

Nevada Early Intervention Summer Family Newsletter

July– August 2018 Volume 8 No 4

**Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator,
Information & Referral... Happy 4th of July!**

Dear Parents/Families,

An invitation to attend...

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Nevada's **ICC** was set up 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. It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. Selected dates for the next two meetings:

Thursday—July 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (video conference)

Thursday—October 17, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (video conference)

Where: usually via video conference in Carson, Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Always check the meeting agendas for changes—posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

The ICC bylaws and membership can be viewed at

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>

under "Who is on the ICC?", click on
Current Membership.

For information contact: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell



Dan, Eric, and Cheryl

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

IDEA Part C Office

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Project ASSIST

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To receive the newsletter
electronically contact us!

ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

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OPPORTUNITY!!!
Seeking a new ICC Parent
Representative! — last page



— For Families & Professionals —

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY

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

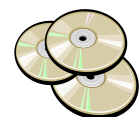
With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, send an email to ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Unexpected Journey: When Special Needs Change Our Course — Sometimes there is no job on earth more demanding, more lonely and more discouraging than the job of raising a special needs child. And until you've walked that journey yourself, you can never fully appreciate the sacrifice that parents are called on to make. This is a book by a husband and wife whose course in life changed with the birth of their first child.

Views from our Shoes: Growing up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs — Brief essays by children and young adults who have a sibling with special needs, ranging from intellectual through a number of rare syndromes. They vary in quality as well as in insights into family relationships. Some children come right out and say that they feel they are treated unfairly and that their siblings can get away with things that they cannot. In most cases, however, the children speak out against those who make fun of or misunderstand the siblings who are different.

Understanding Your Special Needs Grandchild — Grandparents of children with special needs, unlike parents and teachers, don't always have the facts they need to understand their grandchild. This special resource offers grandparents the information they need to realize the valuable role they play in the lives of their grandchild, giving advice on how they can offer support to better their grandchild's self-esteem and quality of life in school, at home, and with others.

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



Welcome!

As of April 16, 2018, **Candice McDaniel** began her new position as the State IDEA Part C (Early Intervention) Coordinator for the Director's Office of the Department of Health and Human Services. Her office is located in Carson City, Nevada. We are all delighted to welcome her to this position.

IDEA Part C (the federal law for 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 fairly 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. Some of a Part C Coordinator's responsibilities are to:

- a) Monitor and revise state early intervention standards as necessary to comply with all federal and local regulations;
- a) Develop and recommend models, standards, policies, and programs that promote best practice and quality services to eligible infants or toddlers and their families; and
- a) Strengthen current leadership and foster new leadership in early intervention programs at the local and state levels.

I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new Part C Coordinator for the State of Nevada.

My professional background is primarily based within the Early Intervention Service System. An internship in 2005 led to ascending through positions within Nevada Early Intervention Services, ending my time as the Program Manager in the Carson City office in April of 2018 and moving over to the Part C Office. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies as well as a Master of Science in Human Services.



Just a few of my goals moving forward include engaging in open and honest communication, enhancing transparent systems process and building constructive and meaningful relationships between the families, stakeholders of the system, all of the providers, the Part C Office of professionals, ASD Administration and the ASD Quality Assurance professionals. As the new Part C Coordinator for the State of Nevada, I look forward to the system of care we will shape together that best serves the needs of the infants, toddlers and families served.

Candice McDaniel, MS

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Early Intervention Program Highlight

Therapy Management Group

<http://tmgnv.com/>

Part of the Solution, Part of the Family

Therapy Management Group (TMG) is a comprehensive healthcare agency that provides early intervention services in Clark and Washoe Counties. In addition to early intervention services, TMG provides outpatient therapy services in Las Vegas. TMG currently has 69 staff members including Special Education Teachers/Developmental Specialists, Pediatric Dietitians, Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Vision Specialist, and Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Therapy Management Group has been providing quality therapy services in Nevada since 2009. Our agency was founded by three pediatric therapists with the mission to provide the best quality services to families in Nevada. TMG has partnered with UNLV Preschool, Gymboree, Head Start, and His Kids Preschool to provide developmental playgroups and social experiences for our early intervention families.



