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**Nevada Early Intervention Services**

**Aging and Disability Services Division**

**Presented by NEIS**



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



# Learning Objectives

- Discover what NEIS does, who we serve, and how we provide those services in the natural environment
- The process for referral and testing of Autism
- What a transition out of NEIS looks like for families in Nevada





# Early Intervention Services- Part C of IDEA

## How people learn about services?

- Early intervention was established in 1986 as Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
  - Federal grant program that assists each state in providing comprehensive services for infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays
    - Children between 0 and 3 years
    - Part B of IDEA is for children over the age of 3
- States are mandated to provide services to all eligible children and their families
- Families learn about our services through child find activities in the community through outreach
  - Requirement of service coordinator job duty through Part C





# Why Pediatricians Refer to EI

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends developmental monitoring during every well-child visit

Formal developmental screening with a validated tool should occur at 9, 18, and 30 months

Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at 18 months and 2 years

Universal developmental screening should occur even if there are no concerns about the child





# Cost to Family and Service Provider Options

- Services are provided at no direct cost to the families
  - Private insurance/Medicaid are billed to help offset some of the costs with parental permission
  - Early Intervention services does not collect a Copay or Coinsurance from families for services provided
- NEIS is not the only EI provider in Nevada
  - Advanced Pediatric Therapies
  - Capability Health & Human Services
  - Therapy Management Group
  - TheraPlay Solutions
  - MD Developmental Agency
  - Dr. Pinnochio Pediatric Wellness

Community Partners carry approximately 50% of caseload split between Washoe and Clark County and do not currently service the rural portion of the state.





# Early Intervention Delivery Model

- Family based teaching model
  - Routine based instruction delivered in the natural environment
- Services, supports, and resources are timely, flexible, individualized, and responsive to the changing needs of children and their families
- Services are provided in the natural environment, where the child spends most of their time. This can be the family home, child care, parks, library, etc.





# Nevada Early Intervention Services Eligibility Criteria

To qualify, a child must exhibit a minimum of a 50% delay for their age in any one domain or a 25% delay in two domains:

Cognitive development	Physical development (including motor, vision, and hearing)	Communication	Social or emotional development	Adaptive development (self-help)
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Some children are automatically eligible based on certain conditions that have a “high probability of resulting in developmental delays”. Or can be determined eligible based on informed clinical opinion.





# Eligibility and Case Process

- Intake/Screening
- Assignment of a service coordinator
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Meeting
  - This is required to happen within **45 days** of referral.
- Delivery of Services
- Review of IFSP every 6 months
- Transition/Discharge
  - When a child turns three (3) **OR** is developing appropriately for his or her age and is no longer eligible for Early Intervention Services, they will be discharged from the program through the IFSP process and NEIS will assist in the change of services or supports.
  - Planning for a child to leave Early Intervention Services **may begin by 2 years 3 months** of age and **no later than 2 years 9 months** of age.







# Service Provider Types

- Developmental Specialists (i.e., Service Coordinators)
- Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP/Feeding)
- Occupational Therapists (OT/Feeding)
- Physical Therapists
- Registered Dietitians
- Teachers of the Visually Impaired
- Orientation and Mobility (O&M)
- Audiologist
- Pediatrician
- Psychologist
- Psychological Developmental Counselor





# Developmental Assessment

- Developmental Assessment of Young Children, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (DAYC-2)
  - Used for initial and on-going eligibility for services
  - Standardized assessment tool used to identify children with possible delays in 5 different domains
    - Cognitive, Communication, Physical, Social-Emotional, Adaptive
  - Valid from birth to 5 years
  - Scores given in standard scores, percentile ranks, and age equivalents
- Eligibility into program determined by a child scoring (2) 25% delays or (1) 50% delay on the DAYC





# Developmental Screening and Autism

- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised (M-CHAT-R)
- Effective screening tool for ASD
  - High false-positive rate, but ~95% of children who score  $\geq 3$  have a developmental delay and need EI
- Completed with parents and team
- Identifies risk and need for follow up supports
- M-CHAT-R/F = follow up
  - Sensitivity: 85%
  - Specificity: 99%





# Autism Testing Process

- Child referred for autism concerns (or identified during intake assessment)
- NEIS staff are trained on utilizing the MCHAT and MCHAT-R/F
  - NEIS also have team members trained in additional assessment tools for ongoing screening which include the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)
- MCHAT-R performed at intake if child is 18 months or older
  - Completed for all children again at 18 and 24 months
  - If a child does not pass the MCHAT-R/F (follow up) is completed
- Failed MCHATs result in being scheduled for assessment to determine diagnosis of autism
  - Cognitive functioning on DAYC must be at or above 12 months to be assessed using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale (ADOS) completed
  - If child is younger than 31 months and cognition is too low the family and NEIS team may opt to provide services for a few months and then proceed to reevaluate cognition, then schedule ADOS
  - If a child's cognition is lower than 12 months, a CARS may be used for observation and the DSM will be consulted for the physician or psychologist to make their diagnosis





# The ADOS-2

- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ADOS-2)
  - Standardized, semi-structured assessment instrument that includes many play-based activities designed to obtain information in the areas of communication, reciprocal social interactions, and restricted and repetitive behaviors
  - Considered to be the “gold standard”
    - Sensitivity: 94%
    - Specificity: 80%
    - Inter-rater reliability: 83%
  - Modules 1-4 and Toddler Module
    - 12 months to adults





# The CARS-2

- Childhood Autism Rating Scale-2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (CARS-2)
  - Validated assessment tool that helps to identify children with autism and determine symptom severity through quantifiable ratings based on direct observation
  - 15 items (scored 1-4)
    - Relating to people, imitation, emotional response, visual response, verbal communication, nonverbal communication, etc.
  - Valid for 2-6 years of age
  - Sensitivity: 80%
  - Specificity: 88%
  - Scores suggestive of minimal to no symptoms, mild to moderate symptoms, or severe symptoms of ASD





# The Diagnosis

- After the completion of the ADOS-2 (or CARS-2 with play-based observation), a DSM-5 interview is conducted with the parents/caregivers and our pediatrician or psychologist
  - Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts (must have 3/3)
  - Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities (must have 2/4)
- Developmental Specialist will continue to work with the family to seek services and resources. ATAP referral is offered.





# The Transition out of EI Service

- Children are eligible for NEIS until age 3, on-going eligibility must be met to continue in services.
- IFSPs are reviewed annually; children are exited if they no longer have any delays in their development, regardless of age, based on updated developmental assessments.
  - Parents can exit at any time if they no longer have developmental concerns.
  - Children are exited out of services at age three as they transition to their next steps
    - This may be the school district for early childhood special education if eligible.







# Where do they go next?

- While children are in the program, developmental specialists work with them to transition out of the program
  - Complete an informational meeting with their Developmental specialists (DS) to determine next best steps; preschool, head start, child care, in home. Caregivers participate in transition planning
  - With caregiver permission, a meeting is set up with the appropriate school district to determine if a child will be eligible for an early childhood special education preschool program
    - This process takes place no later than 90 days before the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday to help the family prepare for the transition
    - Children must be deemed eligible by Part B services to enter the school district





# Transition Planning

- Transition planning is ongoing throughout a child's time in services with NEIS
- Community resources are given to a family throughout their time in early intervention to help continue developmental gains
- For children exiting with an autism diagnosis:
  - Families have been referred to ATAP
  - Referred to their local regional center
  - Community supports





# Areas the Commission Can Help

- Families need more support
- NEIS needs more diagnosticians in the community
  - Waitlists are growing!





# Questions?





# Contact Information

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# Acronyms

NEIS	Nevada Early Intervention Services
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan
ATAP	Autism Treatment Assistance Program
IDEA Part C	Individuals with Disability Education Act-Part C
CARS	Childhood autism rating scale
MCHAT	Modified Checklist for autism in toddlers
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
DAY-C	Developmental Assessment of Young Children, 2nd Edition
DS	Developmental Specialist
SC	Service Coordinator

