



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
IDEA Part C Office
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Telephone (775) 687-0587 • Fax (775) 684-0599

MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

Date of Meeting: January 21, 2016

Meeting was held at the following locations:

Desert Regional Center
1391 S. Jones Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada

Nevada Early Intervention Services, Northwestern Region
2667 Enterprise Road, Conference Room
Reno, Nevada

Nevada Department of Transportation
1951 Idaho Street, Conference Room
Elko, Nevada

I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions

Co-Chair Lisa Cridland called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum of the members was present; the meeting proceeded as scheduled.

Members Present: Nicole Atwell, Dr. Ann Bingham, Yasodara Cabrera, Lisa Cridland, Janina Easley, Aimee Hadleigh, Sherry (Halley) Bingham, Jana Khoury, Robin Kincaid, Alisa Koot, Sandra LaPalm, Sherry Manning, Lorraine O'Leary, Shannon Sprout, Michael Walker, Sherry Waugh, Megan Wickland, Jack Zenteno

Members Absent: Kimberly Everett, Maynard Florence, Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Joyce Larsen, Dr. Catherine Lyons, Reesha Powell, Karen Shaw

Public Attendees: Naomi Davidowitz, Easter Seals Nevada (ESN) – South; Vanessa Diaz, Positively Kids; Sarah Horsman, The Continuum; Debra Kawcak, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, MCH Title V; Candice McDaniel, Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS)-Carson City(CC); Janelle Mulvenon, NEIS-Northwest (NW); Lisa O'Malley, ISS-Baby Steps; Julie Ortiz, Advanced Pediatric Therapies (APT); Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development; Fatima Taylor, NEIS-South; Claribel Zecena, NEIS - NW

Part C Staff Present: Brenda Bledsoe, Susie DeVere, Dan Dinnell, Edie King, Iandia Morgan

II. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the October 22, 2015 Meeting

Ms. Cridland asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes. The following corrections were noted:

- Agenda item 6, second line, first word should be participate not participated and in the same section on the fourth line the word "data" is missing at the end of the sentence.
- Agenda item 8, second line, the word process should be plural.
- Lori O'Leary commented the third to last line of agenda item 8 does not make sense to her and that there are several extra "s" in several spots.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the October 22, 2015 meeting with the modifications mentioned and have Ms. O'Leary send a copy of the minutes with her corrections to the IDEA Part C Office to have those corrected also.

BY: Sherry Manning

SECOND: Dr. Ann Bingham

VOTE: PASSED

IV. New Member Biographies

- **Senator Ben Kieckhefer**
- **Sandra LaPalm**
- **Megan Wickland**
- **Yasodara Cabrera**
- **Michael Walker**

Yasodara Cabrera introduced herself and indicated she has been working with the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) for a year. Ten years ago she moved to Nevada from India and shortly after that began working with Family TIES as a resource coordinator before starting with NDALC. She has a daughter with special needs who is nine years old. She related her passion is working with minority families because she feels it is more difficult for them due to language barriers and cultural issues.

Mike Walker introduced himself as the Nevada Coordinator for Homeless Education. He stated he brings experiences as a classroom teacher and school administrator to the position and looks forward to working with the Council in helping families and communities.

Megan Wickland introduced herself as a Clinical Program Planner at NEIS where she oversees the statewide intake and referral process. She indicated she spent 11 years in developmental service at the Sierra Regional Center and prior to that was a developmental specialist (DS) at NEIS in Las Vegas. She added she is the statewide Person Centered Thinking training coordinator for the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) and is also one of seven trainers credentialed through the Learning Community which is a national organization.

Sandra LaPalm introduced herself as a DS with NEIS in Elko where she has worked since June. Prior to NEIS, she worked for 12 years at early head start of Northeastern Nevada. She then explained she was a graduate of Dr. Catherine Lyon's class at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), is currently enrolled in Dr. Bingham's Master's program at the University of Nevada, Reno and many years ago was a parent representative for the ICC under Governor Miller.

