



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 28, 2025, 1:00 pm

Meeting Location:

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams

For a copy of the meeting recording please email projectassist@dhhs.nv.gov

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, ICC Members Introduction, and Announcements:

Jenna Weglarz-Ward welcomed all on the call. A quorum of members was present, and the meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm. ICC members that were present shared a brief biography.

Members Present: Julie Dame, Amy Hendrickson, Cate Guzy, Sarah Horsman, Dana Aronson, Robin Kincaid, Monica Schiffer, Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Anita Kelly, Savannah Celestino, Catherine Nielsen, Rique Robb

Members Absent: Brooke Yarborough, Janice Lee, Assemblywoman Tracy Brown-May, David Cassetty

Public Attendees: Crystal Duarte, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.; Nathan Orme, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Jessica Roew, Aging and Disability Services (ADSD); Lindsey Wood-Lopez, ADSD; Molly Ware, Hogrefe Publishing Corp.; Marnie Lancz, Therapy Management Group (TMG); Sheila Garner, ADSD; Monet Watson, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.; Fatima Taylor, ADSD; Julie Fisher, ADSD; Christa Allan, TMG; George Hernandez, ADSD, Jennifer Loiacano, TMG; Danielle Race, ADSD; Randi Humes, ADSD; Christie Bringman, ADSD; Amy Kowalski, Theraplay

Part C Office Attendees: Elizabeth Newman, Mary Garrison, Jalin McSwyne, Maya Raimondi, Melissa Slayden, Horidaleth Castro Vazquez, Jennifer Kellogg, Ryan Perkins, Iandia Morgan, Pamela Silva

2. Public Comment:

Molly Ware, Hogrefe Publishing Corp., addressed the council and shared about the Early Sociocognitive Battery (ESB), a new assessment for preschool children. The assessment is used with young children ages 18 months to 5 (five) years and measures social communication skills and foundational skills that children exhibit from a very early age in order to communicate and socialize with others. When social communication skills are not developed as expected, children may end up having language delays. There is also evidence these children may be diagnosed with autism or other social communications disorders. The ESB provides an opportunity to more accurately identify those children who are at risk and therefore allows for more targeted intervention to happen sooner. It is a direct assessment, and it only takes 15 minutes to administer. During development, we worked really hard to match the US 2020 Census, representing children from regions around the country for race and ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our sample also included multilingual children, and our analysis found that there were no significant differences in performance on the ESB between children who spoke only English and those that were multilingual. During the assessment, the child is not required to speak, so the assessment tool can be really helpful if language is a barrier. Another great feature is that the kit comes in a suitcase with all the manipulatives organized into colored bags. You use play based but structured prompts to

measure the social foundation. Administration is easy, but to streamline the training process, we do have a free e-learning component that comes with a kit for people to learn how to use the assessment. It is a level B tool, which means that anyone with a bachelor's degree, who has experience or training in standardized assessments, would be qualified to use it. There is information on the record forms to help you understand if the child is at risk for social communication difficulties. We know from current research that early intervention leads to better outcomes, and accurately identifying the children who are most at risk hasn't always been straightforward. We have found that the ESB has strong predictive validity, with 89% of the children who score in the low range later being identified as having autism or significant social-communication difficulties. This really helps to reiterate the role that the ESB can play in being a quick and standardized method for more accurate identification of young children who are at risk for social communication difficulties. I really appreciate you letting me take a couple minutes to tell you about the assessment tool and I want you to know that I am available for any questions, to share any additional resources, or to come back to provide some more in-depth information.

No other comments were received.

3. For Possible Action: Review and possible approval of minutes from the meetings held on January 27, 2025, and March 6, 2025

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, asked members to review the provided minutes, provide any edits, and invited a member to make a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2025, and March 6, 2025. Catherine Nielsen asked that her last name be corrected in the minutes.

MOTION: Catherine Nielsen motioned to approve the January 27, 2025, and March 6, 2025, minutes with correction noted.

