April 28, 2017

Nevada Legislators
ADSD Administrators

Esteemed Legislators and Administrators:

The Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) met in its quarterly meeting April 27, 2017. The ICC is a governor-appointed body that brings policy makers, service providers, and parents together with the charge to advise and assist the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division in the development of and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

The Council appreciates the presence of Dr. Eddie Ableser at our meeting as he presented information on the proposed budget and service delivery model changes for Early Intervention Services. During rigorous questioning from Council members, it became obvious that there are concerns regarding the service delivery model change. Based on those concerns, the Council asked that the following recommendations be shared:

1. The Division engage in activities to maximize Medicaid utilization.
2. Nevada remain an active participant in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C Early Intervention Program.
3. The Division slow down any change process to allow careful transition of the proposed model with transparency and stakeholder engagement.
4. The Division develop materials to assist families in understanding parental choices for both service coordination and early intervention services.
5. The Division ensure that Early Intervention services continue to be high quality evidenced-based practices that are individualized, family-centered, and provided in natural environments.

As a body, our highest concern is ensuring a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, family-centered system of early intervention services is accessible to all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families regardless of their location within our state. Surely these young Nevadans represent our most vulnerable population and their future is in our hands as we work together to ensure they and their families have the best outcomes possible.

Sincerely,

Ann Bingham, Ph.D
ICC Co-Chair

Lisa Cridland
ICC Co-Chair