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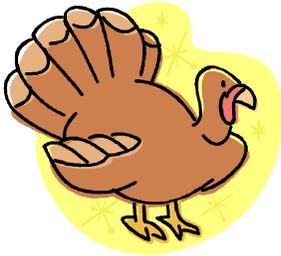
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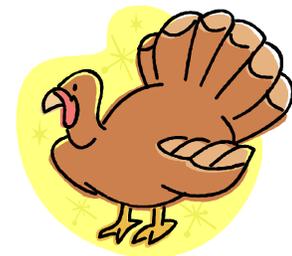


SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE BUREAU CHIEF

The Early Steps State Office has pause in this season to give thanks for every child and family in our program and every local Early Steps program that ensures services are provided. We hope you will take a moment to give thanks for the 20 years this program has provided services to children with developmental delays and conditions that put them at risk for delays. Thanks to each one of you who have played a role. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!! -Penny



Thanksgiving



MEDICAID UPDATES:

1. Medicaid Training Opportunities Available in Polk County and Tampa

The Area Six Medicaid Office is offering the CMS 1500 Medicaid provider training in Polk County and in Tampa during the month of December 2013.

Polk County:

- The CMS-1500 training will be held on December 05, 2013, from 9am to 12pm.
- The MediPass/Child Health Check-Up training will be held on December 10, 2013, from 9am to 12pm.

The training location is the Department of Children and Families office at 1055 Highway 17 North, Bartow, FL 33830.

Tampa:

- The MediPass and Child Health Check-Up training will be held on December 11, 2013 from 9am to 12pm.
- The CMS-1500 training will be held on December 12, 2013 from 9am to 12pm.

The training location is the Area Six Medicaid office at 6800 North Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 220, Tampa, FL 33614.

To download a copy of the Area Six training calendar, please visit

[Florida Medicaid web portal](#) and click on Area Office 6, then go to the link for Area 6 Provider Training Calendar. To register for training sessions, please visit

[Training and/or Public Meetings/Workshops](#). Click on Bartow, and choose the desired training session.

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INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

2. Gallaudet University's Infants, Toddlers, and Families Certificate Program

The Infants, Toddlers and their Families Interdisciplinary Certificate Program at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC is now accepting applications for their new cohort that will begin in May 2014. The first course begins with a 3-day on campus introduction and orientation to the program May 17, 18 and 19. Applications should be submitted by February 1, 2014 to guarantee a place in the program. Students may obtain either graduate credits or professional studies training credits.

For more information about the ITF program and how to apply for graduate credits, click on the following link:

<http://gradschool.gallaudet.edu/programs/c-itf>

For information about the program and how to apply for PST credits, click on the following link:

http://www.gallaudet.edu/CCS/Certificate_Programs

3. Infant Mental Health Graduate Certificate at USFSP

[Attached](#), please find a brochure about the Infant-Family Mental Health Graduate Certificate Program at USF St. Petersburg

Never before has the need for infant-family mental health [IFMH] services garnered so much attention. Almost daily, national news sources are citing the importance of investing in infant and toddler programs to promote the future success of our children and our communities. While professionals in the field are excited and encouraged by this groundswell of support for the expansion of services, they are concerned that the current supply of professionals trained in IFMH is woefully inadequate to meet the growing demand.

Therefore, to promote the creation of a cadre of IFMH-trained professionals, the Family Study Center is providing tuition subsidies to help students who show great promise for contributions to the field. (A subsidy request form is [attached](#).)

4. The Importance of Engagement in Infant and Toddler Programs

Source: Center for Law and Social Policy—November 20, 2013

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) recently released a new paper, [Promote Family Engagement](#) (2013), which discusses the importance of family engagement in child care and early education programs serving infants and toddlers. The paper provides research documenting the importance of strengthening family engagement, policy recommendations states can consider to enhance family engagement strategies, and other resources. It was published as part of CLASP'S [Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care](#) project, an effort to link research to policy ideas to help states make the best decisions for infants and toddlers in child care.

