



## IDEA Part C Summer Family Newsletter

July-August 2014 Volume 4 No 4

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

Dear Parents/Families,

An opportunity to participate... **MEETING NOTICE**

#### NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday, July 10, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will be held via Video Conference at the Following Locations:

- **Las Vegas:** Nevada Early Intervention Services  
1161 South Valley View Blvd., Conference Room
- **Reno:** Nevada Early Intervention Services  
2667 Enterprise, Conference Room
- **Elko:** Nevada Early Intervention Services  
1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Conference Room

Nevada's **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)** has a federal mandate 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.

It is especially important to hear from families and I encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council please contact me at: [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov) or 1-800-522-0066 Project ASSIST

Sincerely,  
Dan Dinnell

\*New Web Address: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>



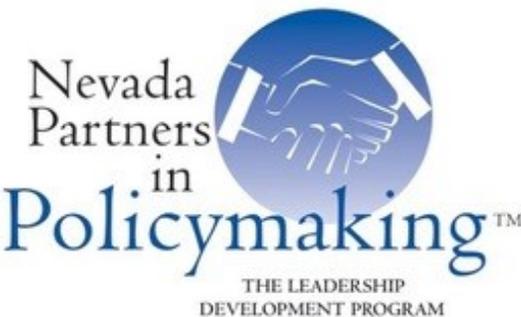
Dan, Eric and Cheryl

**NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

**IDEA Part C Office**  
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Office: (775) 687-0587  
Fax: (775) 687-0599

**Project ASSIST**  
**1-800-522-0066**

Please welcome the State's new Part C Coordinator, Thomas Kapp — See page 2.



The University's **Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities** is seeking motivated, interested **parents** of children with developmental disabilities in Southern Nevada, to become candidates for **NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING, Class of 2015**. **\*Limited Space!**

**PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is an intensive and innovative national model of leadership training, 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 FREE** class starts early next year.

**PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is 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 program.

If you are interested, visit their website: <http://nced.info/pip/> or contact **Diana Rovetti**: [rovetti@unr.edu](mailto:rovetti@unr.edu)

## More Resources... More Information... More Opportunities...

IDEA Part C (Early Intervention programs) is designed to assist any child under the age of three years who has a disability or significant delays in development. Federal law is reasonably specific about parents' rights, types of services to be provided, types of persons who are qualified to deliver services, how services should be provided, and how they are to be coordinated.

In each state there is a lead agency [in Nevada it is the Department of Health and Human Services, IDEA Part C Office] for the State's early intervention programs; and within that agency, a person is designated as the State Part C "Coordinator." It is the Part C Coordinator's responsibility to oversee the program in such a way that it complies with all federal and state requirements in meeting the needs of infants or toddlers and their families. Some of a Part C Coordinator's responsibilities are to:

- a) Identify and represent the interests of infant and toddler early intervention programs;
- b) Develop and recommend models, standards, policies, and programs that promote quality services to eligible infants and toddlers and their families; and
- c) Strengthen current leadership and foster new leadership in early intervention programs at the local and state levels.

As of March 24, 2014, **Thomas Kapp** began his new position as the State Part C (Early Intervention) Coordinator for the Director's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services. His office is located in Carson City, Nevada. We are all delighted to welcome him to this position.



"Greetings! I attended the University of Hawaii studying multicultural education and graduated from Oakland University with a BA in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. I began my teaching career working at a full-inclusion preschool at the Lowry Center in Michigan.

I moved to Las Vegas in 1992, working at Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) [back then it was Special Children's Clinic] while completing a Master of Science degree in Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) with a specialization in birth to three from UNLV.

I then started my PhD at Florida State University in ECSE and taught undergraduate and graduate special education classes at FSU and the FSU London Study Centre. Also, during that time I worked as an Autism Consultant at the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities.

I returned to Las Vegas in 2000, and worked for several years again at NEIS as a Developmental Specialist III.

For the past decade, I have worked for the Department of Defense early intervention programs as a Manager, ECSE, and program monitor. This included the Carolinas, Alabama, and most recently Germany.

My wife, Bonnie, and I and our miniature poodle, Lucy, are happy to be back in Nevada! I look forward to seeing my old friends, families and colleagues as well as meeting new people. I look forward to collaborating with all of you to lead Nevada in a positive direction in providing quality early intervention services to infants or toddlers and their families." ~ Thomas Kapp

**The annual early intervention family surveys are in the mail. If your family has been receiving services for longer than six months, watch for the survey in your mail. Please take the time to fill it out and turn it in. We want the most 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 results for children and families across Nevada receiving early intervention services. If you have questions, contact the Part C Office at: Project ASSIST 1-800-522-0066 or email [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov)**

**Sincerely, Dan Dinnell**

## EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

### **NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

### **NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

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

- **Down Syndrome Network “Family Support Group”** - Usually every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month [except for Summer months activities] from 5:45 pm at NEIS-Enterprise. Call 775-828-5159 or e-mail [dsnninfo@gmail.com](mailto:dsnninfo@gmail.com) to R.S.V.P.
- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise, by RSVP only! Please call 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **RAVE** will also have **Respite Applications** available every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise.
- **Friends of Special Children** is looking for new board members to join their non-profit organization that supports families in Early Intervention. This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested in being a part of this great cause, contact Lori Schoen at 688-0379.
- **Scholarship Applications for the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum** are available by calling Lori Schoen, NEIS Supervisor, at 775-688-0379 or email address: [lschoen@health.nv.gov](mailto:lschoen@health.nv.gov)
- **Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, Enterprise Rd., May 16<sup>th</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month at 6:00 pm.