Senator Ben Kieckhefer was not in attendance to provide his biography.

V. Response to OSEP Letter on Autism Billing and Nevada Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis, Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Presentation

Shannon Sprout with the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP) stated U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSEP) had written a report addressing concerns about services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) not having access to speech language pathology (SLP) services and those services not being included in the evaluation/eligibility process through Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs). Ms. Sprout stated that DHCFP would like to note these services are covered under the evaluation of services in the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Manual in Chapter 2800, which is School Based Health Services. Those services are also covered under Part B and Part C as part of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services (EPSDT). DHCFP worked closely with the Department of Education regarding services for children with ASD to develop the policies around Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). It was identified that SLP services has been part of School Based Health Services and entered on IEPs/IFSPs and those children should be receiving those speech services regardless of the diagnosis; so ASD was included and not excluded.

Ms. Sprout then referred to the ABA slides within the meeting packet. She stated CMS came out with guidelines around services for children with ASD and these indicated there needed to be a comprehensive package of services to include an intensive behavioral interventions model for children with ASD. DHCFP worked closely with the Department of Education and ADSD to identify what services were most typically occurring already. This service was ABA which is an intervention model. There were six workshops held for the development of medical coverage policies, provider qualifications, and reimbursement rates. These went to public hearing on October 19, 2015 with an effective date of January 1, 2016. These services are available even though CMS approval has not been received on those state plan amendments. Providers who are billing for these services are receiving denials. When approval is received from CMS, those denied claims will be recycled for payment. It is hoped an approval will arrive within the next couple of weeks. Ms. Sprout indicated the services of ABA are outlined in the Medicaid Services Manual in Chapter 1500 which is located on the DHCFP website. She then discussed the eligible age limits, diagnosis, coverage, and authorization requirement as well as caseload projections. She also spoke to how this change would affect those children in the Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) in ADSD. She remarked that the number of enrolled providers will determine how fast transition takes place and discussed the statewide number of behavioral analyst who are licensed and board certified. She covered the barriers to receiving these certifications and how these were being addressed. The effort to increase providers is moving forward and stressed no child is not going to have services because of the transition.

Mike Walker inquired as to how the behavioral analysts were geographically dispersed in the state. Ms. Sprout replied the largest provider enrollment is in Clark County but there are providers in the North. The rural areas are fairly limited but telehealth was added to the policies to allow for that service component to occur. Robin Kincaid voiced her concerns regarding the children currently on a wait list for this service who are between the ages of zero and two. She added a reminder about the obligation to provide the service regardless of funding. Ms. Sprout stated she does not disagree with that statement and Medicaid does not have wait lists. This is a mandatory service by CMS for Medicaid. It is just a matter of locating a provider, getting an appointment scheduled, and receiving the services through the prior authorization process. She indicated ADSD would have to speak to the wait list for ATAP. Although, the wait list should reduce naturally when services open up in Medicaid and children can move over from ATAP. Megan Wickland remarked that NEIS and ATAP are working together to address the wait list issue and prioritize getting children served. Claribel Zecena asked for clarification on whether ABA services were a mandated Part C service. Brenda Bledsoe stated a required Part C service is

determined by each IFSP team. If the IFSP team determines behavioral interventions are appropriate for a child, then it is a required service. Aimee Hadleigh questioned if a parent whose child is enrolled in Part C services requests for a behavioral specialist for their child then their provider is required to provide that service. Ms. Bledsoe replied the service request would have to be considered by their IFSP team but no service is determined by any one team member. It is a team decision to determine what the best approach is to achieve the outcome for the child.

A request was made to have a representative from ATAP present at a future meeting.