SECOND: Julie Dame

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

4. For Information Only: ICC member and ICC subcommittee updates

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, provided the council informational updates regarding the below topics:

a. Council member recruitment flyer

- Created flyers a while ago
- The council still has provider and family member seats open
- Part C office created the flyer to review and send out to families
- Explains what the council is and how to get involved
- Flyer was presented and approved many meetings ago

Robin Kincaid stated that people get hesitant to do this because they don't know whether or not they're going to get enough information to be able to participate. Wonders if there should be some kind of sentence embedded in the flyer stating that there is orientation or additional information that will be provided, to possibly give people some more reassurance.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, stated that she agrees and wonders where that could be included.

Mary Garrison stated I have been working on the ICC orientation and knows there are people on the council currently who have not been through the orientation. The information on the current orientation is outdated, unfortunately. IDEA Part C also has some other things coming down the pipeline that will be shared with the council through the strategic planning process related to training.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, thanked Mary for her comment and stated that maybe a sentence should be added on the flyer stating that members of the council will be supported in understanding their role. Also stated that if anyone on the council knows anyone, to encourage them to apply or attend a meeting and can also

recommend they reach out to Mary Garrison or myself just to meet and understand what the ICC is, what the role of an ICC member is, etc.

b. ICC Subcommittee Interest Survey

- Created a summary document of what the ICC subcommittees are and what their focus is
- Were able to meet with subcommittee chairs since last meeting, but will be meeting with chairs between now and next meeting
- Have been discussing in a smaller group what the subcommittees need to know and have support to be successful and will discuss that when meeting with the chairs
- Need clear direction in goals in what they're doing and have the support they need to achieve those goals
- Do they need a guidance document, manual, orientation for new members
- For By-laws subcommittee, discuss if there should have any procedure or policies about serving on committees, is it required to serve on a committee and how many committees members should be serving on subcommittees
- If you are a chair or co-chair on a subcommittee, will be hearing from Mary or Jenna within the next few days to schedule a time for everyone to meet together. If can't meet all together, will also meet individually
- Subcommittees are open to public, and it is important to have members that are outside of the council members. Working a way to recruit members to do that while maintaining manageable subcommittees to avoid having issues with meeting quorum in meetings

c. Scheduling updates for ICC subcommittees

- Hope is by June that the subcommittees will at least have a meeting date scheduled and or have met by the June meeting
- Mary and Jenna will reach out to the subcommittee chairs within the next few days
- If interested in joining a subcommittee, reach out to Mary to add you to the subcommittee and the chair for that subcommittee will reach out to you with information regarding when they will meet

Monica Schiffer asked for clarification regarding being encouraged to look for people outside of the council to participate in these subcommittees.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, confirmed stating that yes, stakeholders not on the council can participate in the subcommittees.

5. For Possible Action: 2025 Strategic Planning Update Presentation

Crystal Duarte, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. Representative presented information and updates for the Strategic Planning to the council.

- a. Review timeline and possible approval of dates and plan for in-person strategic plan retreat.**
- Fall 2024 started to engage in the Strategic Planning process for the ICC specifically
 - The Part C Office hired an outside consulting company to support the council in this work

Crystal Duarte introduced herself and provided an overview of the 2025 Strategic Planning to the council from minute [00:33:50] to [00:45:46].

Crystal Duarte asked to receive feedback and questions on key things and data collection methods.

Rique Robb stated she would like to better understand how other ICC's are structured and what their role looks like within their states. Her understanding is that the ICC should be more separate, and it would be guiding the system as a whole, just want to have a good understanding of what the mission and the goals are.

Crystal Duarte responded stating she thinks those questions are in there, but she does think Nevada is very unique from what she has learned. She will probe more when meeting with folks about that structure and line of demarcation. It sounds like some of the ICC's are more expansive, they include more bodies within themselves.

Rique Robb stated she wants to understand why we're unique. I don't understand why Nevada has chosen to be the outlier. Do we stay unique, or should we be shifting to that best practice?

