



Nevada Early Intervention Summer Family Newsletter

July - August 2017 Volume 7 No 4

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral...

Dear Parents/Families,

An invitation to attend...

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Nevada's **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)** was set up to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Families and community partners are invited to all ICC meetings. Please consider attending the next ICC meeting!

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday—July 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will be held via video conference in Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Please check for locations on the meeting agenda posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council, please contact: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066.

The ICC bylaws and membership can be viewed at

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>,

under **"Who is on the ICC?"**, click on **Current Membership**.



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

IDEA Part C Office

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Carson City, NV 89706

Office: (775) 687-0544

Project ASSIST

1-800-522-0066

ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, contact us!

"Been there and done that!" **Nevada Partners Leadership Program** — See page 2

Live in Northern Nevada? Consider this leadership training and fill out the application! **It's FREE!!!**

Soon you will be receiving, or already have received, the annual family survey. Please take the time to fill it out and turn it in. We want the best information possible about the ways in which early intervention services may or may not have helped your family. The results of this survey will help guide efforts to improve services and outcomes for children and families across Nevada receiving early intervention services.

If you are interested in volunteer activities, where you can receive knowledge, share information, gain skills and experience in advocating for others and your family, the NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) has a permanent **FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE (FSRS)** that can always use parents and others who have a passion for supporting early intervention. For more information email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call 1-800-522-0066

Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative: By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent **Facebook** (www.nvparents.com/fb) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, community resources and events at

www.nvparents.com

Been there, done that!

Building the Next Generation of Leaders. . .

A most **AWESOME** training for parents is coming to Northern Nevada this Fall! *And it's **FREE!*** The **Nevada Partners Leadership Program**, formerly Partners in Policymaking, a very intense and innovative national model of leadership training, is designed to teach parents and self-advocates the power of advocacy and to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work. This training will start in September 2017, in Reno. Classes will be held one time per month, on a Saturday, from September through May (skipping December). Limited number of opportunities available. [Apply today!](#) *Help get the word out!*

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

UNR's Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities will be **seeking applications from highly motivated, interested parents** of children with developmental disabilities, to become candidates for **Nevada Partners Leadership Program, Class of 2017-2018**.

Participants will gain:

- **Valuable working knowledge on disability issues** and information on resources available in their community.
- **Advocacy skills.**
- **New relationships** with people who have the same interests as you.

Participants are required to:

- Commit to attend eight (8) Saturday sessions.
- Complete homework assignments between sessions.
- Commit to a project to be completed after graduation.

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM is all about...

- Leadership skills and developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other individuals who make policy decisions about services that you and/or your family use.
- Systems change—creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities.
- Becoming confident in oneself, competent in the knowledge and information received, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise one brings to the table.

Submit Application: https://unr-vbepl.formstack.com/forms/reno_2018

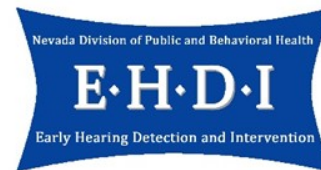
or contact **Diana Rovetti:** rovetti@unr.edu or 775-682-9060

NEVADA PARTNERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A Program of the UNR **NEVADA CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES**

A PARENT IS A CHILD'S BEST ADVOCATE, AND EVERYONE HAS THE ABILITY TO BECOME A STRONG ADVOCATE. HOWEVER, TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE, YOU MUST SPEND TIME PREPARING AND LEARNING IMPORTANT ADVOCACY SKILLS.

- ◇ What is EHDI?
- ◇ What does EHDI do?
- ◇ Importance of EHDI
- ◇ Who does EHDI work with?
- ◇ EHDI's connection with EI services



The **Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program** is housed within the State Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

The purpose of the Nevada Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program is to ensure that all children in Nevada are screened for hearing loss at birth and those identified with hearing loss receive timely and appropriate audiological, educational and medical intervention. We promote the national EHDI goals and timelines developed by the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing:

- 1** - Before ONE month of Age: Hearing Screening for all babies
- 3** - Before THREE months of Age: Hearing Evaluation by an audiologist if baby did not pass hearing screening
- 6** - Before SIX months of Age: Early Intervention if baby is diagnosed with hearing loss

The EHDI Program does not directly provide screening, diagnostic, and intervention services to children and families. The Program's role is to provide support and guidance to those public and private entities offering these services, and to ensure service delivery is both timely and appropriate.

Hearing loss is the most common birth defect, affecting approximately 1.5 out of every thousand infants. Left undetected, hearing loss in infants can negatively impact speech and language acquisition, academic achievement, and social and emotional development. When diagnosed early however, these negative impacts can be diminished and even eliminated through early intervention.

