

## North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council

### Introduction

The North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council, for Children Ages Birth to Five with Disabilities and Their Families, is a twenty-six (26) member advisory board representing parents, professionals and agencies across the state. The North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council is legislated by the North Carolina General Assembly as required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council is the designated planning partner of the Division of Public Health and the Public Schools of North Carolina in their roles as lead agencies for birth to five services for children with special needs and their families.

### Membership

The Governor of North Carolina appoints members for two-year terms so that half the membership rotates off the Council every year. A Council member can be reappointed for an additional two year term. The Parent Co-Chairperson is a parent of a child with a disability under the age of twelve (12) years and the Professional Co-Chairperson is a professional working in the field of early intervention. Other members, specified in federal and state law, must include:

- at least twenty percent (20%) of the members must be parents of children with disabilities aged birth through twelve years and who have knowledge of, or experience with programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities;
- one parent must have a child aged birth through six years with a disability;
- twenty percent (20%) must be representatives of public or private providers of early intervention services;
- a person involved in personnel preparation;
- a member from each of the following state agencies: Department of Health and Human Services and the Public Schools of North Carolina;
- a member from the Public Schools of North Carolina responsible for preschool services to children with disabilities;
- a member from the agency responsible for regulating child care;
- a member from the agency responsible for the state regulation of health insurance;
- a member from the Division of Medical Assistance;
- a member from the Office of the Coordination of Education of Homeless Children and Youth;
- a member from the Division of Social Services;
- a member from the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services;
- Head Start, and
- other members as appointed by the Governor, including a representative from the Bureau of Indian Affairs or where there is no Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service or the tribe or tribal council.

In addition, North Carolina has reserved four (4) seats for Legislators, to include two Senate and two House representatives.

### **Responsibilities of the North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council**

The overall purposes of the North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council are to ensure the development and implementation of a coordinated interagency service system for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities or developmental delays and their families and to serve as the major state level advisory board for early intervention and preschool services. Other responsibilities of the North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council are:

- identification of sources of fiscal and other support for the early intervention system;
- assignment of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency;
- development of policies related to early intervention services;
- preparation of applications and amendments for available federal funds;
- assistance with the evaluation of services;
- resolution of interagency disputes;
- promotion of interagency agreements;
- identification of appropriate types of services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers;
- support and guidance for the Local Interagency Coordinating Councils;
- provision of advice and assistance to the lead agencies regarding the transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool and other appropriate services;
- strengthening service integration for both infants and toddlers and infants at-risk and their families, regardless of eligibility status, and
- certifies that the state Part C Annual Performance Report serves as the annual report regarding the status of early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities in the state.

No member of the Council may cast a vote on any matter that is likely to provide a direct financial benefit to that member or otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest under state law.

The North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council meets on a quarterly basis in public meetings. The work of the Council is primarily completed through the efforts of standing committees and task forces created as needs arise. The Council Co-Chairpersons appoint the members of the committees and task forces. Parents are included as members of all standing committees and task forces. Standing committees are co-chaired by a parent and a professional. Standing Committees are:

- Local Interagency Coordinating Council Support Committee
- Transitions Committee
- Children and Families Committee
- Professional Education Committee
- Executive Committee

Task forces have been appointed to deal with such special topics as fee-for-service and sliding fee scales, specialized services, and transportation. A listing of North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council members, along with meeting dates, sites, further information and copies of recommendations made by task forces may be obtained by contacting the North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council, Early Intervention Branch, Division of Public Health 1916 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1916. Telephone: (919) 707-5520 or Fax: (919) 870-4834.