VI. Review, Discuss, and Approve the State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) that is Due to Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) February 1, 2016

Ms. Bledsoe stated she would be speaking on both the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) which is due to OSEP annually for the performance of the Part C system in our state. She briefly went over what the 10 indicators are in the APR and how OSEP makes their determination on how well a state is performing based on the data provided in relation to those indicators. She explained the new federal system, GRADS360, that every state is required to use to submit their APR. She remarked an executive summary was created to provide an overview of the State's performance and whether the target was met for each indicator. The reporting period for this APR is for state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 which ended on June 30, 2015. She reported the State is in much better shape than a number of years ago but there was a decline last year due to child outcome data. Ms. Bledsoe proceeded to review each indicator with the Council noting whether the targets were met or not.

In closing, Ms. Bledsoe reminded members if they had comments or grammatical corrections, to use the comment form included in their meeting packet and return it to the IDEA Part C Office. Beyond this point, corrections to spelling and minor edits will be done but no changes will be made to the performance data. Ms. Bledsoe lastly asked the ICC to adopt the APR as their official report to the Governor. She stated she had hoped to create a separate report for the Governor's office but was unable to do so due to time constraints.

MOTION: To approve the APR as it has been reported today and as the ICC report to the Governor.

BY: Dr. Ann Bingham

SECOND: Lorraine O'Leary

VOTE: **PASSED**

VII. Featured ICC Member Program Overview – Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Sherry Manning, the Executive Director for the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) explained the council exists in the State of Nevada under the DD Act at a federal level. The DD Council is in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director's Office (DO) statute which states DHHS will support the federal DD Act. Ms. Manning told of the three elements that must be in place within the states for the DD Council to exist which is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (NCED), there has to be protection and advocacy and for Nevada that is NDALC, and the DD Council cannot offer direct services. The charge of the Council is specific to systemic change and capacity enrollment. The Council promotes the independence, integration and productivity of people with developmental disabilities. Ms. Manning said her office has three staff and operate through the DHHS DO. The federal funding does flow through DHHS but because of the DD Act there must be autonomy. The DD Council has 20 members who make decisions on our staff work, monitor and report to the federal agency what is happening in the state. The DD Council must have 60% of the membership people with developmental disabilities

or family members. All members of the DD Council are appointed by the Governor. Ms. Manning reported the budget for the DD Council and its staff is approximately \$460,000 which does not include the state match of 25%. Forty percent of the approximate \$600,000 budget is put out into the community for community grants.

Ms. Manning spoke to the five year state plan the DD Council works under. The current five year plan ends on September 30, 2016. The new plan starts on October 1 and is in the public comment stage at this time. Creating a new plan takes approximately 18 months and is due to the federal office by August 15, 2016. She then related what some of the accomplishments of the DD Council have been. These were also noted in the handouts provided in the meeting packet. She explained that at the DD Council quarterly meetings they discuss what needs to be done, what can they do and then who can they partner with. She then spoke to one of the upcoming issues in Nevada and around the nation which are autism communities. This is a place where people with disabilities are not integrated; they live and work strictly with other people with developmental disabilities. The DD Council was present and made comment at the public hearing for making this place an integrated facility which was eventually denied by the Center for Medicaid Services. However, it is still moving forward as a private venture. As the DD Council, this is what is done to ensure people with developmental disabilities can live integrated lives in the community and do things of their choice. Ms. Manning stated a few of the initiatives that need to be worked on are quality insurance, employment, education, early intervention, housing, formal and informal community supports, child care, recreation and transportation. In the new five year plan the DD Council must choose three goals to focus on. She explained those goals, how they were decided upon and how they intertwined with early intervention.

Ms. Manning stated for further information about the DD Council is available on their website at <http://www.nevadaddcouncil.org/>.