Cate Guzy stated that sometimes Part B gets lost in the shuffle but thinks that is an important piece that the council needs to incorporate. In the work that I do, where we find that Nevada is very different is that Part C and Part B often tend to be in Health and Human Services as one unit whereas in Nevada, Part C is in Health and Human Services and Part B is in the Department of Education. I do think there are some things that we have to work on as a unit to make sure that we are meeting our statutory requirements especially for our kiddos that are transitioning out of Early Intervention Services and into Part B services. How do we make that more systemic and systematic throughout the state.

Robin Kincaid stated over the year there have been a lot of internal and external audits and studies done, which have been put on the shelf. How do other states pull out those key pieces of information and look at it. I think it's important that those studies and information not just go nowhere. How can we do a better job at incorporating some real change so that we find that kids are making significant progress. I would like to find out why parents are leaving the Early Intervention System. Why does early intervention not feel individualized to them?

Crystal Duarte moved on to the next set of questions and continued sharing details and information regarding next steps from minute [00:51:36] to [00:54:35]. Also discussed the timing for strategic planning stating they are prepared to do a retreat anywhere between August and October.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, thanked Crystal Duarte for her presentation and shared that if anyone has thoughts about any of these things in between meetings, feel free to email Jenna whatever that thought is and she can pass it on to Crystal and her team. The plan is that they will be helping us synthesize and collect data, understand examples from our own state and other states, and when we get together, we actually will be creating a strategic plan that will help our ICC structure its work for the years moving forward. If there are any other questions or thoughts, you're welcome to share them at this time.

Rique Robb shared that the council had a brief conversation about the thoughts of Nevada going from birth to five and collaborating with the Part B and the 619 Coordinator to see what that might look like. Would like to ask if there is a way as they're collecting this data and having the conversations with the ICC's and finding out what states do have birth to five. I know there was an initiative with some ARPA funding about a year ago and wondering who took advantage of that and what does that look like for those states.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, thanked Rique for her comment and stated that another thing the council has asked Crystal's team when they're talking to other states is to look at local ICC structure. Some states, in addition to their statewide ICC, have local ICC's. As an example, or option to see what that looks like, what the purpose is, how do those function. Asked if there were any other thoughts on information that the council thinks that we need at this time. Also stated the council does plan on having an in-person retreat to do the strategic planning in September. From the council, when do we need to determine that date? I do not want to be too early to pick the date but also not too late to pick those dates. Would our next meeting be appropriate to make those decisions?

Rique Robb stated June, the sooner the better.

Cate Guzy agreed with Rique Robb, sooner rather than later. Part B is doing an Early Childhood inclusion summit September 4 and 5 that we will be letting folks know about including our Part C agencies. We would like them to be a part of it as well, so we have those dates. Therefore, I know the sooner we know things like that the better. It just gets busy fast at the beginning of the school year.

6. For Possible Action: Review and possible action to incorporate Part I conclusions and recommendations from Early Intervention System Evaluation conducted by Health Management Associates

Jenna Weglarz-Ward shared information for discussion to incorporate Part I Conclusions and Recommendations from Early Intervention System Evaluation conducted by Health Management Associates from minute [01:00:10] to [01:00:10] to [01:04:42], the discussion focused on:

- Overview of Statewide Systems Report
- Focus on recommendations from first part of report

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, opened discussion regarding what the councils' reflections were, thoughts that resonated with them.

Robin Kincaid shared her thoughts regarding Part One (1) where it talks about the NEIS system structure and the rules and responsibilities, the council could ask if there is something in the works to do that and have the report to support the idea. The other area where it talks about how the costs are divided, would like to see how Part C is doing with billing Medicaid as that has always been a difficult thing to do and how to make improvements or strides in that area which is not included in this report.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, provided a brief summary of Robin Kincaid's statement and asked if it was a good capture.