In addition to assuring screening and intervention for children with hearing loss, the EHDI program provides advocacy for children and families. This is done through the development of partnerships and working with community programs to create awareness and ensure access to services.

EHDI collaborates with **Nevada Early Intervention Services** to assure that children diagnosed with a hearing loss have the opportunity to reach his/her full potential by ensuring timely referral and enrollment as well as through quality, individualized intervention. EHDI has funded specialized training and support for early intervention providers to help improve their knowledge and skills in working with young deaf and hard of hearing children and their families.

For the past few years, Nevada has surpassed the national levels on enrolling deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) infants into early intervention services (EI). NV EHDI continues to make improvements and strengthen relations to not only increase the number of D/HH who receive EI services but also ensure that these intervention services are appropriate, effective, and of the highest quality.

For more information contact **Perry Smith**, Program Coordinator
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public and Behavioral Health |
[Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program](#)
4150 Technology Way, Suite 210 | Carson City, Nevada 89706
T: (775) 684-4274 | F: (775) 684-5998 | E: pgsmith@health.nv.gov
<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/EHDI/EHDI-Home/>

Project ASSIST is Nevada's early intervention **central resource directory** for anyone seeking information about organizations, programs or agencies that may provide services and supports for young children with disabilities or delays and their families. The purpose of Project ASSIST is to inform and educate families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or special health care needs, and the general public. Please call Project ASSIST for more information at 1-800-522-0066 or visit the website at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/>

Baby Talk, from Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is **free** and distributed monthly. It is full of resources to support anyone who works with infants and toddlers. **All issues** feature resources that are high quality and readily available at no cost. To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to subscribe-babytalk@listserv.unc.edu
<http://fpg.unc.edu/resources/baby-talk-archive>

FREE Online Magazine – *Parenting Special Needs Magazine*

A **free**, online, bi-monthly publication dedicated to helping the special needs community. It covers all the ages, stages and different disabilities, as well as providing an invaluable resource for the parents and caregivers of those with special needs. Web: <http://parentingspecialneeds.org/>

Nevada PEP, as the statewide Parent Training and Information Center, offers classes such as **"Making the Most Out of Your Baby's Early Intervention Services"**, for families of children under the age of three who want to learn more about the services that are available to enhance their baby's development. In **"Six Advocacy Tips that Turn No's into Yes's!"**, you are the expert on your child and you know what your child needs. Learn how to get it with these six amazing advocacy strategies! For more information on these and other classes, contact PEP statewide at **1-800-216-5188** or visit their website at:

www.nvpep.org/

Nevada Children's Medical Home Portal is a web-based source of medical professional health information designed to be a "one-stop-shop" for families, physicians and other caregivers. With this website, families and physicians, and other professionals, will have access to invaluable information about specific diagnoses. The Medical Home Portal contains:

- ⇒ Over 500 pages of content and resources
- ⇒ Over 5,000 links to websites or downloadable information
- ⇒ Over 2,900 citations of scientific and other expert literature to provide users with the evidence behind recommendations or to explore topics in greater depth

<https://nv.medicalhomeportal.org/>

Nevada's **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)** serves "...children who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally", by working with families and across systems to develop strategies that promote quality well-being and support for those children and their families.

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/CYSHCN/CYSHCN-Home/>

Family TIES directs Nevada's Family-to-Family Healthcare Information and Education Center and provides statewide support to families of children and youth with special health care needs by:

- Assisting families as they navigate public and private systems, including health systems and insurance plans,
- Assisting families in accessing services and resources for their children and in partnering with providers and caregivers,
- Listening to families as they describe their encounters with systems and helping guide them to possible solutions,
- Working with families, health care providers, public and private agencies, and advocacy or support groups to promote family-centered care and medical homes for children with special health care needs,
- Promoting discussion and linkages among families, providers, managed care programs, and government to better serve the health care and related needs of children and families in Nevada.

For more information call **1-866-326-8437** or visit their web site at:

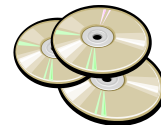
<http://www.familytiesnv.org/>

ZERO TO THREE's approach to parent education is based on the belief that parents are the true experts on their children, and that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to raising children. Here at **Parenting Resources** you'll find science-based information and tools designed to help parents and caregivers nurture their young children's development. The information and tools we offer are designed to support parents in developing their own ways to promote their children's growth and development.

