

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

MEMORANDUM

July 14th, 2021

TO: All Nevada Early Intervention Service Providers and Community Partners
FROM: DHHS, IDEA Part C Office, ADSD Administration, and ADSD Quality Assurance
RE: Early Intervention Services Re-entry Plan, Phase 3 Amendment Effective Upon Issuance

ad RR

The Department of Health and Human Services-Director's Office (DHHS), IDEA Part C Office, Aging and Disabilities Services Division (ADSD), and ADSD Quality Assurance (QA), have established a gradual, phased re-entry plan to resume limited face-to-face early intervention services. On July 1, 2021, Early Intervention Services (EIS) Re-entry Plan Phase 3 was enacted to allow for a gradual return to home visiting using a hybrid approach of home visits to be incorporated with virtual visits. The guidance did not allow for sole delivery of any one method of visits.

While the nation begins to recover from the pandemic and services resume, a national workforce shortage is emerging. Unfortunately, the Early Intervention System in Nevada has not been spared from this challenge and is facing a critical workforce shortage. ADSD, in collaboration with IDEA Part C, received technical assistance from the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) regarding telehealth flexibility to address access to care. The guidance from OSEP states, "In response to your inquiry, 34 C.F.R. 303.344 puts the decisions about the "method" for delivering EIS to infants and toddlers and their families in the hands of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Team."

As a result of this guidance, this memorandum serves as an amendment to the Early Intervention Services Re-entry Plan Phase 3 as follows:

- Guidance will now allow for virtual or home visits as a sole method of delivery as long as determined by the IFSP Team to include the family.
- The method may be different by discipline on the IFSP.
- Flexibility remains to allow for hybrid service delivery following the determination of the IFSP Team to include the family.

Guidance example:

"If an IFSP Team determines that the child's speech therapy services can be appropriately delivered using virtual means, then it would be consistent with the requirements. If the IFSP Team determines that the child and/or family require in-person services, then virtual delivery would not be an appropriate method."

The amended guidance is effective upon issuance of this memorandum.

Sincerely,

Abbie Chalupnik, MA
Clinical Program Planner I

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services Division | Quality Assurance Children's Services
3811 W Charleston Blvd. | Las Vegas, NV 89102
T: (702) 486-9816 | F: (702) 486-7686 | E: achalupnik@adsd.nv.gov

Rique Robb

Deputy Administrator
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services Division | Child Services
3416 Goni Road | Carson City, Nevada 89706
T: (775) 687- 0971 | F: (775) 687-0574 |E: riquerobb@adsd.nv.gov

Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, DrPH

Clinical Program Planner I / Part C Coordinator
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Director's Office / IDEA Part C Office
4220 S. Maryland Pkwy, Bldg A, Suite 121
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Office: (702) 486-3012
Email: lamalinalovell@dhhs.nv.gov

CC:

Richard Whitley, DHHS Director
Candice McDaniel, DHHS Deputy Director
Dena Schmidt, Administrator-ADSD
Shannon Sprout, HPM III
Jennifer Frischmann, Agency Manager- ADSD Quality Assurance