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INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, continued:

5. Blending and Braiding Early Childhood Program Funding Streams Toolkit

Source: Ounce of Prevention Fund—November 26, 2013

The Ounce of Prevention Fund recently published a new toolkit,

[Blending and Braiding Early Childhood Program Funding Streams Toolkit](#) (November 2013).

It is designed to provide state advocates and policymakers with strategies, tools, resources and options to make policy choices that facilitate the blending and braiding of funding streams to improve access to high-quality early learning programs that benefit vulnerable young children and working families.

STAFF & LES SPOTLIGHT

6. ESSO Staff Spotlight

Farewell and Transition Information from Carol Burch

I couldn't leave without saying a final farewell to the many with whom I've worked over the last four years. Today (Wednesday) is my last day in the office with Early Steps...after 43 years of employment (and marriage to the same man!) it's time to join my husband in retirement for the next phase of our lives. I can truly say that this last position of my career, though not my longest term anywhere, has been one of the most rewarding...in what we are accomplishing for children and families, for potential impact on the future of so many lives, and for the relationships between staff and among our many stakeholders. Regardless of whether we have had direct contact or not, thank you for whatever role you have in making Early Steps such an awesome and rewarding program. May your future be blessed. Know that mine has been through knowing so many of you and through being a part of Early Steps these past four years. Happy Thanksgiving and may your Christmas Season be blessed as well!

For continuity and assistance with any area you may have received assistance or guidance from me in the past, the following list provides the names of ESSO staff who are assuming lead for those duties. Once my position is filled again, you will be re-directed for those in interim roles.

Policy Component 1 General Supervision - Renee Jenkins (interim)

Medicaid Policy - Renee Jenkins (interim)

Medicaid Payment/Claims - Arnetta Givens

Third Party Insurance Policy - Renee Jenkins (interim)

Third Party Insurance Payment/Claims - Arnetta Givens

[note that this includes the new ESSO point of contact for CareCentrix issues]

Policy Component 2 - Service Coordination - Renee Jenkins (interim)

Policy Component 5 IFSP - Kelly Rogers (interim)

Policy Component 6 EI Services and Supports - Dawn Lynch (interim)

Western Panhandle LES Program Management - Katie Williams

North Beaches LES Program Management - Susan Casey

Happy Retirement Carol! We'll Miss you!

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PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION:

7. 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@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Big Bend	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov
Central Florida	Arnetta Givens (ext. 3904) Arnetta.Givens@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov
Gold Coast	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov
Gulf Central	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
North Beaches	Carol Burch (ext. 2224) Carol.Burch@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
North Central	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov
North Dade	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Northeastern	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Southernmost Coast	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@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	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov
Treasure Coast	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov
West Central	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Western Panhandle	Carol Burch (ext. 2224) Carol.Burch@flhealth.gov	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov



Do you have a BA or graduate degree, and are...

... new to the field?

- Our program will provide a strong foundation in infant-family mental health that will support you in the challenges you will face.

... experienced in providing services to families?

- Our program will help you better understand and address the specialized and unique needs of the families with whom you work.

... working in a related field but want to learn more about infants and toddlers?

- Our program will educate you in critically important topics such as brain-development, attachment theory, family systems theory, and working with systems of care.

Applications Currently Being Accepted For Spring 2014

Best consideration deadline:
December 15, 2013—applications accepted after that until filled

Classes Begin: January 6, 2014

For more information:
Visit our Family Study Center website
<http://www.usfsp.edu/fsc/>

Contact:
Liz Jack
Infant-Family Mental Health Programs Administrator
Phone: 727-515-5891



Apply today—it's EASY!

- 1) No GRE is required!
- 2) Write a statement of intent and provide 2 writing samples.
- 3) Obtain 3 letters of reference.
- 4) Order your undergraduate transcripts (we will obtain USF system transcripts).
- 5) Students already in a masters program need not submit a full application.
- 6) Visit www.usfsp.edu/fsc/ for complete details.



**Infant-Family
Mental Health
Graduate
Certificate Program**



Are you interested in gaining expertise in Infant-Family Mental Health?

USFSP has a Graduate Certificate Program to meet your needs!

