



# *ESSO WEEKLY MEMO*

February 6, 2015

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **1. Special Clinic for Special People**

*March 14, 2015/Orlando, Florida*

Free clinic for children with Down Syndrome. Please see attached flyer for more details.

### **2. Working with the Experts (WWE) for Occupational and Physical Therapists**

Registration is open for two upcoming Balance/Auditory/Vision eXercises (Bal-A-Vis) training opportunities with William (Bill) Hubert, program developer. These training opportunities will be held **February 23-24** in Lakeland and **March 16-17** in Miami. The events are limited to 60 participants per session, and district limits are being enforced. Early Steps stakeholders interested in participating should contact Peg Sullivan at [spdg@fgcu.edu](mailto:spdg@fgcu.edu) to be added to the wait list, as school district staff have first priority. Additional details are available on the WWE website at <http://www.flwwe.net/>. For more information, contact Duska Hepner or Peg Sullivan at [spdg@fgcu.edu](mailto:spdg@fgcu.edu) or 239 590-7747 or Karen Hallinan at [Karen.Hallinan@fldoe.org](mailto:Karen.Hallinan@fldoe.org).

### **3. The FDDC Goal Development for the 2017-2021 State Plan**

The FDDC needs your help gathering information about what Floridians feel are the unmet needs and barriers for individuals with developmental disabilities and also information on what is working well. This information will be used to help develop goals for the FDDC's 2017-2021 State Plan. Webinars/conference calls are being planned for family members of individuals with developmental disabilities and provider organizations. If you have any questions, please email Sheila Gritz-Swift at [SheilaGS@fddc.org](mailto:SheilaGS@fddc.org) or call 888-488-8633.

#### **Family webinars:**

Monday, **February 9**, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3127551293624534018>

Tuesday, **February 10**, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5620423429746317826>

Thursday, **February 12**, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4560738312151664130>

#### **Provider webinar:**

Friday, **February 13**, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7981941309744145410>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS continued:**

### **4. 2015 Public Participation Process**

In order to meet the public participation requirements under §441 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) at 20 USC 1232d(b)(7)(B) and Part C of the IDEA at 34 CFR §303.208, the Early Steps State Office (ESSO), as lead agency for implementation of IDEA, Part C in Florida, is publishing the annual renewal application for funds under IDEA, Part C. In accordance with IDEA, Part C, the application will be available for public review on [http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es\\_policy/es\\_Policy.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/es_Policy.html), for at least 60 days beginning **February 5, 2015 through April 5, 2015**.

**The opportunity for public comment on the Part C application is available for 30 days beginning February 25, 2015 through March 26, 2015.** Comments will be accepted from the general public, including parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, providers of services, advocacy groups and organizations and other stakeholders in the state.

The purpose of the public participation period is to gather comments regarding the annual Part C application for funds. The ESSO is interested in information that would assist us in maintaining a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families.

For more information and to access the public participation notice, please go to [http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es\\_policy/es\\_Policy.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/es_Policy.html)

## **MEDICAID UPDATES:**

### **5. 2015 Fee Schedules**

Effective January 2015, the Agency for Health Care Administration is publishing new fee schedules to reflect the new 2015 HCPCS codes and fees. The updated fee schedules can be found at <http://mymedicaid-florida.com/>. Select Public Information for Providers, then Provider Support, and then Fee Schedules.

Providers receiving reimbursement through a Medicaid managed care plan should refer to their contract with each plan to determine whether this change will impact their reimbursement from the plan.

## MEDICAID UPDATES continued:

### **6. New Bank for the Florida Medicaid Distribution Account**

The Agency for Health Care Administration has recently contracted with Wells Fargo Bank to takeover the Florida Medicaid Distribution Account, currently administered by Capital City Bank.

We appreciate the service Capital City Bank has provided and look forward to our new banking relationship with Wells Fargo. The transition of banking services will be seamless to Medicaid providers with no change to the weekly financial cycle. Electronic payments will continue to be processed on Thursdays. If you are a provider who receives checks, the checks will be from Wells Fargo and not Capital City Bank once the transition is complete. The banking transition will be completed by February 28, 2015. Any outstanding Medicaid checks generated by Capital City Bank will be honored for up to 180 days of the check issue date.

If you have any questions please call the Provider Services Contact Center at 1-800-289-7799 (option 7).

