



# Nevada Early Intervention Fall–Winter Family Newsletter

November–December 2015 Volume 5 No 6

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

Dear Parents/Families,

I learned about **IDEA** or the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**, the federal law ensuring services to children with disabilities, years ago when our son was born with multiple disabilities, and have found the information useful many times throughout his life.

IDEA governs how states and public agencies must provide early intervention, special education and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth through age 2) and their families receive early intervention services under **IDEA Part C**. Children and youth (ages 3 to 21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

(OSEP) has a website with information regarding IDEA.

The "**Part C**" section was created to provide a "one-stop shop" for resources related to Part C of the IDEA and its implementing regulations. It provides searchable versions of IDEA and the regulations, access to cross-referenced content from other laws, webinars on selected topics, non-regulatory guidance, a Q&A Corner where you can submit questions, and a variety of other information sources. Please visit their website at: <http://idea.ed.gov>

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact me at [ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov), or at [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

Sincerely,  
Dan Dinnell

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



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

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**  
[ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)

Please enjoy the stories shared of families who have "been there and done that!" — See page 2.

### FREE Online Magazine – **Parenting Special Needs Magazine**

It is 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/>

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA Center) compiles an **Online Edition of the DEC Recommended Practices** — FPG's Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center adapted the practices for the web to help provide **guidance to practitioners and families about the most effective ways to improve learning outcomes and development of children birth to age 5 with or at-risk for developmental delays or disabilities...** more at: <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/decrp.asp>

**FREE....** Participation in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** is open to *all interested* in supporting early intervention. . . **Keep informed! Obtain Answers! Impact Policies!**

The EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE is a national leadership organization dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the **EIFA list serve** to participate in active discussions and share experiences. Web: [www.eifamilyalliance.org](http://www.eifamilyalliance.org)

# Been there, done that!



*"Would any of our parent representatives serving on the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) be interested in attending the Office of Special Education Projects' Leadership Conference in Washington D.C.?"* Only hearing Washington D.C., I eagerly said, "I am interested." Within two minutes, I was approved to attend a conference in July, for a federal entity completely unknown to me.

Reviewing the conference schedule, it was exactly what I had hoped for, the first day, Sunday, had no conference and I would have the whole day to myself! Excitedly, I mentioned this to my parent liaison in the Part C office, Dan, who was quick to inform me that there was actually a meeting of State ICCs on Sunday and it would likely be the most beneficial day of the conference for a parent representative. Ugh!

Dan was right! The first day was the most interesting for me because I was able to interact with parent representatives from many other states which proved to be both interesting and educational. I learned that in other sparsely populated states, such as Montana, the ICC doesn't offer videoconferencing for its meetings and accordingly, parents are forced to drive long distances in order to attend. Even a small state such as Rhode Island has a huge issue with transportation to meetings.

The next two days of the conference were also very informative. I attended seminars presented by parent resource centers from other states and learned about their parent training programs, parent mentoring programs and the success and challenges with those programs. I learned about collaboration between parent centers and the Council of Special Education Administrators in New York and the once contentious relationship that has evolved into a productive and meaningful dialogue between the two.

I heard two high school students speak to the general session about their experiences in school and their hopes for future students. Their message was simple, "listen to the student."

For me, attending the conference also educated me on my role on the ICC. It made me question, "am I representing my stakeholders and how can I better connect with parents still in EI inasmuch as my child has transitioned from EI?"

Although I tease as if the highlight of the trip was traveling to Washington D.C. without my two children, it actually was a fantastic learning experience. As a bonus, another ICC parent representative from Reno was also approved to attend the conference and we were able to discuss our issues and concerns and our experiences with our own children. Without this conference, I would never have had the opportunity to get to know another parent representative so well and be able to discuss as many topics facing the ICC as well as the disabilities community. I extend my appreciation for this amazing opportunity provided to me. - Alisa Koot

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 STATE 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](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov) or call 1-800-522-0066



For Families & Professionals

**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION *LIBRARY*—**

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

**Books on Family Involvement!!!**

**Making A Difference: A Parent's Guide to Advocacy and Community Action.** This book provides parents and others with skills necessary to organize effectively and speak out on issues that affect children at home, at school, and in the broader community. Each chapter includes key principles of advocacy and organization, strategies for turning plans into action, advocacy and organization examples taken from real life, and "how-to" advice for building lasting organizations for change.

**How to Organize an Effective Parent/Advocacy Group and Move Bureaucracies.** A handbook that gives step-by-step directions on how to organize a parent group from scratch - and actively involve members to effect positive changes to improve services.

**Family Involvement in Policy Making: A Final Report on the Families in Action Project.** A major part of developing a system of care community is to work toward being family driven in all areas. "Family driven" means families have a primary decision-making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation.

**Handbook for Strengthening Grassroots Advocacy.** This handbook is designed: (1) to empower individuals working with people who have disabilities to be a force for meeting the policy challenges in the communities in which they live and work; and (2) to help them to channel their strength, commitment, and knowledge into effective advocacy efforts. It discusses the basic tools for advocacy, which include knowledge of the legislative or regulatory process, effective communication skills, and effective access to the media. It also offers advice on building coalitions, framing key issues, packaging important information, and using the media as a tool to advance a cause.