#### ⇒ ***The Continuum—Reno:***

- **Support Group—Grandparents raising grandchildren with special needs.** 3700 Grant Dr., Reno. First Thursday monthly, with free childcare on site. For more information call Amanda Aitchison at (775) 737-8756.

### **SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

\* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

#### ⇒ ***Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:***

- Easter Seals Nevada is hosting **playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! For more information call or email Ella Philander, at 428-4335 or [ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org](mailto:ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org)

#### ⇒ ***Positively Kids—Las Vegas:***

- **Win a \$1000!!!** Submit a selfie of you adding clothes to one of our clothing donation boxes around town and post it on our Facebook page. The person with the most likes wins!!!
- Like us on **Facebook**, see all the great things we have happening! <https://www.facebook.com/positivelykids>

#### ⇒ ***Therapy Management Group—Las Vegas:***

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support meetings the last Thursday of each month, 6pm-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- TMG offers a **weekly playgroup** for children in our program. A variety of themes with coordinating activities for children 18 to 36 months will be introduced each week. Contact: Sarah Petrocelli @ 340-5521 or [spetrocelli@tmgnv.com](mailto:spetrocelli@tmgnv.com)

The Part C 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. (All items are subject to editing and review.)

## ***Coming July 2015—NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE II***

**Mark your calendars!!!** *The NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE is a major, statewide event designed to meet the informational and networking needs of individuals with disabilities or special health care needs, family members, caretakers, policymakers, advocates, administrators, educators, students, staff and service providers. The last conference garnered 394 attendees who enjoyed over 2 days of an outstanding program with 48 sessions, several national Keynote presenters, and 38 vendors/resource tables.*

*Also the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES selected Reno as their annual conference host city for 2015, and will combine with the NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE, bringing as many as 200 professionals and leading experts in the field of disability to our state and the conference, offering more resources, and bringing national attention to Nevada.*

*This event provides a truly unique environment where people can attend educational breakout sessions relevant to their specific needs, interact with policymakers, network with others and learn about the wide range of services available in Nevada. . . **Plan on it!** For more information contact*

**Family TIES** - [www.familytiesnv.org](http://www.familytiesnv.org)

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY—**

*There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!*

**NEW!**



***Understanding the Nature of Autism: A Guide to the Autism Spectrum Disorders*** 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

Appropriate for use with any age and ability level, this resource is a valuable tool for therapists, teachers, and parents. This edition presents an integrated approach to teaching and intervention. It incorporates strategies from recognized models such as structured play/Floortime, Structured Teaching, and Applied Behavioral Analysis that match the specific needs of each individual. Also includes strategies for conducting a comprehensive functional behavioral assessment and developing a positive behavior support system.

Library materials are available for use statewide. For more information, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, please contact me at **Project ASSIST** toll free **1-800-522-0066** or [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov)

**Autism Speaks** has created "A Grandparent's Guide to Autism". This family support tool kit is designed to help guide and encourage grandparents to establish positive and successful relationships with their grandchildren and the rest of their families. You can find that and many other resources at: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/>.

**Disability.gov** is the federal government website for comprehensive information about disability-related programs, services, policies, laws and regulations. The site links to thousands of resources from many different federal government agencies, as well as state and local governments and nonprofit organizations across the country. <https://www.disability.gov/>

**Parenting Children with Special Needs—**<http://specialchildren.about.com/>

Living with a child with special needs can be a joy and a challenge. Get information on how to manage your family, social and emotional issues with these articles and resources on this Parenting Special Needs site.

**Parent's Record-Keeping Worksheet** [<http://nichcy.org/babies/overview> ]

The sample record-keeping worksheet can help you start a file of information about your child. As you contact different people and places, it's a good idea to keep records of people you've talked with and what was said. As time goes by, you will want to add other information to your file, such as: Letters and notes (from doctors, therapists, etc.); medical records and reports; results of tests and evaluations; notes from meetings about your child; therapist reports; IFSP and IEP records; your child's developmental history, including personal notes or diaries on your child's development; records of shots and vaccinations; and family medical histories. The Parent's Record-Keeping Worksheet is available online at: <http://www.nichcy.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/recordkeeping.pdf>

Make sure you get copies of all written information about your child (records, reports, etc.). This will help you become an important coordinator of services and a better advocate for your child. Remember, as time goes on, you'll probably have more information to keep track of, so it's a good idea to keep it together in one place.

**Note:** The State's Early Intervention web pages are currently being revamped. Please call or email if you have questions.



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

Nevada's Early Intervention website is filled with information and resources, including a "Links" page of all kinds of useful websites with information.

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov)

