs of this subcommittee.

The subcommittee reviewed the report format noting it is confusing to read and the information is redundant in places. Ms. Bledsoe recommended a small workgroup convene to discuss possible revisions to streamline the report and any member wanting to volunteer to be a part of this workgroup may contact Ms. Bledsoe by email.

- **Update on Upcoming Early Childhood Inclusion Conference on July 13-14, 2015**

Ms. Halley indicated there are approximately 110 people registered for the event. She is working on the information for the Nevada Registry request so it can be turned in next week. She indicated there will be a final venue walk through and some final session schedule changes to be done. Ms. Halley stated for a first time event they have received a great response.

- **Effective Practice Guidelines Workgroup**

Ms. Bledsoe explained Ewelina Meade would be leading the work on the Effective Practice Guidelines Workgroup, but has not yet convened the workgroup.

- **The Journey of Hope Partnering for Awareness & Community Education (P.A.C.E.) held on June 12, 2015.**

Daniel Dinnell gave an overview of the Journey of Hope. He explained this is the second year for this event and it has grown. There were approximately 35 families in attendance which is an increase from last year. There were also a few more vendor tables providing information this year over last. He explained the bicyclists (Journey of Hope) ride across the nation raising money and awareness for people with disabilities, and were received with cheers and applause as they road in. Ms. Bledsoe stated Mr. Dinnell and Ellen Marquez represented the IDEA Part C Office at this event by providing information on the early intervention system at a vendor table.

VIII. Consider Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- ECPC work review
- Standing program overview

Ms. Bledsoe stated if anyone has any suggestions of topics for the next agenda, to email them to either herself or Ms. Meade.

IX. Schedule Future Meetings

Ms. Halley inquired if a standard meeting schedule could be set. Ms. Bledsoe indicated at one point this was done but have varied from that schedule over the last few months. The subcommittee agreed it would be best to schedule the quarterly meeting shortly before the regular ICC meeting so if there was anything required to go before the ICC it could be included on their agenda. The next ICC meeting is October 22. It was suggested

the next meeting be held via teleconference on Thursday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m. since the ICC meeting is scheduled for October 22.

X. Public Comment

Ms. Bledsoe shared US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) had approved Phase I of the SSIP with no required changes. They did offer suggestions for moving forward but were complimentary. Our OSEP contact person reported out of the six State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIP) she reviewed, ours was the best.

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Waugh adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.