



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC),
Developmental Specialist (DS) Certification/Endorsement Subcommittee

Date of Meeting: June 18, 2014

Meeting was held via teleconference at:

Carson City: IDEA Part C Office
4126 Technology Way, Suite 200
Carson City, NV 89706

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Catherine Lyons called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

Members Present: Dr. Ann Bingham, Robin Kincaid, Marnie Lancz, Dr. Catherine Lyons, Johnette Oman, Christine Rigg, Diane Ross, Martha Schott-Bernius, Caroline Taylor, Fatima Taylor

Members Absent: Theresa Hagerty

Public Attendees: Janelle Mulvenon, Sally Cannon

Part C Staff Present: Brenda Bledsoe, Thomas Kapp, Mary Knight, Iandia Morgan

II. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

III. Access to Targeted Technical Assistance From the Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC)

Dr. Lois Pribble introduced herself stating she is the regional coordinator for the Western Region of The Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC). The ECPC is a national center with four regional centers which provides general, targeted and intensive technical assistance for states to help them with topics related to personnel development for early intervention and early childhood special education specifically looking at comprehensive systems of personnel development. The ECPC helps states to align their standards to national, professional organizations standards, and to help bridge between in-service and pre-service training as well. Dr. Pribble said ECPC might

be able to provide Nevada with targeted assistance. She then related their website, ECPCTA.org, contained a lot of information related to personnel development including specific information on licensure standards and the requirements for 13 different personnel types involved in early intervention and early childhood special education. Additionally, she provided links to examples of alternative certification from five states they have been working with.

Dr. Mary Beth Bruder, Director of ECPC, stated ECPC is funded by OSEP to provide assistance to states to develop comprehensive systems of personnel development (CSPD) for any personnel working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and their families. The children must have disabilities or be qualified for services under IDEA. She added this is a large task to impact all of the personnel types across the disciplines that would be providing services. Dr. Bruder described the areas covered by each regional center and the staff who works within them. She then explained ECPC was given a number of tasks by the federal government one of which was to collect information from all states on the standards on which personnel are credentialed, certified and/or meet licensing or specialized requirements of their state. All of this information is now on an interactive database on the ECPC website. Dr. Bruder and her team are also working with national organizations to develop personnel guidelines to cross all disciplines and specific organizations for states to use for those people working with different age groups. She then explained she, Lynne Kahn and Maureen Greer are currently working with states around leadership of the Part C and 619 coordinators in an effort to work with the larger early childhood initiatives in each state. They provide technical assistance which can be general or specific to meet a need in the CSPD. At this time, there are two cohorts; one has had two meetings and the other will start in October. Dr. Bruder then explained the components of the technical assistance provided and the different levels in which her staff are now helping other states.

Dr. Bingham asked if there are any things specific to the new recommended practices recently released by the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) that should guide the work of the subcommittee in relation to our focus on the development specialist or those providing special instruction? Dr. Bruder replied they are not using the recommended practices for standards. She explained they are using the knowledge and skills statements from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) because these are used at the higher education level to accredit programs. She elaborated by saying there are two directions states are going. The first, and this is where the ECPC can help thru strategic planning, is to make sure that the specific disciplines are matching their national organization disciplines. The exception to this is teachers. In a study done by ECPC they found discrepancies on how educators or in many states they are called developmental therapists or a whole different term is used. For this reason the ECPC is recommending those that are in a higher education track for early intervention or early childhood special education to use the DEC and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards. Adding approximately one-third of the states, including Nevada, have specific requirements for those serving under Part C. Dr. Bruder stated these are very different from state to state and part of that is based on culture and history. She added she is most knowledgeable about Connecticut and described how these two affected their outcome with this issue. In the end, she suggests looking specifically at the history and culture of what Nevada needs and suggests that recruitment and retention in CSPDs also be looked at because every state has shortages. However, the issue is not how to alleviate shortages or how to try and fix them, we cannot. We need to set and keep the standards but we also need to be able to teach what each person needs to know whether it is how to effectively interact with children and families, collect and report data, or how to operationalize what family-centered really means. CSPD is a very complicated and complex area.

Dr. Bruder concluded by saying the staff at ECPC is available to help Nevada with some strategic planning around a vision and help formulate where you want to be, where do family and kids need to be and what do they deserve, and then how do to support a qualified work force to learn the skills they need while continuing to support the families they serve.

Dr. Lyons thanked Dr. Bruder and Dr. Pribble for their time and expertise. Mr. Kapp, Dr. Lyons and Dr. Pribble agreed to connect by phone to discuss possible dates for a planning call and the strategic planning meeting.

IV. Review Compilation of Data Points Requested by Subcommittee Members, Data Collection Process and Data Compiled To-Date

Ms. Bledsoe presented several handouts displaying the data points which were sent to all early intervention programs and the responses to those data points. She explained the data points used were from the submissions of the committee. Ms. Bledsoe elaborated on how she categorized the submitted data points and when necessary added clarification questions or statements. She related that due to the short turnaround time not all programs had submitted their responses but all data submitted prior to the day of this meeting is reflected in the results shown in the handouts. She also added some verification of responses will need to be done so that the final report will be as complete and accurate as possible. Ms. Bledsoe then went over each section of the handouts. As she concluded her review, she stated she had sent a reminder to those programs who had not submitted their responses to do so and once those are received she would issue a final report.

Dr. Bingham stated she would like to make a clarification in regards to one on the comments noted on page two of the handouts. She said the data being cited is very specific to child care which is very different from early intervention and it is important to note that difference. Adding, these are two different career ladders being referred to; it is like comparing apples and oranges.

There was then a discussion about the information on page four of the handouts in regards to the developmental specialists (DS) who left state service and if a real reason of why they terminated/dismissed could be determined. It was noted these numbers are very small and should this be a concern that the subcommittee would like to continue focusing on or should a different direction be the focus of the strategic planning. It was determined the decision would be postponed until all the responses were submitted to Ms. Bledsoe for analysis. Ms. Bledsoe indicated she would process the information as soon as possible. Janelle Mulvenon asked that the subcommittee, at some point, look into if and how a DS can write off their college loans or to develop an incentive plan to help offset those costs. Dr. Bingham said that there is college loan forgiveness after a certain amount of time in certain fields due to the needs across the country. Iandia Morgan added Nevada's OSEP representative had provided some information on this subject during her visit last year and either she or Ms. Bledsoe would find what was provided to forward it to the subcommittee.

V. Identify Next Steps for Subcommittee

- Finish data collection and send final report to members
- Confirm pre-planning meeting between Mr. Kapp, Dr. Lyons, and Dr. Pribble and date for strategic planning meeting for the subcommittee
- Members are to send Ms. Bledsoe their request for items to be discussed at the strategic Planning meeting
- Provide the ICC a status report on the direction the subcommittee

VI. Consider Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

A call for items will be emailed to members once the ICC meeting has been held.

VII. Schedule Future Meetings

- Tentatively set Friday, July 25 at 10:00 am for next regular meeting
- Tentatively set Friday, July 11 for pre-planning meeting

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment was given at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.