VIII. Presentation from Office of Early Learning and Development on Funding Provided to Early Intervention Programs to Support Placement of Children in Local Child Care Programs

Patti Oya introduced herself as the Director of the Office of Early Learning and Development within the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). She stated she was asked to speak about the contract between the NDE and NEIS for the income from the child care and development funds. She provided an overview of the contract. She related the statewide contract is for \$146,268 per year and runs through 2017. The purpose of the contract is to train health care providers on best practices for children up to three years of age and to place children who are current in early intervention services and who do not receive full time child care into a child care program. These children can benefit from being around their peers and receive some of their therapy in a natural setting. This contract is not just about providing child care. The child care centers that work with early intervention must be participating in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). There are about 13 sites in Northern Nevada and a few in Southern Nevada. In Elko, the Great Basin Community College staff is the only one currently available. Ms. Oya explained children are placed for up to 6 hours per week in the site where they can receive services. Small grants for materials or equipment specific to a child is available as well. In SFY15 there were 82 children placed statewide in 16 early intervention child care centers. Statewide there were 14 trainings provided to the partner site which consists of 36 hours of training for over 500 participants. 1700 hours of technical assistance was provided and 56 children in child care centers were screened. Ms. Oya added the program is for infants and toddlers aged birth to three and there is no minimum age. However, it is between the program and child care center as to what slots are available and there are currently wait lists for every region.

Ms. Oya was asked how community providers could access this contract for the children within their programs since it has traditionally only been available to state programs. It was noted some families leave a community partner program so as to be on the wait list for this program at an NEIS site. Ms. Oya replied the original contract did not include community partners and NDE had not been asked to have the community partners added but it is something that can be discussed. Ms. Waugh remarked the contract was started before community partners existed. Dr. Bingham interjected there is concern because early intervention is a system and this system does include community partners. They should certainly have equal access to anything provided to the state agencies. Ms. Oya mentioned that in order to extend the contract the funding would have to be reviewed. Jack Zenteno remarked he did not think it would necessarily require a new contract and different funding sources to make this change. It might be just expanding the current early intervention contract. He stated he, Ms. Oya and their partners would discuss how to best enhance this contract and he would bring it back to the table at the next meeting.

IX. Update on the Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative

Ms. Hadleigh reported she was unable to apply for any grants as planned but was able to move forward with the sign language playgroup. RAVE offered the use of their facility to host the playgroup and she placed an event link on the Facebook page. The response was overwhelming. Ms. Hadleigh indicated the event was capped at 24 and sold out immediately. With the help of RAVE, a waiting list is being compiled. She indicated right now they are scheduled to meet once a month but is hopeful in the months to come to be able to add other dates. She described the structure of the playgroup and noted that it is open to everyone with no age limit and any disability. Ms. Hadleigh next discussed the redesigning of the website. She hopes by the end of February to have all the top resources in the state listed by categories and with one click access to those resources. As for the Facebook page, Ms. Hadleigh reported there are now over 200 members and is excited parents are posting and exchanging information. She asked providers to send her any event notices so they could be posted on the Facebook page. Lastly, she mentioned that one of the handouts she provided was a treasure hunt map she and the other parents received at the DaSy conference in Georgia last spring and spoke about at the last meeting.

X. Status on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) - Phase II

Ms. Bledsoe reported the IDEA Part C Office has been working hard to complete the annual performance report (APR) and Phase II of the SSIP. She stated there are three components for Phase II; infrastructure development section, supports for early intervention programs and provider implementation of evidence-based practices. Then the evaluation process needs to be developed to measure our progress over the course of the next six years on this. The federal requirement is for the state to have a six year plan which is what SSIP becomes. Ms. Bledsoe continued by saying there are two main stakeholder groups started. One is the evaluation group and the other is the implementation group. The latter group will be looking at the implementation of evidence based practices and what supports the programs and providers will need. Ms. Bledsoe indicated she is hoping to build the infrastructure development piece from some collaborative work being done the ECAC.

XI. Early Intervention Services Report

a. Early Intervention Program Certification Update

b. Early Intervention Program Highlights/Updates – Informational Only

Candice McDaniel stated the Standards of Service manual was provided at the October meeting for the Council's review and asked for any suggestions or recommendations for ADSD to consider. Upon receiving no response, she continued by saying conversations with all providers,

both NEIS and community partners, would begin to discuss the Standards of Service manual, timelines, who needs to be involved, and required documentation. She added the manual is not online yet because it is technically still considered a draft.

