



MINUTES

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

Date and Time of Meeting: October 22, 2020, 10:00 AM

Meeting was held via Microsoft Teams at the following locations:

https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F%20%23%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_MzUzZDZkMGEtYTM2My00ZDUxLWExNzltNzdmZGFkYmUOODVh%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522tid%2522%253a%2522e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%2522%252c%2522oid%2522%253a%2522982f5273-42bc-41a0-8964-7c521e0af033%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=7bf1d2b5-e27d-4f8b-8fc7-bc0f0356ae41&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

I. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Announcements and Introductions:**

Co-Chair Sherry Waugh called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum of members were present; the meeting proceeded as scheduled.

Members Present: Dawn Brooks, Candace Emerson, Aimee Hadleigh, Andre' Haynes, Kari Horn, Lisa Hunt, Robin Kincaid, Rhonda Lawrence, Sandra LaPalm, Daina Loeffler, Kate Osti, Karen Shaw, Sherry Waugh, Jenna Weglarz-Ward, DuAne Young, Claribel Zecena

Members Absent: Sarah Horsman-Ploeger

Public Attendees: Christa Allen, Therapy Management Group (TMG); Jessica Bland, NEIS South; Lisa Finney, Capability Health and Human Services; Karen Frisk, NEIS Northeast; Crystal Johnson, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services; Marnie Lancz, TMG; Yvonne Moore, Positively Kids; Wendy Nelson, Positively Kids; Rique Robb, Aging and Disability Services Division; Marcia Sarratea, NEIS Carson City; Shannon Sprout, Aging and Disability Services Division; Debra Steward, MD Developmental Agency; Barbara Stoll, NEIS Northeast

Part C Staff Present: Daniel Dinnell, Shari Fyfe, Mary Garrison, Edythe King, Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, Iandia Morgan, Melissa Slayden

II. **Public Comment:**

No public comment was made.

III. **Approval of the Minutes from the January 20, 2020 Meeting (For Possible Action):**

The council reviewed the minutes from the January 20, 2020 meeting. No corrections were noted.

MOTION: Approve the minutes as presented

BY: Aimee Hadleigh

SECOND: Claribel Zecena

VOTE: **Approved**

IV. **New Member Biographies:**

a. **Andre' Haynes', ICC Parent Representative**

Andre' Haynes' introduced himself to the council and informed them that he is a proud father of an eleven-year-old son with special needs. Mr. Haynes' stated that his son received student of the month recently. Mr. Haynes' is also the father of a twenty-one-year-old daughter who is about to graduate college. Mr. Haynes' is a business owner and is very involved in his community.

b. **Lisa Hunt, ICC Parent Representative**

Lisa Hunt introduced herself to the council and informed them that she is a parent of four (4) children, a fifteen-year-old, an eight-year-old (8), a four-year-old (4), and an amazing two-year-old (2), which has brought her to the council. Ms. Hunt explained that her two-year-old (2) son has an optical disorder called ONH, which stands for Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. Ms. Hunt is happy to be a part of the council to give back to the organization that has helped her family, as well as help other children and families.

V. **Early Intervention Re-Entry:**

Lori Ann Malina-Lovell thanked the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for assisting during the pandemic. Ms. Malina-Lovell stated that she would be providing a brief overview of the re-entry plan for Early Intervention, then Rique Robb and Shannon Sprout from Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) will provide additional details. On March 15, 2020 the Early Intervention system entered a moratorium directive. All face-to-face services, whether in the home, community, or in clinic were suspended, however Early Intervention Services continued via Telehealth and tele-electronic consultation. On September 1, 2020 the Early Intervention System entered a re-entry process for specialty clinics that were able to meet the COVID-19 precautions. Ms. Malina-Lovell expressed gratitude from the Part C Office to ADSD and to the ADSD Quality Assurance team for their hard work and preparation for the in-depth phase planning which all clinics were required to follow. Ms. Malina-Lovell introduced Rique Robb, ADSD Deputy Administrator for Child Services and Shannon Sprout, ADSD Health Program Manager to explain more details on phase planning as well as take questions.