Robin Kincaid made a few clarifications to the summary stating the true questions would be, have we been able to increase overall billing capability? Suggested the council revisits the reimbursement program as a source of funding.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, asked that if anyone from the Part C Office has any updates regarding any discussion made to please share with the council or if they would like to add it to the agenda as an agenda item for discussion.

Elizabeth Newman, Part C Coordinator, provided an update to the council stating that the Part C Office will be moving out of the Department of Health and Human Services Director's Office and into the Aging and Disability Services Division and the Part C Office will be making that move come next fiscal year.

Sarah Horsman added to Elizabeth Newman's statement stating, in addition to the move for the Part C Office to ADSD, there's a lot of collaboration with defining roles and responsibilities. On the billing side it is important to see that data and wonder if the council could make a formal request and maybe present to the council next meeting what has happened.

Rique Robb added that Governor's recommended budget really put the ownness on billing for all providers, state, as well as community. Their budget hearing closing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 8 am. They're looking at a base budget and then would hold the providers accountable with how they're billing and what that would look like.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, asked the council what information they would like to know regularly, how the council provides that advise and assist role to the different offices that are making some of these decisions, and what items does the council want to bring back to the ICC. Jenna asked if there has been any discussion on using the recommendation of a sliding scale family fee.

Sarah Horsman responded stating yes, during the budget hearings that has been discussed. They have been asked the question of a sliding fee or lifting the consent to bill option. Rique and Sarah met with the Part C Coordinator of Kentucky regarding a different matter but had a chat with her about how they have been using that. They call it a "Family Participation Fee". They have been using that as a mechanism for participation and they've seen that it increases funding and engagement. If a family does not give consent to use insurance, then they may be charged a participation fee. It is income based.

Discussion regarding what other items the council would like to discuss continued from [01:16:06] to [01:35:40].

The council took a 5-minute break from [01:35:41] to [01:41:20], rollcall was done, and a quorum of members was present.

7. For Information Only: Presentation on special education, related services, and transitions of children from Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) to the Office of Inclusive Education under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B.

Cate Guzy gave a presentation on special education, related services, and transitions of children from Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) to the Office of Inclusive Education under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B from minute [01:41:30] to [01:59:20], the discussion focused on:

- Overview of what Part B is
- Overview of eligibility categories for Part B
- Funding and monitoring from OSEP
- Overview of differences between Part C and Part B
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) vs. Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Part C transition requirements to Part B

Monica Schiffer asked if there is funding at the LEA level? Are they using their state funds? Due to the current way the policy is written, they cannot bill for those evaluations being done on the almost three-year-old children. Is there funding through the Part C Office for them to do that or what does that look like?

Cate Guzy responded stating Part B is allocated money, there's a formula. We're currently waiting for allocations. The Part B allocations do cover part of that funding because we are required to have a child assessed and found eligible before their third birthday. However, sometimes our assessment results don't link up, and that's one of the areas that we're working on. Part B does provide for that funding.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, asked Elizabeth Newman and Cate Guzy what would be helpful from the ICC to support transitions on the professional side and the family side? Are there other ways that the ICC can support facilitating discussions or learning from people to help you make transitions the best they can be because that is one of the councils' goals. How do you see the ICC helping in this transition component?

Cate Guzy responded stating the biggest piece for Part B is the educational piece, the work they are required to do has always gotten done but the ability to look at programs and how to improve those programs so that we can improve the outcomes for those students hasn't been as strong as it's needed to be. I am not going anywhere. I am still doing 619 Coordinator work because it is my passion. Educating all parties involved,

understanding what is required of Part C and Part B is imperative. Part B is trying to figure that out. We may need to reach out to you Jenna as we try and figure that out.

Elizabeth Newman agreed with Cate Guzy's statement.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, stated she also wants to consider the regulatory components of the process and if that has to be done by a certain date. Then there's the other side of those family centered practices that are used during transition.

Robin Kincaid thanked Cate Guzy and Becky for being present and trying to be part of the solutions the council is looking for going forward. Families are still reporting of delays and waiting lists. Will the current collaborations help them address those issues in a timelier manner. The council has still not been able to help the districts get a process going to where the families are not being told that there's a delay or a waiting list because it really sets a bad relationship with the families with the districts.