### **7. Notification of New Non-Emergency Transportation Vendor**

Florida Medicaid will be contracting with new Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) vendors to provide NET services to Medicaid recipients not enrolled in a managed care plan. The Agency is now in the process of rolling out this change across the state to provide recipients with non-emergency transport services. This change is due to take effect in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties on February 1st, and in all other counties on March 1st. We have taken the appropriate steps to ensure a smooth transition including informing recipients ahead of time.

See table below for counties where a change is starting February 1, 2015.

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Counties</b>	<b>Vendor Start Date</b>	<b>Toll-Free Number</b>
LogistiCare	Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe.	February 1, 2015	1-866-779-1457

There will be no change in how NET services are provided. The Agency has informed recipients of the change via letter. The new vendor has contacted current County Transportation coordinators (CTCs) to ensure prescheduled trips are provided.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact Medicaid at 1-877-254-1055.

## **INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

### **8. One Step at a Time: Western Panhandle**

Irma Cofield, Western Panhandle Family Resource Specialist, submitted the attached One Step At A Time activity that promotes a successful playgroup program. If you are looking to start a new playgroup in your area, be sure to read how this playgroup was established and maintained. Thank you, Irma, for this submission.

### **9. Center for Early Education and Development Online Courses**

#### ***Supporting Stressed Young Children Through Relationship-based Teaching***

*9-week course: February 16, April 20, 2015*

This course is designed for early childhood and special education educators who are working with challenging children in preschool, child care, and early intervention settings. The goal of this course is to support early childhood professionals in their work with stressed young children. Opportunities for healing and development within secure child-teacher relationships and emotionally responsive practice will be explored. We believe teaching with an attachment and trauma lens will result in an increase in teacher-child interactions associated secure child-teacher attachments as well as new learning that will support regulation, a positive sense of self, and new developmental capacities. Research indicates secure child-teacher relationships providing regulatory help will result in a reduction in challenging behaviors and an increase in developmental progress. To register, go to <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ceed/onlinecourses/supportingstressedchildren.html>

## 10. DRDC/NCBDDD 2015 Research Grant Opportunities

The Disability Research and Dissemination Center (DRDC), in coordination with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the CDC, is pleased to announce the availability of THREE (3) NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015. The DRDC conducts research related to the priorities of the NCBDDD through research grant sub-contracts to universities and other academic and professional institutions that utilize medical, psychosocial, basic science, and public health approaches. Links to the grant opportunities are provided below:

- **[RFA – R15 – 01: Learn the Signs. Act Early. \(LTSAE\) Impact on Parents](#)** *Does exposure to LTSAE influence parents' actions related to early identification of developmental delay?*
- **[RFA – R15 – 02: Assessing Impact of EHDI](#)** *Assessing impact of early identification and intervention on children with permanent congenital hearing loss*
- **[RFA – R15 – 03: Learn the Signs. Act Early \(LTSAE\) Book Testing](#)** *Formative research/audience testing of innovative health education product*

### Process for Submission of RFA's

All research applications for the RFA's must be submitted through the DRDC website. Please view the applicable instruction here: [www.disabilityresearchcenter.com/research/application-instructions](http://www.disabilityresearchcenter.com/research/application-instructions)

### Submission Dates:

- **February 27, 2015 – By midnight EST – Grant Application Due**
- **Late Summer 2015 – Announcement of Grant Awards**
- **September 30, 2015 – Newly Funded Projects Begin**

## PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION:

LES	Program Manager	QA Lead
	<b>(Interim)</b> Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) <a href="mailto:Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov">Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Bay Area</b>	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) <a href="mailto:Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov">Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Big Bend</b>	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) <a href="mailto:Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov">Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Central Florida</b>	<b>(Interim)</b> Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) <a href="mailto:Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov">Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Brenda Jones-Garrett (ext. 2224) <a href="mailto:Brenda.Jones-Garrett@flhealth.gov">Brenda.Jones-Garrett@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Gulf Central</b>	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) <a href="mailto:Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov">Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>North Beaches</b>	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) <a href="mailto:Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov">Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>North Central</b>	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) <a href="mailto:Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov">Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>North Dade</b>	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) <a href="mailto:Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov">Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Northeastern</b>	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) <a href="mailto:Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov">Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Southernmost Coast</b>	Brenda Jones-Garrett (ext. 2224) <a href="mailto:Brenda.Jones-Garrett@flhealth.gov">Brenda.Jones-Garrett@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Southwest</b>	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) <a href="mailto:Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov">Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Space Coast</b>	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) <a href="mailto:Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov">Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Treasure Coast</b>	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) <a href="mailto:Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov">Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>West Central</b>	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) <a href="mailto:Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov">Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Western Panhandle</b>		