<http://www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/parenting-resources/>

Nevada's **Family Resource Centers (FRCs)** provide support, information, and referrals for individuals and families in need of assistance in accessing services and programs that will strengthen and support the family. **FRCs** collaborate with other private and public agencies, government agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations to assist families to obtain needed services. **FRCs** emphasize community based, collaborative services that are culturally competent, accessible, and flexible. The state is divided into 18 Service Areas. For more information or to find an FRC close to you, call: (702) 486-3527 (Las Vegas) or (775) 684-4000 (Carson City)

http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Programs/FRC/Family_Resource_Center/



***Autism in the Family: Caring and Coping Together*, by Robert Naseef Ph.D.**

How can parents provide the best support for their child with autism—and ensure that the whole family's needs are met? It's a question faced by every parent of a child on the autism spectrum, and this book answers it with keen insight, reassuring honesty, and practical guidance. A practicing psychologist and father of an adult son with autism, Dr. Naseef has both personal and professional expertise to share with overwhelmed families, weaving wisdom from years of clinical practice with candid first-hand insights on parenting a child from birth through adulthood.

***Breakthrough Parenting for Children with Special Needs: Raising the Bar of Expectations*, by Judy Winter.** Award-winning writer Judy Winter helps parents 'raise the bar of expectations' for their challenged children. Winter fought for a normal life for her son, Eric, before losing him to cerebral palsy. "The demands of special needs challenged me to the limits of human endurance and helped me realize my most heartfelt life dreams, too," she writes. From getting over the myth of the perfect baby, to dealing with staring, to maneuvering the school system, her wisdom is both practical and inspiring. A particularly useful guide to those just starting out on the journey of dealing with special needs... covers grief, hope, services & supports, understanding the law and inclusion, planning for the future.

***Parenting Children with Health Issues: Essential Tools, Tips, and Tactics for Raising Kids With Chronic Illness, Medical Conditions, and Special Healthcare Needs*, by Cline and Greene.** Does your child have a health condition which requires special medical or dietary care? Whether your child has ADD, allergies, asthma, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, Down syndrome, developmental delays, an eating disorder, hemophilia or any other special need, you'll find essential parenting skills to respond to your child's emotional needs, help your child cope with health challenges, comply with medical requirements and live a hope-filled life. Get practical and compassionate answers to your toughest questions as you discover effective ways to communicate about medical issues with children of all ages.

***Sleep Better! A Guide to Improving Sleep for Children with Special Needs, Revised Edition*, by V. Mark Durand Ph.D., 2014.** This down-to-earth, nonjudgmental guide, packed with widely tested, easy-to-use techniques that work for all children, with and without disabilities. Provides practical information on a variety of topics--from the basics of sleep and assessing sleep problems to strategies for change.

***You Will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities*, by Stanley Klein and Kim Schive.** A remarkable parent's support group in print, the shared narratives come from those with newly diagnosed children, adult disabled children, and everything in between. These experiences offer hope and encouragement and serve as a reminder that there are others out there who can help, and should help educators and health-care professionals better understand these parents' perspectives.

With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, send an email to ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Catalog at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

FREE! Exceptional Parent eMagazine provides practical advice and emotional support to families of children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs, as well as the physicians, allied health care and educational professionals who are involved in their care and development. Now available **free** to interested readers. Simply send an email to fsimon@ep-magazine.com requesting a **free** subscription. You will receive the eMagazine each month via email along with instructions on how to download a printable PDF.

A FREE statewide Resource in Nevada! *Care Consultation: Caregiver Phone/Email Support*

This is a **FREE** information and support program for parents/caregivers of individuals of **all** ages living with chronic conditions or disabilities. Consultants work with caregivers to identify and better understand issues of concern. **Care Consultation** provides ongoing help to find practical solutions related to concerns about health, care and well being. Offers support to empower, educate and improve the overall wellbeing of the caregiver. You don't have to leave your home to use **Care Consultation**. The program provides:

- * Personal coaching
- * Convenience - connect with your Care Consultant over the phone or by email
- * Ongoing support - connect with your Care Consultant as needed

Care Consultation can help:

- * Cope with care-related concerns
- * Plan for the future by accessing available supports and resources
- * Develop an action plan to help manage your caregiving situation

For information or enrollment, call 702-333-1556 or email cgraham@nevadaseniorservices.org

EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:**

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:**

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the “odd” months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: info@nvhandsandvoices.org

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ **The Continuum—Reno:**

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Literacy Land**—FREE! Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Also, look for our collection bins around town! For further information, please call the Continuum’s Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email at info@continuumreno.com. Visit us at continuumreno.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ **ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:**

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure! Call: 702-586-3100

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

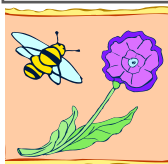
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson**—Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)**—NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, starts at 6:30pm, at East Las Vegas Community Center located at 250 N. Eastern Ave.
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com

The Early Intervention Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (Subject to review & editing.)



Nevada’s Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a “Links” page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

