WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

Early Intervention Council

Wyoming Department of Health
Commit to your health.

VOLUME I, ISSUE III JANUARY 2013

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Early Intervention Council (EIC)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) requires that each state maintain an Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for the purpose of advising and assisting the State Lead Agency. In Wyoming, the Lead Agency is the Department of Health; the program is administered by the Behavioral Health Division's Early Intervention and Education Program (EIEP).

EIC Mission:

Our mission is to provide direction and support to ensure exemplary coordinated community based early intervention services for children ages birth through five, who are identified as having developmental delays and/or disabilities and their families.

Regional Highlight January 2013

STRIDE Learning Center

STRIDE Learning Center is the Child Development Center, Region 12, throughout Laramie County. Currently we serve over 700 families, 310 of which are under the age of three. STRIDE serves the F.E. Warren AFB families. STRIDE works closely with the Colorado Part C NICU referral system meeting many of our families before they bring their child home from the hospitals in Denver. STRIDE collaborates with our local Early Head Start and Head Start providing IEP services in their preschool classrooms. STRIDE has a partnership agreement with Peak Wellness, Specialty Counseling and LCCC PTA program. STRIDE has three buildings, two in Cheyenne, and one in Burns, four buses, and nearly 100 employees. STRIDE is NAEYC accredited and uses Creative Curriculum in order to fulfill the DEC recommend best practices for early intervention. STRIDE serves children through embedded therapy and with a multidiscipline approach including families in every aspect of the child's program. Tricia Whynott serves as the Executive Director while Katie Fraley serves as the Assistant Director. STRIDE can be reached at 307-632-2991.

STRIDE Learning Center located in Cheyenne, Wyoming

Early Intervention Council Happenings

Many new members have joined the Council—Welcome!

Vice Chair, **Bob Tranas**, will take over as Chair beginning July 2013.

Congratulations to **Christine Bullinger** who was elected New Vice Chair at the April 2013 meeting to begin July 2013.

Many thanks to Jana Reade for her service from 2011—2013, first as Vice Chair and then as Chair. She is a true advocate of the program and was the first parent to hold office on the council.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Conference—Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Leadership Conference is coming up at the end of July 2013 in Washington, DC. New Chair, Bob Tranas , will be attending as a representative of the Council.

Annual Performance Report Cards for parts C and B will be available in June 2013 on the Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division, Early Intervention and Education Unit website (see link below).

Part C SPP (State Performance Plan) is due to be updated. Guidance from OSEP is forthcoming. SPP evaluates the State's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part C and describes how the State will improve such implementation.

A *Joint Education Committee* and *Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee* meeting is planned in Casper for June 4th and 5th. This meeting is for members of the Department of Health, Department of Family Services, Department of Education, and the Department of Workforce Services, and from other advocacy groups and providers, on early childhood education programs and possible mechanisms to streamline, consolidate and improve state efforts. EIC Member, Becca Walk, plus Senior Administrators from the Behavioral Health Division will be attending on behalf of the Department of Health.

Upcoming Meetings: Dates and Region Locations

FY 2012-2013 EIC Meetings

July 11-12, 2013: Rawlins

"The Early Intervention Council conducts its business through quarterly meetings. These meetings are held in a different region each time throughout the State."

Early Intervention Council Members

Robert Tranas - Chair 2013-2014 **Christine Bullinger** - Vice Chair 2013-2014
Shelly Andrews, Julian Balow, Kimberly Bock, James Bush, MD., Kristie Collins, Diana Currah, Ph.D., D'Anna Feurt, Alisha Rafael Hernandez, Sue Jezek, Mary Kugler, Linda McElwain, Sarah Nicholas, Shawna Pena, Kathy Smith, Rebecca Walk, Lisa Weigel, Laurie Westlake, Ph.D., Patricia Whynott

Important Links

Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division, Early Intervention and Education Unit: http://www.health.wyo.gov/ddd/earlychildhood/index.html

IDEA Infant and Toddler: http://www.ideainfanttoddler.org/

Wyoming Early Hearing Detection & Intervention: http://www.wyomingehdi.org/

Parent Information Center of Wyoming: http://www.wpic.org/

Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center: http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/f2f/

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