

# Therapy Management Group, LLC

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Dear Mrs. Janelle Mulvenon

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a Request For Information (RFI). We also thank you for the Carson City forum last September where we presented our Early Intervention (EI) statewide service delivery model, which demonstrated our unique qualifications to be a comprehensive EI provider and partner.

Our Carson City presentation and the stated purpose of this request (“fact finding”) coupled with the public nature of this forum, preclude Therapy Management Group (TMG) from sharing more detailed information beyond the following regarding the implementation of EI services in Nevada. However, we look forward to continuing to be part of the solution to the challenges that face EI in Nevada.

Due to the large population growth in Nevada, the number of children requiring services is increasing at a rate of 15-18% per year (figure based on the number of children found eligible with an IFSP by Program and State Fiscal Year- Impact Paper Final 1/15/09- BA 3208 EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF THREE WITH DISABILITIES document). Due to this growth rate, it is imperative that children in Nevada be served utilizing highly qualified professionals that implement EI using efficient approaches that are grounded in excellence.

It is essential that the EI system in Nevada accommodate this unusual level of growth. Nationwide, states have established a number of structures to provide EI services. These structures are listed at The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center website ([www.nectac.org](http://www.nectac.org)). Given significant caseload growth, budgetary constraints and shortages of licensed personnel, the efficacy of a hybrid model becomes apparent.

Fast caseload growth demands expandability. However, with expandability, a safe guard is needed to eliminate fraud, ensure quality and guarantee fiduciary responsibility. As the aforementioned safeguard, the State is the lead agency (LA). The LA has two regional offices. One located in Carson City and the other in Las Vegas. The role of the LA is to provide administrative and supervisory services. The LA establishes contracts with provider agencies (PA) and acts as a credentialing service to ensure that PA are qualified to implement services. They establish the minimum qualifications required of the PA and ensure that qualifications are maintained through the duration of the contract. Contracts are given to all PA who meet these qualifications. This allows the state to meet the expanded number of children and families who require services.

The LA acts as the single point of entry (SPOE). The maximum number of referrals to the PA is based on each PA ability to provide services (i.e. number of staff). Funding is allocated based on the number of active Individual Family Service Plans.

An active Parent Volunteer Core (PVC) is established to provide ongoing feedback concerning the success and quality of services provided by the LA and each PA. The PVC is independent from any existing organizations, LA or PA. This separation facilitates parents' ability to independently give feedback. The PVC contacts parents to determine the benefit of services provided. They also keep a directory of parents willing to provide peer support. They are educated in EI theory, IDEA law, models of service provision and state processes. This education enables active and effective parent participation.

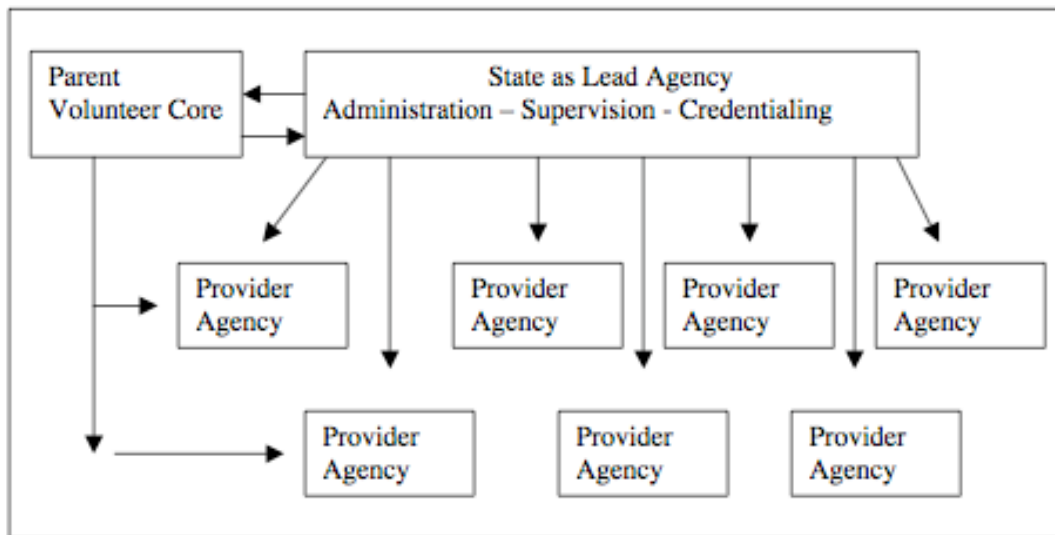


Figure 1. Proposed Nevada EI system and structure. Instead of representing themselves each PA, in theory and in practice, as a collective group, represents Nevada's EI program.

**Benefits of this hybrid model include the following:**

- 1. Widens the pools of providers available to serve the increasing numbers of children requiring services.**
- 2. Enables efficient implementation of EI services.**
- 3. Relieves the state of the responsibility to provide individuals' services.**
- 4. Facilitates effective teaming between providers.**
- 5. Guarantees quality of services provided.**
- 6. Mandates continuity of services in the North and South Regions.**
- 7. Permits flexibility in the service system to meet diverse regional needs.**
- 8. Ensures parent participation in EI oversight.**

In closing, the information that TMG has provided in person and in this written response to the RFI benefits all EI stakeholders. TMG looks forward to actively participating in the State of Nevada's implementation of such a plan.

Sincerely Yours,

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