

ESSO WEEKLY MEMO

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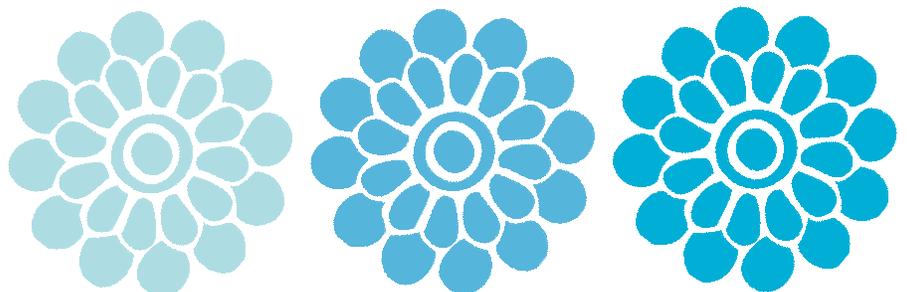
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ACTION NEEDED:

1. QA Data Entry Deadline for QA 2013-2014

Each LES needs to complete data entry for inclusion in this year's QA data pull from both the CMS KIDS and UF Data System by Noon on July 19th, 2013.

FOLLOW UP - No Items

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2. Webinar - Improving Quality and Access to Integrated Care for Racially Diverse and Limited English Proficiency Communities

Date/Time: July 16, 2013 - 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Led By: Katherine Sanchez, LCSW, PhD, Teresa Chapa, PhD, MPA, US HHS Office of Minority Health Henry Chung, M.D., Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Care Management Company (CMO) of Montefiore Medical Center

Description: The US HHS Office of Minority Health, in collaboration with CIHS, has developed this webinar to inform, educate and train community-based behavioral health and/primary care organizations and practitioners in culturally and linguistically competent integrated care delivery models with the goal of reducing health disparities. Topics to be covered by subject matter experts include: ongoing barriers to care, behavioral health approaches in primary care settings, the new CLAS standards and approaches to assisting providers in delivering quality care to racial and ethnic minority communities. Research and seminal reports demonstrate racial and ethnic minorities and populations with limited English proficiency continue to experience health disparities. Comorbid conditions compound mental health and physical health problems. The webinar will provide specific information about how culturally and linguistically competent integrated care can improve accessibility and the quality of physical health and behavioral health services.

Registration Link: www.integration.samhsa.gov/about-us/webinars

MEDICAID UPDATES:

3. 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.

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MEDICAID UPDATES, continued:

4. Provider Signature Requirements for Authorization of Therapy Services

This Provider Alert is to inform providers of the signature requirements for therapy service evaluations and plans of care. The Provider Alert reads as follows:

Medicaid reimburses the following providers for evaluations:

- Licensed physical, occupational, and registered respiratory therapists;
- Licensed and provisionally licensed speech-language pathologists; and
- Home health agencies that employ or contract with licensed physical and occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists.

Medicaid does not reimburse for evaluations performed by therapy assistants or students.

A Medicaid enrolled supervising occupational therapist or home health agency may be reimbursed for evaluations performed by an occupational therapist with a temporary license. To receive reimbursement, both the supervising therapist and the therapist with the temporary license must sign and date the evaluation.

Only the following providers may initiate, develop, submit or change the plan of care:

- Licensed physical, occupational and respiratory therapists; and
- Licensed and provisionally licensed speech-language pathologists.

Medicaid does not authorize services for plans of care performed by therapy assistants or students.

The purpose of the Medicaid therapy services program is to ensure recipients receive appropriate care in line with the standards set forth in the Medicaid Coverage and Limitations Handbooks. Therapy evaluations and plans of care submitted to eQHealth Solutions through the eQHealth website www.eqhealthsolutions.com must include only the appropriate signatures of the Medicaid enrolled providers listed above.

5. THERAPY RATES CHANGED IN ERROR

AHCA reports that therapy rates were recently changed in error within their Medicaid Fiscal Agent's system, resulting in higher or lower rates being paid for Speech, OT, PT and RT provider services. Now that the issue has been identified, it is being corrected. Providers need to maintain good records until the system is fixed and payments for claims can be corrected.