Cate Guzy responded stating she absolutely understands and that's one of the biggest pieces for her. What they're finding is they don't have continuity in how their transitions occur throughout the state and that makes it difficult. Would like to see how they can improve those and breakdown some of those barriers.

Robin Kincaid thanked Cate Guzy for her response and asked if the ICC is ever going to be able to make any movement in accepting all the data and evaluations information that is collected in Early Intervention and getting the school district to embrace it, to accept it, and value it? How can we convince districts that this is a large part of their evaluation, if they would only look at it.

Cate Guzy responded stating that's where professional development and education comes in and that's something they have been looking at and how they can improve the professional development to the districts.

8. For Information Only: Discussion and updates for Aging and Disability Services Division

Sarah Horsman introduced Fatima Taylor and Sheila Garner who provided updates to the council.

a. Budget account 3208 updates

- NEIS budget will be heard by the Legislature on April 30, 2025
- Will be an impact on state programs. Will have some reduction in state positions, for example AA positions and some other positions. With the projected case load growth ADSD may get additional positions for psychological developmental counselors
- Legislature currently has four options regarding the transition to the new funding model for the community providers, each option except for the first one includes a transition with a phased in approach to moving to the fee for service model

b. Legislative updates

- Still following about 10 bills pretty actively, interesting array of bills this session
- A lot of them have to do with resources our families could potentially use
- Upcoming changes with sister agency Autism Treatment and Prevention (ATAP)
- Possible expansion of practitioners who may be able to assist with diagnosis of children who may be on the spectrum
- Development of a Post Natal Visitation Program is also still out there. Not a direct support to infants but is direct support to their mothers

c. Streamlining autism procedures statewide across programs

- Lost our psychologist 10 months ago. Have been recruiting but have not had success

- Reached out to Desert Regional Center. Their lead psychologist came and met with us and observed an Autism Diagnosis Observation Schedule (ADOS) that was done both in person and through telehealth. Looking into exploring some co-sharing of positions
 - Had some APRN interviews both today and on Wednesday
 - Northern counterparts have offered both their pediatrician and their psychologist
 - Looking at how a child who failed an MCHAT moved through the process and making it uniform across all of the state
 - Working on job aids to ensure that everything moves along smoothly
- d. System-wide Autism Diagnosis Observation Schedule (ADOS) and feeding trainings
- Part C had some additional funding for ADSD that the EI system was able to expand some training opportunities to enhance their service deliveries
 - Helpful assessment and diagnostic and identifying those children with autism as soon as possible with that birth to three range
 - Feeding fundamental series, offered to Occupational therapists and speech and language pathologist that specialize in feeding therapy
 - Sending staff to the Hannon program training which focuses on communication development. Developmental Specialist and Speech and Language Pathologist will be able to attend those
- e. Recruitment efforts to address high caseloads and service delays across disciplines
- *Have statewide recruitment effort under way across multiple disciplines*
 - *Recruiting for Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI), Orientation and Mobility Specialist (OMS), Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), Physical Therapist (PT), along with our state position vacancies*
 - *Vacancy rate is right now but do still have some delay in services*
 - *Recruiting for Psychologist and manager position*
 - *State and contract positions are being advertised through ADSD's social media platform to increase our outreach*
- f. Early Intervention Program Quarterly Highlights
- Elko celebrated 6 staff completed DS training
 - Carson City relaunched the pyramid practitioner coaching and participated in awareness outreach
 - NEIS Reno focused on Part C monitoring, hiring for vacant positions, and community outreach
 - APT emphasized their preparations for NEIDS, legislative advocacy, and expanded hearing screenings
 - Capability Health returned full referral rotation and near completion for facility renovations
 - NEIS South participated in local community events and focused on DEC conference learning and Child Find efforts
 - TMG planned a spring picnic and strengthened training on NEIDS and IFSPs
 - Theraplay Solution launched inclusive playgroups with GiGi's playhouse and engaged in legislative advocacy
 - MDDA did not report specific updates for this quarter

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, thanked Sheila Garner for her presentation of information and asked if at a later date someone could come back to the ICC to talk more about that Autism tracking system.