Ms. Sprout mentioned that she will take the lead on this item. Ms. Sprout is with ADSD and works on statewide systems policies and procedures for the Early Intervention System. Ms. Malina-Lovell mentioned the Early Intervention System went into a moratorium on March 16, 2020 for face to face services due to the pandemic. Ms. Sprout informed the council that ADSD will continue to monitor the situation, closely looking at data, COVID trends, the governor's recovery plan, working with physicians and staff of Early Intervention Programs, as well as working directly with the

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The consultant for COVID-19 protocols, received approval from the Chief Medical Officer to move forward with the Early Intervention re-entry plan. The primary goal for the re-entry plan is to make sure to keep everyone safe by mitigating any risks and opportunity for exposure. Ms. Sprout explained that is the premise behind everything ADSD has been doing. While there was a moratorium in March, Early Intervention did continue to provide services via Telehealth and Telephonic consultation. Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) moved into what they call phase one (1) of re-entry on September 1, 2020. Ms. Sprout explained that the re-entry plan allows for limited visits for those services that would be difficult to evaluate through Telehealth, which includes one (1) on one (1) physician visits, feeding and nutrition visits, and any visit that is assessment related. Autism Diagnostic Observation, schedule testing, newborn hearing screenings and assessments for motor concerns are services that would be allowed in phase one (1). The phase in re-entry was implemented statewide for both the community providers and Nevada Early Intervention Services offices in every region. Implementation is very controlled including screening questionnaires for all employees upon entry into the clinic on any day, and any entry into the office requires a screening protocol to limit any office or clinic exposure. The same protocol is in place for any families that are seen. NEIS is making sure that they are doing prescreening with a script when scheduling a family upon entry. Ms. Sprout explained that families pull into the parking lot, contact the front office by phone, the screening questionnaire is conducted, and if passed, someone comes out to take the temperature of the parent and the child. If all protocol is passed, the family is escorted inside for their visit. ADSD is doing everything it can to make sure that those visits are very staggered and that there aren't multiple individuals in the office at one time. Staff is trying to keep a one in, one out system. Once the assessment/visit requirements occur, staff escort the families outside. All remaining forms and documents are reviewed via Telehealth. Ms. Sprout stated that ADSD encourages their community providers, as well as their NEIS offices to use Telehealth during visits as well. If a family has an Autism Diagnostic Observation Scheduled, there is a camera present, so the rest of the family can participate. NEIS will maintain social distancing in all ways, unless a visit calls for physical contact. There is limited equipment and toys, and anything that is needed for a visit is cleaned using the written cleaning policy. Ms. Sprout explained that all personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided to staff, and NEIS has worked in conjunction with Part C to assist with funds. Ms. Sprout shared that many of the providers went through practice runs and trainings. NEIS is working with all regional offices to report their successes and lessons learned as they begin the phase two (2) re-entry planning. Ms. Sprout stated that she would now like to review how phase two (2) would look with additional visits, and how the end goal is to resume in-home visits in a later phase. Ms. Sprout stated that ADSD is closely monitoring the fact that Nevada is seeing an uptick in COVID-19 cases, so it is important to make sure that the regional offices are careful and diligent about how they are going to phase the re-entry of the Early Intervention System

Aimee Hadley asked how to get notified if NEIS is still doing Child Find transition meetings? Ms. Sprout state yes, transition meetings are being completed via Telehealth and that one of the offices can speak on that specifically from a regional perspective if desired. Claribel Zecena from NEIS Reno stated that they have set virtual meetings with the school district to complete transitions with them and they also help the families through the transition process. Ms. Zecena explained that when possible, child find activities are in person evaluations with limited people in the room. If they are not able to do a full evaluation, they use records sent to them by physicians, or a chart evaluation to see if they can determine eligibility to send to the school district. Ms. Hadleigh asked what happens if the child is not receiving services? Ms. Hadleigh asked if they are still doing the

pre-k classes in-person or distance learning? Ms. Hadleigh also asked what supports are families receiving that qualify but do not choose to go in person? Ms. Zecena stated that she would not be able to speak to what Clark County is doing, but in Washoe County they are doing in person sessions two (2) days a week with children attending for six (6) hours, then distance learning for the rest of the two (2) days. Parents are given the option to do distance learning exclusively in an Early Childhood Special Education Classroom where they receive the materials and access their services through Telehealth.

Lisa Hunt shared that she also has child in the transition process, and since March he has not been able to receive in person services. Ms. Hunt explained that it is very hard for her child to do any virtual services as he is visually impaired and two (2) years old. Ms. Hunt stated that there has been a gap in terms of services received, and that an extended service would be beneficial. Ms. Hunt explained that she is in Clark County School District and was informed that her son's transition plan is scheduled for December, with only one (1) parent accompanying the child and that there are three (3) hours in school, five (5) days a week. School is not open, so those would also be virtual. Ms. Hunt explained that this is additional delays in her child's development. Ms. Sprout thanked Ms. Hunt for the information and stated they are aware that telehealth and telephonic consults are not conducive for every type of visit. ADSD is working with Part C and Quality Assurance to make a plan that is conducive to all, while also staying safe in accordance with health regulations. NEIS and the Community Providers have made sure that they are working with families to provide those resources in the community while also being limited by the re-entry plan. **Ms. Sherry** – shared that parents are electing not to bring their children to school for the most part. Every district in Nevada is different, Clark County is not providing any school services in person, while Washoe is offering both in person and virtual.

Rique Robb shared that ADSD surveyed families during the development of the re-entry plan, and that most of families did not want to do face to face. Ms. Robb explained every family is going to have an individual need, and meeting that need is the responsibility of the Early Intervention System by providing resources to meet every family's needs. Ms. Sprout stated that ADSD has begun the phase two (2) re-entry plan. ADSD will continue to work with the Community Providers and families through surveys and continue to work with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Chief Medical Officer and COVID Consultant to meet clinic requirements as they develop phase two (2).

Ms. Malina-Lovell asked if Daina Loeffler, Part B 619 coordinator with the Department of Education (DOE) would be able to share any updates? Ms. Loeffler stated that she did not have any updates as none of the Part B timelines or requirements have been waived, and districts are still responsible for students to have as much of a smooth transition as possible.

Ms. Malina-Lovell shared that there may be individuals on the ICC who are with organizations that have resources to help children that are three (3) or older and needing additional assistance. Robin Kincaid stated that it is important that families work with the right teams in the districts and with Early Intervention since the services need to be based on the child's needs, not on the pandemic. Ms. Kincaid continued, that there are no waivers as Ms. Loeffler pointed out, so we need to figure out a way to be creative, collaborative, and flexible. Ms. Kincaid explained those are the key words that the Department of Education gave to each state school district. If there are compensatory services that need to be provided, then we need to be talking to Early Intervention and the school

districts about those needs. Ms. Kincaid stated Nevada Pep is ready and here to support families through this difficult time.

Aimee Hadleigh shared an example of how these needs can be met. Ms. Hadleigh explained that while it is a different program, her child is seeing someone at Child and Adolescent Services. The services are provided through Telehealth; however the therapist packed a therapy box for each child and hand delivered it to their home. Ms. Hadleigh continued, when her children do therapy sessions, there is a folder that explains what is in the box and how to use it. I feel like as parents, sometimes we need the support and someone saying here are some things you can do daily with your child, Ms. Hadleigh concluded.

Ms. Robb concluded by saying that ADSD is taking all input. We know how difficult this is, but our biggest goal right now is to mitigate the risks for all children and families as we move forward into the next phase.

VI. Early Intervention Program Highlights/Updates (Information Only):

Ms. Robb introduced herself as the Deputy Administrator of Early Intervention Services and provided brief highlight for ADSD. We have been working to send outreach to physicians and hospitals to ensure all are aware that Early Intervention as a system is currently providing Telehealth visits and single point of entry. Ms. Robb also explained ADSD is advising physicians and hospitals to confirm that the contact information is accurate to ensure that referrals and resources are being provided throughout the state. ADSD has worked with the Board of Examiners Office where they send the notifications to all physicians in the state. ADSD has seen a decrease in case load numbers, which Ms. Sprout would discuss. Ms. Robb explained ADSD is monitoring trends closely and ensuring that the programs are able to receive the referrals and that families are being seen via the Telehealth model. Ms. Robb explained that the ADSD budget was released October 15, 2020 on the Governor's website and regarding agency requests, there were no changes. This budget is based on the base budget, and ADSD did see some decline in regard to COVID-19 expenses, but because it was our base budget, we were able to ensure that caseload growth will move forward into the government recommended budget. The trend is starting to go back up to pre COVID-19 numbers. Ms. Robb explained that the official budget will be released sometime in January, and once that is released ADSD can start the process for the legislative session.

Shannon Sprout shared that ADSD has worked over the last year to improve reporting and sharing of information with our community providers through regular community provider meetings. Ms. Sprout explained that they had anticipated an uptick in referrals once the stay at home order were lifted, but they have not increased to what was projected as they are below 2018 levels. This was discussed with the community providers during their meetings. Ms. Sprout explained that they worked with some of the Community Providers to address the questions that we needed to find answers to. From that point, Ms. Sprout reached out to data analytics. Ms. Sprout explained, as a brief overview, ADSD is looking at birth rates in Nevada and comparing those numbers to the data from 2018 and 2019. Is this a population change? Is this a birth rate change? Not only do we want to look at that trend statewide, we want to look at it by each county. Based on this, we asked for birthrates, prenatal care statistics, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) admission rates, to know what is happening in the NICU for current population data by county and statewide. ADSD is trying to figure out what's really happening to our population base and why are we not seeing those referrals, Ms. Sprout explained. The results of the data can answer if the population is still within the state but may not be aware that Early Intervention Services are available. The data will also ass

in how to better target our outreach. The request for data analytics was submitted in September. In addition, ADSD requested additional conversations with Community Providers and Part C to look at the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) data for our Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) referrals. We want to see if they have seen a decrease in referrals as well. Ms. Sprout concluded that once they receive the data back, ADSD will schedule a meeting with the Community Partners and Part C.

VII. **Part C Information Reports:**

Ms. Malina-Lovell provided an update regarding federal monitoring from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which has designated Nevada as part of their first cohort for differentiated monitoring services and supports, known as Differentiated Monitoring Services (DMS). DMS is a five (5) year monitoring occurring with OSEP through different phases. Nevada is in the first phase where they are reviewing the state website, information made available to the public, and our fiscal line of responsibility. Ms. Malina-Lovell shared that as the Part C Office continues with monitoring, the ICC will continue to receive updates regarding this process. We are really looking forward to how this goes, Ms. Malina-Lovell shared. We are looking at a long stretch of time, but we are confident that we have all the pieces that OSEP is looking for. If we don't, OSEP has said they will let us know and support us in making sure everything is available.

Ms. Malina-Lovell also provide an update about the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). Ms. Malina-Lovell is a member of the ECAC, which advises the legislature on the field of Early Childhood Education. On October 21, 2020, Part C will be providing a presentation during the council's board meeting. Ms. Malina-Lovell also shared that the Part C Office is taking additional efforts to ensure equality for families across our system. The Part C Office is choosing to lead by example, and during the monthly technical assistance call with the Early Intervention System, the Part C Office is including a race and equality topic.

Ms. Malina-Lovell stated the Part C office will be publishing the ICC Early Intervention Calendars, which should be delivered to each member of the council in December. Ms. Malina-Lovell shared that the calendar will also be available virtually on the Part C website.

a. Complaint Matrix

Edythe King reviewed the complaint matrix, which had no new complaints since the pandemic, or since the last ICC meeting.

b. Program Monitoring Updates

Iandia Morgan shared with the council that Part C completed the last comprehensive monitoring with six (6) programs, during the pandemic. Ms. Morgan explained that how Part C historically completed comprehensive monitoring could not occur. The Part C Liaisons had to work with the programs, who were very flexible. The Part C office appreciates the programs assistance with getting the child records that were needed to complete the monitoring process. Monitoring was completed through a desk audit by reviewing and looking at the child's records through the various programs internal data system, or through an additional format if needed. Ms. Morgan shared that she feels that the monitoring went really well, and the Part C team felt that it went really well. We were still able to continue with providing that continuity feedback with the programs. Ms.

Morgan shared that the Part C office issued annual report cards, as well as determinations for every program. The annual report cards are posted to the Part C website. Ms. Morgan shared that the report cards have each programs determination status as well. Ms. Morgan asked if any programs wanted to share how they felt this years monitoring went. No programs provided feedback.

c. Update on the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) Model Implementation

Edythe King shared the history our Nevada Early Intervention Services, which is the only state chosen to represent the pyramid model in Early Intervention. Ms. King explained that the pyramid model is a coaching model. Nevada has been given excellent national technical assistance from Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida. The framework is evidence-based practices for developing the social-emotional development of children within the home. Ms. King shared that Nevada has implemented the Pyramid Model in three (3) programs, NEIS Reno, NEIS Northeast, and the Continuum. These programs have been working on their implementation, with intense training, including a three (3) day training called Prevent, Teach, Reinforce for Families, which are strategies and techniques to help families face challenges and to help children with social-emotional development with extremely challenging behaviors. Nevada has been working with NCPMI for about two (2) years. Nevada is now launching our second (2nd) cohort with the Quality Assurance team who just completed a twelve-hour virtual training. The second (2nd) cohort is a portion of NEIS South and NEIS Carson City. Ms. King explained that the group has continued practitioner and program coach calls monthly. The State Leadership Team for the entire project meets on a monthly and sometimes twice a month basis. Ms. King shared that Abbie Chalupnik and the Quality Assurance team put on a three-day training, which had never been done virtually. Our state is continuing to grow towards fidelity and continuing to add more programs so that eventually we will be sustainable and statewide, Ms. King concluded.

Lori Ann Malina Lovell shared that she would like to close out the Part C section with an update regarding OSEP's determination for states. The Part C Office shared the determination in Summer 2020, which shows that Nevada received the determination needing assistance this year. Ms. Malina-Lovell shared that OSEP has different determination which are meet requirements, needs assistance, needs intervention, and needs intensive intervention. The needs assistance determination was provided to us, according to our technical assistance providers, because of the way we reported our annual performance reporting (APR) regarding the non-compliance of programs that were terminated in the Early Intervention System. Ms. Malina-Lovell shared that Part C is looking forward to the next annual performance reporting (APR), which is due February 1, 2021, and will reflect that all non-compliance has been verified and corrected. There was one program that was terminated September 2019, and even though they are no longer with our system, their data will still be a part of our APR since the APR timelines run from July 1st to June 30th. The record will show that the non-compliance that existed was verified and corrected, Ms. Malina-Lovell explained. We will have the rough draft of APR for the council during the January ICC meeting. Ms. Malina-Lovell shared that at that time, we will be able to review the draft and take into consideration your feedback. Ms. Malina-Lovell asked if anyone has any questions for the Part C office? Robin Kincaid asked if the Part C Office can provide a presentation on the determination letters and how OSEP comes to that decision.

Lori Ann Malina-Lovell shared links in the chat, [2020 Determination Letters on State Implementaiton of IDEA \(ed.gov\)](#). Iandia Morgan explained that the APR is submitted every February. A determination status is received within 120 days. When we submit our APR, we do talk in terms of statewide data. Ms. Morgan explained the difference between that and how the Part C office issues report cards to programs is that Part C issues individual report cards not a statewide report card. Ms. Morgan concluded with each individual program receives a report card, as well as their own determination status.

Ms. Malina-Lovell informed the council that Nevada's Part C office has not been placed on corrective action by OSEP. OSEP has provided guidance through several technical assistance calls, but never provided any type of documentation stating that Nevada is under corrective action. Ms. Malina-Lovell continued, OSEP did spend time clarifying the ways in which Nevada should be documenting the APR regarding verification of correction of non-compliance. Ms. Malina-Lovell clarified that the latest round of federal monitoring, DMS, is not related to the APR or the state determination letter. Ms. Malina-Lovell explained that DMS is OSEP's monitoring of states they have chosen to provide specialized technical assistance over the next five years. Nevada was selected along with several other states to be in the first cohort.

Ms. Kincaid stated that a follow up discussion, whether it be a presentation or discussion, should be on the agenda for the next ICC meeting. Ms. Kincaid expressed that a follow up would assist the council members when reviewing the APR and could help to prevent Nevada from being in a corrective action determination. Ms. Kincaid expressed that if a state is in a certain status where intervention is needed, that is problematic. Anytime that you don't meet requirements, I believe you work towards righting the ship so that you stay in a meets requirements status. Ms. Kincaid shared that the council is pleased to see that Nevada has done that. Ms. Kincaid asked how the council can help support Nevada, and how do we get the programs to help?

VIII. Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting (For Possible Action):

- Update on OSEP and how determinations work with Nevada's plan to improve
- Part C reports
- APR review and approval
- Program highlights
- Family presentation
- DEC parent attendance and experience
- Calendar distribution and plan on how to get them to families during moratorium
- Continuation of Part C services for families in transition
- In clinic services during winter months and the process for allowing families into the building
- NCPMI Presentation

IX. Schedule Future Meetings (For Possible Action):

The January 2021 meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

X. Public Comment:

No public comment was made.

XI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.