TMG Family Story

"When Ethan was born, everything appeared to be fine, but then little by little, things began to pop up that suggested he might need some extra help. First, we discovered he had a heart murmur (caused by a small hole in his heart, a VSD). Then, his pediatrician noticed that he looked a bit floppy (hypotonic) and suggested we contact Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS). When Ethan began having seizures at 2 months old, we knew something was definitely wrong. After a hospital stay, tons of tests, including an MRI, CT, spinal tap, etc., we finally discovered, through genetic testing, that he is missing a tiny portion of his first chromosome. He was diagnosed with 1P36 Deletion Syndrome. 1P36 Deletion Syndrome is a rare disorder; no one was able to give us very much information on what to expect. Any information I was able to find online painted a grim picture.

We were unsure whether our little boy would ever be able to sit-up, crawl, walk, talk; feed himself, milestones that are often taken for granted. My greatest fear was that he would not even recognize us, his own parents. I was determined to access whatever services were available to help my baby. I called the NEIS number printed on a pamphlet provided by Ethan's pediatrician. Soon after, Therapy Management Group (TMG) visited our home to evaluate Ethan, and the services began. Ethan was about 3 months old when we started with physical therapy to get him moving (he couldn't hold his head up very well) and vision therapy (he wasn't tracking and it was unclear how much he could see). As he grew, we added speech therapy and occupational therapy. Throughout the process, Ethan has had a team of professionals looking out for him, assessing him, tracking his progress, and, most importantly, teaching us, his family, how to work with him.

As a parent we often ask ourselves, "Am I doing enough to help my child develop?" As a parent of a child with special needs, it feels like that question has even more weight and is constantly present. Knowing that we are working with our early intervention team, and that we were able to get Ethan into early intervention so early on, I am confident that we are doing everything we can to help Ethan thrive. We are active in our child's treatment, and we have a group of professionals available for guidance and support. We are not alone. We are not powerless.

Today, Ethan is almost two. He is a happy, sweet toddler, who loves cars, animals, and playing outside. He's close to walking independently, is beginning to use sign language to communicate, and continues to learn, grow, and have fun. Time will tell to what extent the syndrome will affect him; for now, we take each day as it comes, setting the best foundation with the help of early intervention services and celebrating each new milestone, at Ethan's own pace. Early Intervention has been amazing for Ethan and our family, and I would advise other parents to access services as early as possible." ~ Ethan's Mom

EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

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

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easterseals Nevada—Reno:**

- **Please join us at our next *Discover Your Way***—The Discover Your Way program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children on the Autism Spectrum and with sensory and/or perception disorders. Admission is free for members, and remains the same for each Discover Your Way event at \$10 per child (1-17) or senior (65+), and \$12 per adult (18+).

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

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

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **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 Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the “odd” months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: 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.
- **Literacy Land**—FREE! Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Also, look for our collection bins around town! For further information, please call the Continuum’s Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email at info@continuumreno.com. Visit us at continuumreno.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easterseals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

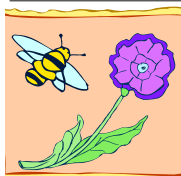
- **Yoga & Literacy Group** at Family to Family Connection, Cambridge Community Center: This biweekly class combines exercise and early literacy for young children. Interested families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson**—Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)**—NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

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

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, starts at 6:30pm, at East Las Vegas Community Center located at 250 N. Eastern Ave.
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com

The Early Intervention 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. (Subject to review & editing.)



Nevada’s Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a “Links” page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

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



Parents, want to make a difference in Nevada's early intervention system?!



We are looking for a parent to represent Southern Nevada on the Nevada Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council. We are looking for a parent who has experience with our State's early intervention services.

What is the ICC?

The purpose of the ICC is to advise and assist Nevada and the Early Intervention system in developing, implementing, and promoting a program of family-centered early intervention services for all eligible infants, toddlers and their families. The Governor appoints all parent members of the ICC for a three year term.

Why is it important for parents like me to serve?

You know what it feels like to have a child with a disability. You know what it feels like to have early intervention professionals in your home, working with you and your child. You probably have opinions about what worked well and what could have worked better. Your perspective is very important and. As the ICC works with the State to make program changes, family input is an integral part of the process.

What would I be asked to do?

- ☐ Attend the 4 general meetings of the Interagency Coordinating Council, each year.
- ☐ Respond to email communications regarding the ICC
- ☐ *Contribute information and your unique perspective regarding issues that impact Nevada early intervention programs*

Would I be reimbursed for attending?

All parent members may receive a child care stipend for attending each of the 4 ICC meetings, as well as compensation and/or reimbursement of expenses for other meetings.

Am I eligible to apply?

You must be a parent/guardian of a child who has received early intervention services, now or in the recent past, with preference to parents of children currently in Early Intervention services.

If you are interested, contact Nevada's IDEA Part C office.

Email ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call **1-800-522-0066**

