



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO

April 3, 2014

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FOLLOW-UP:

1. State Travel Form

As mentioned during the Directors/Coordinators call on April 2, 2014, all LES staff must use the DOH Travel Form for travel reimbursement. ESSO does not need a copy of the form, but it must be retained in LES files.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2. EIEC Webinar: Using Video to Enhance Early Intervention Services

Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET

A webinar from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities' (AUCD) Early Intervention/Early Childhood (EIEC) Special Interest Group.

Webinar Description:

This webinar will illustrate the many ways that digital video can be used to enhance a number of key early intervention practices, including assessment, evaluation, documentation, planning, family support/engagement, self-reflection, coaching, reflective supervision, professional development, virtual participation, and more. The session will review recommendations for equipment, shooting, file management, editing, security, and sharing video files. An in-depth resource guide will accompany the session. There is no cost for this webinar. [Click Here to Register](#)

3. FAIMH/MIECHV/Early Steps Spring Conference

April 23-25, 2014 in Orlando

The Florida Association of Infant Mental Health (FAIMH) in collaboration with Early Steps and the Florida Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative (MIECHVI) invite you to participate in their upcoming spring conference. The focus will be on innovative approaches to providing infant mental health, home visiting, and Part C services. Please see attached flyer and speaker outline for more details.

4. FICCIT Quarterly Meeting, April 29-30, 2014

The Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT) announces the next quarterly meeting on April 29-30, 2014 in Pensacola, FL. The meeting will start on April 29, 2014 at 9:00 am at the CMS Area Office located at 5192 Bayou Boulevard, Pensacola, FL 32505. The meeting will conclude on April 30th, 2014 at 1:00 pm.

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MEDICAID UPDATES:

5. Medicaid Alerts and Questions

The Florida Medicaid program has created an e-mail alert system to supplement the present method of receiving Provider Alerts information and to alert registered subscribers of "late-breaking" health care information. An e-mail will be delivered to your mailbox when Medicaid policy clarifications or other health care information is available that is appropriate for your selected area and provider type. Visit the [Florida Medicaid's Health Care Alerts](#) page to subscribe now, or to unsubscribe or update your subscription at any time. Please direct questions about Medicaid policies to your local Medicaid area office. The Medicaid area offices' addresses and phone numbers are available on the [Area Offices](#) web page.

6. Webinar: PERM 2014 Provider Education Call for Medicaid & CHIP Providers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will host four Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) provider education webinar/conference calls. Each session will contain the same information, though the questions and answers addressed will be unique to those questions asked during that session's presentation. The purpose is to provide opportunities for providers of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) services to enhance their understanding of specific provider responsibilities during the PERM. The PERM program is designed to measure improper payments in the Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Participants will learn from presentations that feature:

- The PERM process and provider responsibilities during a PERM review
- Recent trends, frequent mistakes, and best practices
- The Electronic Submission of Medical Documentation, (esMD) program

You will have the opportunity to ask questions live through the conference lines, via the webinar, and through the dedicated PERM Provider email address at: PERMProviders@cms.hhs.gov.

Presentation materials and participant call in information will be posted as downloads on the "Providers" tab of the [PERM website](#).

The Webinars are scheduled for:

1. Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 3:00 - 4:00pm ET
2. Thursday, June 26, 2014, 3:00 - 4:00pm ET
3. Wednesday, July 16, 2014, 3:00 - 4:00pm ET
4. Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 3:00 - 4:00pm ET

CMS encourages all participants to submit questions not addressed in the session to the dedicated PERM Provider email address at: PERMProviders@cms.hhs.gov or, you may also contact your State PERM Representatives with any questions and for information about education and training in your state.

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MEDICAID UPDATES, continued:

7. Durable Medical Equipment Contracts in the Managed Medical Assistance Program

Please click [here](#) to see the Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert.

8. Webinar on Transitioning to Managed Medical Assistance— Selecting a MMA Plan and Continuing Your Services April 7, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. ET

The Agency for Health Care Administration will be hosting a webinar on April 7, 2014, to provide potential network providers and the public the knowledge and understanding of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Program. This webinar will focus on *TRANSITIONING TO MANAGED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - SELECTING A MMA PLAN AND CONTINUING YOUR SERVICES*.