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MEDICAID UPDATES, continued:

6. Direct Secure Messaging Webinar

You are invited to join the Florida Health Information Exchange (HIE) staff during one of our upcoming webinars to learn more about Direct Secure Messaging (DSM). DSM is a secure, encrypted email service that enables users to safely send messages and attachments containing protected health information.

Each webinar will take participants on a tour of DSM and will be followed by a question-and-answer session with Florida HIE staff. You are not required to register in advance to participate. Simply follow the instructions below to join the webinar.

Dates/Times: Tuesday, July 23rd 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm ET meeting ID number 3323

Instructions:

To access the audio portion of the webinar:

1. Call 1-888-670-3525
2. Enter the passcode 770-719-3414 followed by the # key.

To access the visual portion of the webinar

1. Visit <http://meetingplace.harris.com>
2. Enter the meeting ID number listed above and click Attend Meeting
3. Enter your name in the name field and click Attend Meeting
4. Accept any security warnings you receive and wait for the meeting room to initialize

BUREAU UPDATE

7. Florida's Determination Under IDEA

Florida has made continued progress in meeting the targets in the State Performance Plan over the past 7 years, and we are very pleased to report we have been determined by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to **“Meet Requirements” for the SECOND year in a row** in the implementation of IDEA, Part C! This Determination is based on data submitted in the FFY 2011 Annual Performance Report (APR.) You can view Florida's Determination letter and supporting documents, including the current SPP and APR, on the Early Steps website at the following link: http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/reports/program_performance.html. To view, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on OSEP response letter.



Congratulations to all of the Early Steps Stakeholders whose hard work and commitment have resulted in continuous improvement for the infants and toddlers and their families served in Early Steps.

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BUREAU UPDATE, continued:

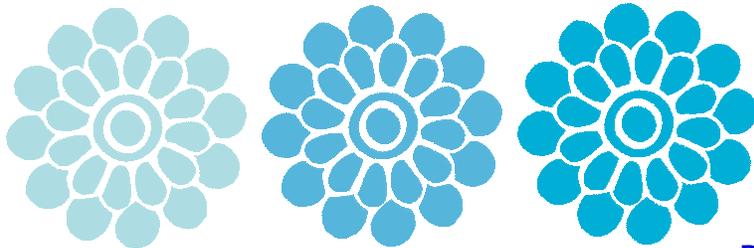
8. Performance Improvement Unit Update

The Performance Improvement Unit staff have participated with other Bureau staff in preparation for the continued rollout of CMS-KIDS. Initial load demographic files have been prepared for North Beaches, North Central and Northeastern LESs. Staff have participated in onsite training at Northeastern. A preliminary QA Desk Review Schedule and QA Activities Calendar has been drafted. A conference call will be scheduled in the coming weeks to review changes to the QA worksheets and instructions which reflect policy changes implemented in January 2013. Lastly, we continue to support Local Early Steps' efforts to implement improvement strategies and demonstrate correction of non-compliance and provide technical assistance related to data collection and reporting.

STAFF AND LES SPOTLIGHT:

9. New Guidelines

This section of the ESSO Weekly Memo will now be used for recognition of major accomplishments, awards, and milestones reached by either **LES/ESSO staff OR local programs**. All entries must be emailed to Katie Williams and Patricia Herring by 5:00 EST on Tuesdays. The subject line should read 'ESSO Weekly Memo Entry.' **Please include a picture when possible.**



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PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION

10. List of Program Managers and their 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	PI Lead
Bay Area	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) Haylie_Mistrot@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
Big Bend	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn_Lynch@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
Central Florida	Arnetta Givens (ext. 3904) Arnetta_Givens@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
Gold Coast	Arnetta Givens (ext. 3904) Arnetta_Givens@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
Gulf Central	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary_Sandler@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
North Beaches	Carol Burch (ext. 2224) Carol_Burch@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
North Central	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn_Lynch@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
North Dade	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice_Miller2@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
Northeastern	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
Southernmost Coast	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice_Miller2@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
Southwest	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary_Sandler@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
Space Coast	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
Treasure Coast	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary_Sandler@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us
West Central	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela_Marcus@doh.state.fl.us
Western Panhandle	Carol Burch (ext. 2224) Carol_Burch@doh.state.fl.us	Susan Barrows (ext. 2231) Susan_Barrows@doh.state.fl.us

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