Sarah Horsman thanked Sheila Garner and Fatima Taylor and added that a lot of the streamlining has come from responses they've gotten from the commission of autism spectrum disorders. They realized there's differences

region wide from Reno, Rural, and the South so they're really trying to bring it together, so the state program has a collective definition of what is a waitlist, making sure processes are going similarly, and focusing on making sure children are getting their earliest access to autism treatment.

Catherine Nielsen commented stating she is interested in having them come back to talk more about the autism portion of that and to learn more about the ADOS system and what it is they are utilizing to track.

Mary Garrison shared that ADSD has provided information on the telehealth report that was previously requested, won't be discussed today, but is there for your information as additional data.

9. For Possible Action: Approval of ICC Budget for State Fiscal Year 2026

Elizabeth Newman, Part C Coordinator, discussed and shared information regarding the ICC Budget for State Fiscal Year 2026.

- Want to start presenting this at each of the council's meetings
- More transparency regarding what the council's funding is looking like moving forward
- Part C comment period just closed, but still waiting for next year's budget to be released from OSEP
- Sooner we can start making those decisions the better

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, stated the council can work on a timeline to when we need to make decisions moving forward as well. The funding for the ICC strategic plan consultants is coming from a separate budget just as a reminder when looking at this budget.

10. For Discussion Only: IDEA Part C Updates

Members from the IDEA Part C Office provided information updates regarding the following topics:

- a. Complaint Investigation Log
 - Do have some complaints that were reported in the past that are currently going through their corrective action plan, as we get closer to their due dates, we will provide an update at that time
 - Only new complaint we have to share regarding compensatory visits owed to a family for speech therapy and special instruction, currently receiving compensatory services through a different program, due date for corrective action is 10/17/2025
- b. Service Report (Yellow Bar)
 - Looking to reformat the yellow bar, for readability and accessibility
 - This is just one quarter not the three quarters from this year, for 45-day timelines
 - Staff are using the system for exceptions, and seeing that in the notes has been good to see
 - More data for the council in the future, wanted to see how the council likes this formatting

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, clarified to the council that the question asked is if this new format is better seeing it quarterly or try something different next quarter versus the longer reports.

Robin Kincaid stated she was looking for a way to get some of those pieces that were in the yellow bar report. She believes this is one part of it but not getting the same information as before, is this it, is this the extent of it?

Melissa L. Slayden responded stating it is for this time; this is just the 45 days. They have been doing just 45-day transitions, what you are seeing on the yellow bar is more of a North South versus East West here. You're seeing quarter 1, 2, 3, and 4 next to each other and then a deduplication for the entire year and it breaks out those percentages in their own series of tables and so this is basically one column of five different tables that are taken and put together.

- The others were exits at third and referrals
- There are other data points that are reportable within the system now
- Just to make sure that the formatting works, the yellow bar in its traditional format takes several hours to make accessible every quarter and typically gets rejected from our system quickly if it's not complete
- Had concerns regarding exits, specifically children who passed during a quarter. Can't isolate their sex and race/ethnicity, so you'd be able to see what program they received services from
- Looking over the year of data expectations on the ICC calendar, I wasn't sure if you wanted the whole thing all at once or if you wanted one piece at a time throughout the year
- Referral source is now available

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, thanked Melissa and stated the council will continue to explore. Stated she will talk with Mary and Melissa regarding what information to report on separately.

c. Office of Special Education Updates

- There are no updates, special education team remains the same

11. Public Comment:

No public comment was made.

12. Adjournment

Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ICC Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:56 pm and reminded the council that for the next ICC meeting they will offer the council to come in-person to locations around the state and will do a hybrid meeting.