The Agency is offering a series of webinars targeted at Medicaid providers and recipients participating in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) program.

In the next two months, the Agency will present the following topics:

- Transitioning to Medical Managed Assistance (MMA) - Selecting a MMA Plan and Continuing Your Services
- Long-term Care and Managed Medical Assistance: Putting the Pieces Together
- Specialty Plans
- How is Managed Medical Assistance Different than Current Managed Care
- How to Verify Recipient Eligibility for Managed Medical Assistance Prescription Drugs in Managed Medical Assistance

Attendance for the webinar is limited and will be provided on a first-come first-serve basis. In order to accommodate as many participants as possible, please try to consolidate participation within your organization.

To join the training session:

1. Go to <https://suncom.webex.com/suncom/k2/j.php?MTID=t7fc7f427a0bac76a4f0a3ffc304c82b3>
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Click "Join Now".
4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

To join the teleconference only:

To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the training session. Alternatively, you can call the following number and enter the access code:

Call-in toll-free number: 1-888-670-3525 (US)

Attendee access code: 541 679 5591

For assistance, you can contact The Agency for Health Care Administration at:
flmedicaidmanagedcare@ahca.myflorida.com

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INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

9. EI-ECSE Leadership Survey

You are invited to participate in a study designed to gain a national consensus about the skills, attitudes, and knowledge needed to be an effective leader at any level of the Early Intervention (EI) / Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) service system under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C and Part B.

Family members of eligible children under IDEA; state, county, and local program administrators; direct service providers (e.g., educators, related service personnel, service coordinators); higher education faculty; and professional development and technical assistance personnel are encouraged to participate in this survey. The goal is to gain the best, most representative sample of the field possible. The information will be used to develop a set of competencies for effective leadership in EI/ECSE.

To participate, all you need do is **click on the link below**. It will direct you to a survey that should take about 20 minutes to complete. The survey will remain open until April 30, 2014. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Leadership_EI_ECSE

10. New ESSO Staff

Please join Early Steps State Office in welcoming two new members to our staff!

Brenda Jones-Garrett

Brenda.Jones-Garrett@flhealth.gov

Brenda Jones-Garrett has joined the Early Step Policy Unit. Brenda's most recent employment was as a Medical Health Care Analyst with the AHCA Medicaid Child Health Services Unit where she was the state coordinator of the Medicaid Therapy Services Program. She has previous experience in the Department of Health HIV/AIDS program and Healthy Start. Her experience also includes child protective services and delinquency case management. We are happy to have Brenda as a member of our team!

Shannon Blankinship

Shannon.Blankinship2@flhealth.gov

Shannon Blankinship has joined the Early Steps Quality Assurance and Accountability Unit as Budget/Contract Manager. Shannon's most recent employment was as a supervisor in the Budget and Grants Management Unit within the Department of Health HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Section. She has worked at the Department of Health for 15 years performing a variety of tasks related to purchasing, budgeting, reconciliation and grants management. She also performed fiscal and accounting tasks with the Department of Children and Families. We welcome Shannon to the Unit and Bureau!



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INFORMATION & RESOURCES, continued:

11. New Data on Autism Spectrum Disorder

1 in 68 children were identified with autism spectrum disorder. Read more about CDC's new data on autism spectrum disorder.

New data from CDC's [Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring \(ADDM\) Network](#) show that the estimated number of children identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) continues to rise, and the picture of ASD in communities has changed. These new data can be used to promote early identification, plan for training and service needs, guide research, and inform policy so that children with ASD and their families get the help they need.

