

# Nevada

April 27-28, 2017

**DMS Area: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

**DMS Designation: Intensive**

## **Background:**

On October 31, 2016, OSEP issued Nevada a Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) document that specified engagement activities that OSEP would conduct with the State across five areas: results, compliance, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), child find, and fiscal. Under SSIP, OSEP gave Nevada a designation of intensive engagement for stakeholder engagement based on information specific to how stakeholders were involved in all aspects of planning, implementing and evaluating Nevada's SSIP, included in their FFY 2015 Phase II SSIP submitted on April 1, 2016. Based on the intensive designation and recent changes within the leadership of the Nevada Part C (NV-C) program, OSEP determined that a site visit would be an effective engagement activity to support the NV-C program to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities.

## **Visit Summary**

OSEP engaged with representatives of the State to discuss stakeholder engagement in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the SSIP. The Nevada officials that responded to questions from OSEP included staff from the NV-C Office and staff from OSEP-funded technical assistance (TA) centers. The major discussion items were focused on the following topic:

### **Topic Discussed**

The State Systemic Improvement Plan – Stakeholder Engagement

### **Data Reviewed**

Prior to onsite engagement, OSEP asked the NV-C team to identify their priorities regarding stakeholder engagement. In addition to identifying priorities, the NV-C team provided information on the development of a comprehensive communication plan. The primary purpose of the plan is to ensure that the various stakeholder perspectives relevant to the SSIP work are included. The plan would also ensure timely sharing of information so that decisions are made using the most current data, as well as establish a feedback loop that informs stakeholders of the impact of their contributions. Based on the feedback and information that the NV-C team provided, OSEP developed a presentation that gave the NV-C team and the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) an overview of the SSIP requirements. OSEP also answered questions and addressed concerns that the State shared regarding stakeholder engagement.

### **Challenges and Barriers**

The NV State team acted immediately to rectify the factors identified in the DMS notice issued in October 2016. For example, in monthly calls with OSEP leading up to the onsite visit, the NV –C team described a more robust engagement with regard to how stakeholders meaningfully contributed to SSIP implementation and evaluation. As a result, potential barriers and challenges were addressed before OSEP arrived.

### **Outcome of Engagement Activity**

OSEP answered questions from the ICC regarding the need for the State to formalize a more timely feedback structure. The NV-C Team has begun to put a structure in place to inform stakeholders of the results of their input in a timelier manner.

### **Use of Technical Assistance and Professional Development Resources:**

Ardith Ferguson (NCSI) provided onsite support and will continue to work with the NV -C team to ensure that stakeholders are clear on their roles and responsibilities and are continually kept apprised of the SSIP work.

## **Next Steps**

During FFY 2016 and throughout FFY 2017, OSEP will continue to be available for TA calls with Nevada regarding the SSIP/stakeholder engagement. In addition, OSEP will share TA resources and materials with Nevada that may be most helpful for addressing the SSIP/stakeholder engagement. Nevada's Performance Accountability Implementation Team member, Janine Rudder, will participate in OSEP State calls with NV to provide feedback and support on the State's SSIP.