

Neb.Rev.St. § 43-3401

43-3401. Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council; created; membership; terms; expenses

The Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council is created. The council shall advise and assist the collaborating agencies in carrying out the provisions of the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, sections 79-1101 to 79-1104, and other early childhood care and education initiatives under state supervision. Membership and activities of the council shall comply with all applicable provisions of federal law. Members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Parents of children who require early intervention services, early childhood special education, and other early childhood care and education services; and
- (2) Representatives of school districts, social services, health and medical services, family child care and center-based early childhood care and education programs, agencies providing training to staff of child care programs, resource and referral agencies, mental health services, developmental disabilities services, educational service units, Head Start, higher education, physicians, the Legislature, business persons, and the collaborating agencies.

Terms of the members shall be for three years, and a member shall not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Members shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses, including child care expenses, with funds provided for such purposes through the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, and sections 79-1101 to 79-1104.

Members of the Nebraska Interagency Coordinating Council serving on July 13, 2000, shall constitute the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council and shall serve for the remainder of their terms. The Governor shall make additional appointments as required by this section and to fill vacancies as needed. The Governor shall set the initial terms of additional appointees to result in staggered terms for members of the council. The Department of Health and Human Services and the State Department of Education shall provide and coordinate staff assistance to the council.

Neb.Rev.St. § 43-3402

43-3402. Council; advisory duties

With respect to the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, and sections 79-1101 to 79-1104, the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council shall serve in an advisory capacity to state agencies responsible for early childhood care and education, including care for school-age children, in order to:

- (1) Promote the policies set forth in the Early Intervention Act, the Quality Child Care Act, and sections 79-1101 to 79-1104;
- (2) Facilitate collaboration with the federally administered Head Start program;
- (3) Make recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services, the State Department of Education, and other state agencies responsible for the regulation or provision of early childhood care and education programs on the needs, priorities, and policies relating to such programs throughout the state;

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(4) Make recommendations to the lead agency or agencies which prepare and submit applications for federal funding;

(5) Review new or proposed revisions to rules and regulations governing the registration or licensing of early childhood care and education programs;

(6) Study and recommend additional resources for early childhood care and education programs; and

(7) Report biennially to the Governor and Legislature on the status of early intervention and early childhood care and education in the state. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically. Such report shall include (a) the number of license applications received under section 71-1911, (b) the number of such licenses issued, (c) the number of such license applications denied, (d) the number of complaints investigated regarding such licensees, (e) the number of such licenses revoked, (f) the number and dollar amount of civil penalties levied pursuant to section 71-1920, and (g) information which may assist the Legislature in determining the extent of cooperation provided to the Department of Health and Human Services by other state and local agencies pursuant to section 71-1914.

Neb.Rev.St. § 43-3403

43-3403. Council; Early Intervention Act; duties

With respect to the Early Intervention Act, the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council and collaborating agencies shall make recommendations to the lead agency or agencies relating to:

(1) The general administration, supervision, and monitoring of programs and activities receiving federal funds under the federal early intervention program to ensure compliance with federal law;

(2) The identification and coordination of all available resources within the state from federal, state, local, and private sources;

(3) The development of procedural safeguards, including procedures for complaints and appeals, to ensure that services coordination is provided to eligible infants or toddlers with disabilities or possible disabilities and their families in a timely manner pending the resolution of any disputes among public agencies or service providers;

(4) The entry into formal interagency agreements that include components necessary to ensure meaningful cooperation and coordination; and

(5) The coordination of interagency rules and regulations pursuant to the Early Intervention Act.