Ms. McDaniel was asked about a report issued by ASD on the pilot results. She responded the report being referred to she believes are the individual reports for each program that went through the initial pilot process. It was not an overall system report because not all programs participated in the pilot. Ms. Kincaid asked when the reports would be available to the Council for review. Ms. McDaniel indicated she would take the request back to Julie Kotchevar and Jane Gruner for their response on when and how the pilot information would be released. Ms. Kincaid inquired as to what the benchmarks are for the programs. Ms. McDaniel reported those are in a rubric along with the scores a program can receive and she would send that to the Council.

Ms. McDaniel remarked the program highlights for the last quarter had been provided in the meeting packet.

XII. ICC Committees – Reports on Activities

a. Family Support Resource Subcommittee

Christine Riggi stated the last meeting of this subcommittee was not held due to lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2016.

b. Initial Training and On-Going Professional Development for Early Intervention Providers Subcommittee

Edie King reported this subcommittee has not yet been reconvened.

XIII. Part C Information Reports

a. Complaint Matrix Review

Ms. King stated there is one outstanding complaint for state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 and it will be closed shortly. The child and system resolutions need to be verified before it can be officially closed. The newest complaint SFY 2016 is regarding failure to provide services on the IFSP. The program has met with the parent to schedule compensatory services and the IDEA Part C Office is awaiting verification of that.

b. ICC Budget Update

Ms. Bledsoe reported the amounts shown are those expenses paid as of January 8, 2016 and the format of the report has been revised per the suggestions from the Council at the last meeting. She noted the expenses related to the copying of ICC materials is zero because the IDEA Part C Office pays for those out of their operating budget due to the inability to accurately separate the costs.

c. Family Survey Update

Ms. Bledsoe stated the Annual Family Survey report for 2015 has been distributed to members, programs and stakeholders. It is also available on the IDEA Part C website. She commented analysis/focus on the three federal questions has always been done but feels more analysis of the responses to the other questions is needed. She then reported this survey was done out of the IDEA Part C Office and she has been in contact with a possible contractor to do the 2016 survey. Once a contractor is in place, a work group will be brought together to review the survey to determine if it should be revised.

d. Federal Application Status

Ms. Bledsoe stated it has not yet been started but will be done in time for public review and comment in February.

e. Training and Technical Assistance

- **Early Childhood System of Learning (ECSOL) Update**
- **Upcoming Assessment Tool Training**

Ms. King explained the ECSOL team was formed because of an initiative through the University of Connecticut (UOC). A list of members was provided. She stated it is a very strong and collaborative team and the newest member is Jennifer Buchner, who is a doctoral graduate assistant and will be working on data and documentation. The UOC Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) is helping with the cost of her services. Ms. King reported the last meeting was a face-to-face meeting on December 9, 2015, where they discussed a tentative action plan that included looking at a financial framework, marketing with social media, a website, training calendar and looking at the collaborative effort between all agencies to ensure providers who serve young children with and without disabilities have the support and resources they need. She indicated the ECSOL team was accepted for intensive technical assistance with Mary Beth Bruder through the ECPC last year. The team attended a leadership institute last May and has been asked to attend a follow-up session again this year also in May. However, this year the ECPC will not be funding the trip for all members; only three were selected to be funded. The next few months we will be trying to find funding so more members can attend. Sherry Bingham added there are some subcommittees working through the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) and one of those subcommittees is a professional development group. She indicated she and Dr. Lyons were the co-chairs and they feel strongly that the work of these two groups needs to align so there is no duplication of work or services.