**Making the System Work: An Advocacy Workshop for Parents.** The workshop includes introductory activities; administration of an assertiveness questionnaire; parent rap session; defining advocacy; role playing effective advocacy techniques; identifying problems, possible solutions, and sources of power to correct problems; identifying assertive/passive/aggressive statements; making effective demands; and analyzing one's advocacy potential.

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

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

**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](http://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, parenting questions, community resources and events, etc. at [www.nvparents.com](http://www.nvparents.com).

**NEIS-Reno: Friends of Special Children** is the 501c3 non-profit parent organization similar to a PTA, that provides services and support to families and children birth to age three with developmental delays or disabilities at Nevada Early Intervention Services-Reno, through education, advocacy and inclusion.

Friends of Special Children are committed to providing a greater sense of family wellness and believe all people can participate in their community –everyone has value, a sense of purpose.

Friends of Special Children is seeking parents to join the board in leadership roles to continue to assist families and children in our own neighborhood and the staff of Nevada Early Intervention Services. If you are interested in doing excellent work, please contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or [GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov).

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

### NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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

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

- The **Family Support Group** is for **ALL** of those families with children with any type of special needs. Join us the first Thursday of each month from 5:45 to 7:30pm [except for Summer months activities or other special events] at Nevada's Early Intervention Services Office in Elko. To RSVP contact Janina Easley at [jfal84@yahoo.com](mailto:jfal84@yahoo.com) or call: 775-828-5153.

### NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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

#### ⇒ Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:

- **Community Play groups** at Pah Rah Park every 2nd & 4th Friday, each month at 10:30am. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. Families should call for more information: 775-825-4744.

#### ⇒ Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:

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

- **Family Support Group**, sponsored by Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada & NEIS - The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month [except for Summer months activities or other special events] 5:45 pm, at NEIS. 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, by RSVP only! Please call: 775-823-9500 to RSVP.
- **RAVE** will have **Respite Applications** available every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS. Email for more information and to RSVP: Jenelle Stathes at: [ravefamilies@att.net](mailto:ravefamilies@att.net)
- **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 Lori Schoen at: 775-688-0379 or email: [lschoen@health.nv.gov](mailto:lschoen@health.nv.gov)
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every other month on the "odd" months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: [info@nvhandsandvoices.org](mailto: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.
- **Grandparents raising grandchildren with special needs — Support Group**, 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:

- **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:

- **Parent meeting** for families of children (any age) with Prader Willi Syndrome, at NEIS. Contact Erica Magana (Bilingual) at 702-486-9265 or [emagana@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:emagana@adsd.nv.gov), or Shirley Farkas at: 702-486-9263 or [sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:sfarkas@adsd.nv.gov)

#### ⇒ Positively Kids—Las Vegas:

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

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Contact Sarah Petrocelli at: 702-340-5521 or [spetrocelli@tmgnv.com](mailto:spetrocelli@tmgnv.com)
- **Mom's Planning Committee**—Meetings will be at TMG on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Email Martha at [mestrada@tmgnv.com](mailto:mestrada@tmgnv.com) or call: 702-595-5437 X 205.

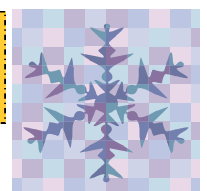
For EI program contact information: [http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early\\_Intervention\\_Programs/](http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/)

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.)



Nevada's Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a "Links" page with all kinds of useful websites and a Frequently Asked Questions page.  
<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

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 [ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov)



*This is important for parents in Eastern Nevada! In 2016, the most AWESOME training, **NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING**, is coming to **ELKO!!! PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is a very 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** training starts early next year. Help get the word out!*

## **NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING**

The Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities is seeking applications from motivated, interested individuals throughout Eastern Nevada, who have developmental disabilities, or are parents of children with developmental disabilities, to become candidates for Nevada Partners in Policymaking, Class of 2016 in Elko, Nevada.

### **Participants are required to:**

- Commit to attend all four Saturday/Sunday sessions, one weekend every other month.
- Complete homework assignments between sessions.
- Complete e-learning course. (technical assistance will be provided if needed).
- Commit to a project to be completed after graduation.

### **Participants will receive:**

- **Valuable working knowledge on disability issues** and information on resources available in their community.
- **Advocacy skills.**
- A monthly stipend to help with logistical costs associated with attending class sessions.
- New relationships with people who have the same interests as you.



### **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.

Classes will be held at **Great Basin College** in Elko, Nevada

Dates are: **February 27 & 28, April 30 & May 1, June 11 & 12, August 27 & 28**

### **Partners in Policymaking application:**

[https://unr-vbepl.formstack.com/forms/pip\\_application\\_\\_copy\\_copy\\_1](https://unr-vbepl.formstack.com/forms/pip_application__copy_copy_1)

More information is available at: <http://nced.info/pip/>  
or contact **Diana Rovetti**: [rovetti@unr.edu](mailto:rovetti@unr.edu) or 775-682-9060

**NEVADA PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is a  
Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities sponsored project  
administered by the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities.