



MEETING MINUTES

Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

December 6, 2023, 9:00 am

Meeting Location:

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

I. Call to Order, welcome, and announcements:

Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated, thank you everyone for being here. Everyone's continuing to put their name and affiliation in the chats, which is really appreciated that for the minutes. This is our interim meeting for our Nevada early intervention ICC, and you can see the agenda here and it was there, it is posted but we're going to start with public comment. Is there any public comment from anyone?

A quorum of members was present, and the meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

Members Present: Julie Dame, Sarah Horsman-Ploeger, Lisa Hunt, Crystal Johnson, Robin Kincaid, Rhonda Lawrence, Sandra LaPalm, Janice Lee, Brittany Toth, Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward

Members Absent: Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May, Catherine Nielsen, Karen Shaw

Public Attendees: Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation; David Cassetty, Division of Insurance; Andre' Haynes, Armed Forces Chamber; Randi Humes, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD); Jessica Roew, ADSD

Support Staff: Mary Garrison, Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, Jalin McSwyne, Iandia Morgan, Pam Silva, Melissa Slayden

II. Public Comment:

Mary Garrison stated, I would like to share an update with the council regarding membership. As I have shared in the past, I continue to check with the Governors Board Committee to ensure that they have the members who are wanting to join and to see if they've approved any of those. Each time I check it seems like that's getting pushed out an additional month. As of today, I was advised that the Governor will be reviewing memberships on December 8th, 2023. This continues to be the pattern. I spoke with Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward about this and let her know that suggest if in January we still do not have those appointments, the Council should consider writing a letter requesting assistance from the

Governor in ensuring that we have a full council to assist our Early Intervention System. If anybody has missed consistent meetings, I am removing them from the membership list. If I am unable to get in contact with members, since there are some individuals who I have tried to reach out to by phone and email and I am unable to reach them, I will remove those members. I will send an updated list to the council of members that are active, with their membership date. We do ask that if you are due to renew your membership in July of 2024, you may want to start that process of renewing that now to ensure that we have approval in time. Are there any questions for me?

Lori Ann Malina Lovell shared; I have the privilege of being the Clinical Program Planner 1/Program Manager over the IDEA Part C Office. I have been serving as the Part C Coordinator for five (5) years and I wanted to share with the Council that our Part C office concluded our Differentiated Monitoring and Supports with the Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). This occurred over two (2) weeks during November, and our office wanted to thank everyone who participated in that federal monitoring. It was quite rigorous and we appreciated all of the voices that came to the table.

Some of the takeaways from that monitoring included areas of strength, areas that we are doing well and would like to continue performing well in, such as the monitoring processes that we have adopted since the previous federal monitoring six (6) years ago, and areas of improvement that we will look to continue honing in some of our procedures. We were encouraged by OSEP to continue mirroring our program after the Part B/619 program.

The Part B office provides services for children ages three (3) to 21 in the school district. I wanted to share with everyone and offer our gratitude to the Part B office in the Office of Inclusion with the Department of Education. They have been a huge support for our team, helping us with our MOU and our transition practices, as well as our dispute resolution. We look forward to continued work with them to evolve in those areas. We also appreciate that the model that we have for our Part C office is reflecting as a mirrored model with the Part B office. So, the Part B/619 program is within the Office of Inclusion in the Department of Ed. They monitor and provide general supervision to school districts and schools within those school districts, very similar to how our lead agency, the IDEA Part C office, is housed within the Directors Office, monitoring and providing general supervision for the Early Intervention System, or 11 Early Intervention, state, and community partner programs. We wanted to emphasize how we feel that we are fulfilling that vision. Thank you for letting me share out about our DMS process.

We also wanted to thank Robin Kincaid and Nevada PEP for their participation. It's our understanding that you all performed a parent panel to gather family feedback and perspectives on the system. As well, many thanks to our Director's Office fiscal team and the Aging and Disability Services Division leadership that were also part of the DMS process. If anyone has any questions about the DMS process, please let us know. We look forward to sharing out the final report from OSEP, which is expected at the end of March or early April 2024.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated, Crystal, I see your question and I think I can address it now. Crystal's asking if her membership expires, does it roll over until reappointment occurs? It is my understanding that it does not roll over, that you need to be reappointment, but that may just be the practice that other councils use.

I know on the ECAC for example, which is the Early Childhood Advisory Council, if you're in reappointment, if you are not appointed, then you're not. You're not technically a member, and you are not counted towards quorum.

You can come to meetings as a public member until your reappointment goes through. Mary, can we verify that information? Mary Garrison answered, yes. I'm looking at my membership list again and this needs to be cleaned up a bit so I can send it out to you all, but it looks like Crystal, your appointment

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expires on February 29th, 2024, so I would suggest if you were going to renew, submit your request now if you can. Again, I'll be continuing to follow up.

I agree with Jenna, my understanding is that does not roll over. We are required to resubmit our request for appointment or renewal.

Crystal Johnson responded, I'm just concerned because of our dwindling size of our committee and getting meeting quorum and being able to get membership participation because of the delays with the Governor's office and doing all of that. It's just going to continue to put us in a worse situation, because I know I have been able to come and participate in all meetings, and I know that we're making progress, and I just would hate to see that negatively affect us even more so. Jenna Weglarz-Ward agreed, and I think we're seeing that on other councils and boards across the state as well, which is why I think if nothing happens in the December round of appointments that we will need to make a very strong case as to why this needs to happen and the consequences if we don't have a full council.

Crystal Johnson stated, I had mentioned this, I think a little bit in our last meeting. We've had a lot of growth in our Childcare Development Program. We have a lot of new staff, and so I want to internally talk to leadership because there might be somebody that is better served on this council based on what their position is doing versus what I'm doing. I want to make sure that whoever we get to submit is going to be the best person to contribute.

I'll work on that on my end simultaneously.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated, I have one public comment to make too. I'll share this with you all in case you did not notice, but the federal agencies across the Department of Education and Health and Human Services issued an updated inclusion policy statement last week, which was released on Tuesday. I encourage you all to read it and we can discuss in a future agenda if needed. We do have a public comment at the end as well, so I'll open that up.

Now I'm going to turn it over to Lori Ann again for agenda item four (4).

- III. Review and Revision of ICC By-Laws Approved, July 2014 (For Possible Action)**
- a. ICC Strategic Planning: Determine Priorities/Outcomes of the ICC for the Next Five (5) Years (For Possible Action)**
 - b. ICC Equity Subcommittee Priorities/Outcomes and Steps Needed to Complete Outcomes**
 - c. ICC Child Find Subcommittee Priorities/Outcomes and Steps Needed to Complete Outcomes**
 - d. ICC Family Supports and Resource Subcommittee Priorities/Outcomes and Steps Needed to Complete Outcomes**

Co-chair Jenna Weglarz-Ward shared that the work on the bylaws started in October 2023, during the ICC retreat.

- Janice Lee continued to take notes on the changes requested to the by-laws.
- We were updating some language related to children with disabilities and their families and updating legislation, either state or federal, that's changed since 2014.
- Janice Lee requested the council could slowly scroll through the document to discuss each line.
- Robin Kincaid reminded the council that the by-laws have not been updated since 2014.
- Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May asked if using the age limitation of three (3) years old could be hindering the council's ability to fill positions.
- Jenna shared that the topic of increasing the age range of children was discussed in length during the October Retreat.
- The ICC focuses on ages zero (0) to three (3) and had discussed moving their focus to zero (0)

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to five (5).

-Jenna shared that they chose not to change this since the purview of the ICC truly is children under the age of three (3).

-Jenna shared that if the council wanted to make changes to membership, they must go through legislation first and then that would reflect in our bylaws.

-The council reviewed the current by-laws and notated the changes that had been requested based on their knowledge from the October ICC Retreat.

-Crystal Johnson asked if quorum includes vacancies on the council, or the current active membership.

-Jenna stated that it is quorum of appointed members.

-The council would like to look at the laws relating to councils to better understand what is required in their by-laws.

-Notation of all edits, requests, and questions are attached to these minutes.

IV. Discuss Concerns and Suggestions for Presenting Questions Regarding Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 239B.022-239B.026 for the Early Intervention Population (For Possible Action)

Lori Ann Malina Lovell shared an update regarding the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) information requested of Early Intervention families at the time of intake.

-Specific information pertaining to this new requirement is available in the May 2023 meeting minutes.

-Sarah Horsman shared that programs are currently using a standardized script to ask these questions.

-Lori Ann asked if the council would consider approving a letter that could be distributed to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Directors Office, Director Richard Whitley, requesting the requirement be removed for the Early Intervention population, or a script provided by the council be approved.

-Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May reviewed the legislative requirements and shared that there may be a way to correct this requirement, but suggested training of staff asking the questions as the best option for quick change.

-Janice Lee and Robin Kincaid offered to draft a script for staff to use. The script would be reviewed and approved by the council during the January 2024 meeting.

MOTION: Brittany Toth

SECOND: Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May

PASSED: Three (3) Abstentions: Sarah Horsman, Julie Dame, Sandra LaPalm. All other in favor.

V. ICC Strategic Planning: Determine Priorities/Outcomes of the ICC for the Next Five (5) Years (For Possible Action)

a. ICC Equity Subcommittee Priorities/Outcomes and Steps Needed to Complete Outcomes

b. ICC Child Find Subcommittee Priorities/Outcomes and Steps Needed to Complete Outcomes

c. ICC Family Supports and Resource Subcommittee Priorities/Outcomes and Steps Needed to Complete Outcomes

-Co-chair, Jenna Weglarz-Ward, asked for advice from the Part C Office on how the council can move forward with completing the strategic plans for the council and subcommittees.

-Mary Garrison stated that the original plan from the council was that interim meetings would be used to update the by-laws. Mary suggested scheduling a retreat for some time after the April 2024 meeting, where it would be in person so strategic planning can be conducted.

VI. Public Comment:

-Robin Kincaid asked if the council could have an update on the OSEP Differentiated Monitoring and Supports (DMS) Report.

-Lori Ann shared that the report is expected sometime after March 2024.

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.