**Full and Partial Tuition
Subsidies Available!**



USFSP's Infant-Family Mental Health Graduate Certificate Program

Fully online! Video classes are done at home at your convenience!

- plus a half-day family engagement community event in February in St. Petersburg (with location substitutions as needed)
- and a 10 hour per week practicum in the Fall (personalized for your interests and schedule)

12 graduate level credits

- Credits may be applied to another masters degree with that program's approval

Nurturing Parenting Training and Certification Included

- ◆ Become certified in an evidence-based program designed to build Nurturing Parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices
- ◆ Training May 5-7, 2014 in St. Petersburg, FL (optional)

Students say...

- *"Instruction was phenomenal. "*
- *"All assignments worked toward becoming a better IMH practitioner. "*
- *"Objectives were clear; I knew exactly what to expect. "*
- *"Good for beginners and for seasoned providers."*
- *"Best online mixed mode class I have ever experienced."*
- *"Highly-trained, community involved, hands-on instructors."*

One year long; one course per semester (Spring through Fall)

- **Spring** — Infant-Family Mental Health
- **Summer A** — Working with Systems of Care to Benefit Infants and Toddlers
- **Summer B** — Working with Families of Infants and Toddlers
- **Fall** — Field Practice and Evaluation in Infant Family Mental Health (summer internships available for students working as school teachers)



Tuition Information:

- ◆ **State Employees** are eligible for Florida University Tuition Waivers for Courses 1, 2 and 3
- ◆ **Tuition subsidies** are available through the Family Study Center (*contact us for details*)
- ◆ In-state tuition \$1,422.30 per course; private and federal graduate school loans may be available to you



RE: FSC Subsidy Request

Dear Potential Future IFMH Certificate Student:

The Family Study Center (FSC) at USF St. Petersburg is pleased to be offering subsidies to selected students entering the Infant-Family Mental Health (IFMH) Certificate Program who show exceptional promise for contributing to the field of infant-family mental health and the need for assistance. Although the FSC Subsidy Fund is limited, we will do our best to help our next cohort of students meaningfully impact their communities by helping them to finance this program to the extent possible.

In order to be considered for a subsidy, you must complete an IFMH Graduate Certificate Program Application. You may submit your Subsidy Request Form at any time, but your request will only be considered once your Application is ready for review.

You will be informed of the decisions regarding your Application and Request at the same time.

To apply for the IFMH Certificate Program: please contact Liz Jack at emjack@usfsp.edu or 727-515-5891 for details, or visit the FSC website at: <http://www.usfsp.edu/fsc/> for application instructions.

To apply for a subsidy: please complete the attached form and enclose it with your application, or scan and return it via email to:

Liz Jack

email: emjack@usfsp.edu

** NOTE: The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential to be reviewed only by key FSC personnel. If you would like, you may submit the Subsidy Request Form with your Application in a separate sealed envelope marked as such.*

Dr. James P. McHale
FSC Director



USFSP IFMH Graduate Certificate Program

FSC Subsidy Request Form

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

1. Please attach a copy of your resume to this request.
2. Are you currently employed? If so, what is your occupation and employment? If not, please explain your present situation.
3. What is your current annual income from employment (annual salary or, if paid hourly, then total wages last year)?
4. Are you married? *If no, skip to question 8.*
5. If your spouse currently employed? If so, what is his occupation / employment? If not, please explain your spouse's present situation.
6. What is your spouse's annual income from employment (annual salary or, if paid hourly, then total wages last year)?
7. Are you (or your spouse, if married) a Veteran? If so, please provide details.
8. Do you (and/or your spouse, if married) receive any sort of benefits or income in addition to salary or wages? If so, please provide details.



9. Do you (and your spouse, if married) have any outstanding debt (ie. student loans, car loans, mortgage, credit card bills, medical bills, etc.)? If so, please provide details.

10. Does your employer provide any sort of tuition assistance? If yes, please provide details. (If you do not know, please find out before submitting this form.)

11. Do you have any children (if yes, how many and what are their ages)?

12. How much money are you requesting to help make it possible for you to attend this program? Please explain.

13. Is there anything else you would like us to know in considering your request?

I swear that this information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date