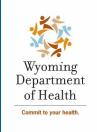
WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH DIVISION

Early Intervention Council







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Early Intervention Council (EIC)

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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 October 2012

The Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association, located in Evanston, Wyoming



The EIC had a chance to tour the center in Evanston, led by Shauna Lockwood, the Director. The preschool in Evanston is made up of a Head Start, developmental preschool, as well as a TANF preschool; and have scholarships available to make sure all children get the help they need. To better accommodate the students and parents, they run two morning and two afternoon classes. The staff operates all of these preschools at the same time. Children with developmental needs are fully-integrated into the preschool program. It was amazing to see how hard the staff work to run a truly high- quality preschool. They also work hard in making the community aware of the services they offer by utilizing Facebook as well as a blog under the Lincoln Uinta Child Development Association. The challenges they face in this corner of the state are somewhat unique but the staff do a great job meeting those challenges; they have every reason to be proud of what they have accomplished. Those with any questions on children from birth through age five developmental programs in the area of Lincoln and Uinta Counties should contact the Association's main office at 307-789-7384. Their caring and courteous staff are anxious to help.



A Parent's Point-of-View on the Office of Special Education Programs Annual Leadership Conference 2012

By: Jana Reade, EIC Chair 2012-2013

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Christine DeMers, Wyoming Part C Coordinator and Jana Reade, EIC Chair with John Barrasso, United States Senator at the 2012 OSEP Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

> Jana Reade, EIC Chair, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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

Contact Us!
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Cheyenne, 82002
I-877-WYO-GROW (896-4769)
I-800-510-0280

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I had a chance to go to the OSEP Conference in Washington D.C. in August. It was interesting to learn how other states deal with early

intervention. Most states are dealing with huge budget cuts and trying to find financial resources for their programs. The one thing that really saddened me was how the Part C and Part B programs tended to fight and argue over early intervention. Unlike the state of Wyoming, where both programs are housed under the Department of Health, other states dealt with the two programs being housed in different areas. This caused them to squabble over funding, with the end result being some difficulty for the families they endeavor to serve when they face the transition from part C to part B. It seemed to me that in all the bickering the importance of helping these children, as well as the families, got overlooked. I think the most important thing to remember is that these children leave these programs but their families will be dealing with the child's issues for the rest of their lives. Through early intervention, you are not just helping the kid but also their families. These programs help train these parents to advocate for their children. I am proud that in Wyoming there really isn't an issue with transitioning from part C to part B. We are a small state so the staff in most areas work with each other and sometimes play the dual role of being in both the part C and part B program. I would like to believe that Wyoming, partially because of its small population, remembers the importance of families in this whole process. I

was proud of the opportunity to represent the State of Wyoming and proud of the wonderful people that work hard to make Wyoming's Part C and Part B programs work so well. Wyoming truly is one small town with very long streets; our small size gives us a sense of camaraderie and family that seemed to be absent from the other states who were represented at the conference. I was proud to represent a state with more focus on what truly matters: the families we serve.



Upcoming Meetings: Dates and Region Locations

FY 2012-2013 EIC Meetings

April 11-12, 2013: Laramie | July 11-12, 2013: Rawlins

Early Intervention Council Members

Jana Reade - Chair 2012-2013

Robert Tranas - Vice Chair 2012-2013

Shelly Andrews, Julian Balow, Joe Barbuto, Kimberly Bock, Christine Bullinger, James Bush, MD., Kristie Collins, Diana Currah, Ph.D., D'Anna Feurt, Alisha Rafael Hernandez, Laurene Hines, 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, Early Intervention and Education Program: http://www.health.wyo.gov/ddd/earlychildhood/index.html

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

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