Ms. King reported the IDEA Part C Office will be hosting upcoming trainings on the SEAM, ASQ-E, DECA, and PICCOLO assessment tools that were received from an Early Head Start grant through the State Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office. These statewide trainings are expensive and have limited space so we are asking each early intervention program to send two staff members. These trainings will be held in one area of the state and those providers not in that area will be provided transportation if needed. These trainings are in support of our SSIP to ensure our providers are competent in their skills to implement these tools to help improve child outcomes. Ms. Bledsoe interjected a training overview report was included in the meeting packet to keep the ICC abreast of what trainings have taken place, where they were held, who participated and the costs associate with each one.

f. Review and Discuss Data Reports

- **Wait List for December**
- **State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015 Year End Data Report**

Susie DeVere stated the December wait list was included in the meeting packet. She pointed out the counts have changed little over the last few months and that approximately 19% of them have parent exceptions and 22% of the services were due after December 15, 2015. Because they were due to start after that date, the program may not have had time to do their TRAC data entry. Ms. DeVere noted the average days waiting is not extremely high except for audio which we know normally runs high. Ms. Bledsoe added the IDEA Part C Office does follow up on this report with programs and explained audiology is one area where there is little control since most programs do not have an audiologist. Therefore, families are referred to a provider and they must make their appointments and then keep them. She continued by stating when the numbers start to rise for a program, the IDEA Part C Office becomes involved to provide support to the program in making any corrections necessary. If a program is really struggling,

referrals can be held until the program regroup. In this instance, the IDEA Part C Office would work very closely with Ms. Wickland at ADSD.

Ms. DeVere reported the data report is for the year end totals only. The first quarter report will be provided at the next regular meeting. Ms. Kincaid asked for clarification regarding the term "discharged" on page 15 of the performance data. Ms. DeVere explained it is children who exited the program without an IFSP and the following page shows what the reasons are. Ms. Kincaid indicated the term bothers her. Ms. Bledsoe replied the term has been around a long time and Ms. DeVere could change it to make it consistent with the other terms in the report. She noted it might be a good idea to look into creating a cover sheet also that defines what each category means.

XIV. Consider Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

- Report on how many children are receiving ABA services through the early intervention system.
- Discuss the availability of or the development of an IDEA Part C Office technical assistance document relating to the determination of level of services as a team decision and if payment by Medicaid for those services is a factor in what is in the IFSP.
- Revisit whether a program is using the prior written notice form (PWN) when a service is requested by the family and it is declined by the program. Also if a technical assistance document is available for this scenario.
- Report on what actions (e.g. in-service or training) program managers take in response to family comments made on the annual family survey.
- Update on the funds for the community partners to participate in the child care grant.
- Featured ICC member program to be highlighted at next meeting will be NDALC
- Update on the Systemic Complaint

XV. Schedule Future Meetings

- April 21, 2016 Face-to-Face in Las Vegas
- July 14, 2016

Ms. Bledsoe requested a teleconference meeting at the end of March to review the SSIP Phase II report prior to its submittal to OSEP on April 1, 2016. The Council agreed to the call and scheduled the teleconference meeting for Wednesday, March 16 at 11:00 am.

The next regular meeting was agreed to be scheduled for Thursday, October 13 at 9:00 a.m.

XVI. Public Comment

Ms. Bledsoe stated a new ICC roster was provided to all members. She indicated one appointment is still pending and when that appointment is made it will be the first time in many years that there will be full membership on the council.

Ms. Bledsoe reported an offer had been extended for the DS IV position within the IDEA Part C Office and has been accepted. The new person will start on February 8, 2016 and they come with a long history of early intervention and working in early intervention programs and early childhood. They also have expertise in areas around autism and evaluation. An official announcement is expected to be made by the end of business on Friday, January 22, 2016.

Ms. Kincaid noted that Nevada PEP would be hosting a one hour webinar for parents on February 4 at noon entitled "Making the Most of Your Baby's Early Intervention Services". This webinar is free. She also reported the Challenger Season in Southern Nevada is starting its 25th

season and there is also a division in Northern Nevada. If parents are looking for more activities for children who are six and older, this is an opportunity for them to play baseball.

XVII. Adjournment

Ms. Cridland adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.