CDC will continue tracking the changing number and characteristics of children with ASD, researching what puts children at risk for ASD, and promoting early identification, the most powerful tool we have now for making a difference in the lives of children. Learn the 10 things you need to know about CDC's latest ADDM Network report. [You can also read the full report here.](#)

12. April is Autism Awareness Month

The statewide Centers for Autism and Related Disorders (CARDs) will be offering Awareness month activities during the month of April, which may be accessed through the statewide CARD page at <http://www.florida-card.org/map.htm> . There is also a statewide CARD resource page listing numerous state and national resources and online training modules on a variety of ASD-related topics, which is located at <http://www.florida-card.org/index.htm>

Program Manager Information

13. List of Program Managers & Contact Information

The assigned program manager at ESSO is the primary contact person for the LES to submit questions, issues or concerns to. The program manager will be responsible for responding to the LES and prior to responding, will inform and involve others in the ESSO, when necessary, to assist in clarifying or resolving the issue. **Early Steps State Office Telephone Number - (850) 245-4444**

LES	Program Manager	QA Lead
Bay Area	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Big Bend	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Central Florida	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Gold Coast	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Gulf Central	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
North Beaches	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
North Central	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
North Dade	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Northeastern	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Southernmost Coast	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Southwest	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Space Coast	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Treasure Coast	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
West Central	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Western Panhandle	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov

Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

March 2014

Provider Type(s): 90

Durable Medical Equipment Contracts in the Managed Medical Assistance Program

State law requires that Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance plans offer all home medical equipment and supplies providers a network contract if they meet certain criteria. The law states:

Each managed care plan must offer a network contract to each home medical equipment and supplies provider in the region which meets quality and fraud prevention and detection standards established by the plan and which agrees to accept the lowest price previously negotiated between the plan and another such provider. [409.975(1)(d), Florida Statutes]

The Agency interprets that 409.975(1)(d), F.S. is meant to ensure that home medical equipment and supplies providers operating in Florida are given a genuine opportunity to be part of Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance plan networks and to compete to serve the needs of the plan's Medicaid members. To that end, the Agency provides the following guidance.

1. Managed Medical Assistance plans must offer contracts to all home medical equipment and supplies providers in the region. The Agency clarified in a September 2012 Guidance Statement that this includes:

- All providers enrolled with the Florida Medicaid program as Durable Medical Equipment providers (provider type 90), and
- All providers licensed in the state of Florida as Home Medical Equipment providers pursuant to Chapter 400, Part VII, F.S.

The Agency is in the process of refreshing the list of qualified providers. The updated list will be posted at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/SMMC> . Go to the News and Events tab, and select Guidance Statements.

2. Contract offers must be at least at the lowest price previously negotiated "for another such provider." The Agency interprets "such provider(s)" to be companies that primarily provide durable medical equipment and supplies, rather than entities that provide multiple types of services. The rate offered must be a good faith offer in that it is a rate that is sufficient to adequately reimburse for equipment and supplies provided by a home medical equipment company and that does not violate labor laws.

3. Contracts may not contain "non-compete" clauses that restrict contracted providers from competing with a managed care plan's other subcontractors or network providers. The Agency reserves the right to review contracts and subcontracts to ensure that they do not contain provisions that restrict the network in ways other than delineated in statute.

- 409.975(1)(d), F.S. allows plans to restrict their home medical equipment and supplies (HME) network only based on price and quality and fraud detection standards.

4. Recipients may choose any HME provider in the managed care plan's network unless exceptions to freedom of choice are listed in the plan's Agency-approved Enrollee Handbook [See Section IV.A, item 7.a(17) of plan contract]. Please note that currently there are no approved freedom of choice exceptions and therefore:

- MMA plans must list every HME provider with which they contract in their online and printed provider directories.
- Recipients may choose any HME provider in the plan's network.
- Recipients do not have to change HME providers unless their provider is not in the plan's network.

5. MMA plans' prior authorization or other utilization management determinations are based on evidence-based criteria and provide written confirmation of all denials, service limitations and reductions of authorization to providers [See Attachment II, Section VII.G, item 2.b. of plan contract].

- Compensation to individuals or entities that conduct utilization management (UM) activities must not be structured to provide incentives for the individual or entity to deny, limit, or discontinue medically necessary services to any enrollee. [See Attachment II, Section VII.G, items 1.b. and 1.c. of plan contract].

If you are having difficulty with any of these issues or with contracting, please notify the Agency by submitting details of your issue online at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/SMMC> . Select the "Report a Complaint" button. Agency staff will contact you to assist with resolving the issue.