



## WEEKLY UPDATE – JANUARY 16, 2009

### ***ACTION NEEDED***

#### ***CHILDREN'S WEEK AT THE CAPITOL***

This year, CMS is again a proud partner of Children's Week. One of the hallmarks of Children's Week are the hundreds of thousands of construction paper cut outs of children's hands that hang from the Capitol Rotunda in honor of children around the state (photos below). Last year, a few of our offices participated, but this year, we'd like to fill the Capitol with CMS/Early Steps hands! So we are inviting all area offices to work with local CMS/Early Steps children to create some spectacular CMS/Early Steps Hands!

The following are the instructions regarding the children's hand artwork to be displayed:

- Children's hand artwork should be stapled securely onto string or ribbon vertically in lengths of 8 or 10 feet for easy hanging in the Capitol.
- Hands must be hung vertically and strung together before mailing. We cannot hang anything from the walls so we're relying on hanging art vertically from the ceiling.
- Please do not send individual hands without connecting them to string or ribbon.
- Please do not make large signs as the display will not hold the weight. Small posters are fine (no larger than 11"x14").

Perhaps you want to consider making hands in CMS blue and yellow or maybe you'd like to feature CMS butterfly "hands" with family's stories or photos... Be as creative as you'd like, but make sure to follow the rules!

All artwork must be postmarked no later than **Friday, March 20th** and mailed to:

Early Learning Coalition of Big Bend Region  
c/o Children's Week Hands  
325 John Knox Road, Building F-140  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

If sending via mail, please list the contact information, organization and county the hands are being sent from. Please list your county name on the box, and on the back of the first and last sets of hands, so volunteers can hang the hands in the State Capitol Rotunda in order of counties.

Start making your hands now... March is coming sooner than you think!

The official Hanging of the Hands ceremony will take place at the Capitol Rotunda on Sunday, March 29, 2008 at 12:30 pm in case you would like to attend.



You can also visit [www.childrensweek.org](http://www.childrensweek.org) for more information about this great event.

## ***INFORMATION AND RESOURCES***

### **FRS CONFERENCE CALL NOTES**

Attached are the FRS Conference Call Notes for December, 08 and January, 09. Please note that it is highly likely that the FRS, 09 Spring Meeting will be postponed or cancelled due to travel restrictions.

### ***NECTAC NEWS***

For the most current issues of NECTAC eNotes go to <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### ***CONTRACT AMENDMENTS FOR DEFICITS***

The good news is that the legislature did not cut any funds from Early Steps. The bad news is we just received our Medicaid Match billing from AHCA on Early Intervention codes (EI Sessions and Evaluations) for October through December and our Medicaid Match has gone WAY up. We have to determine with Medicaid what our obligation will be for the remainder of the year to ensure we have enough to pay

and allow you to continue to bill EI codes. Hopefully we will have final answers on your deficit funding by next week. Thanks again for your patience.

### **PREPAID THERAPY PROGRAM**

The implementation of the Prepaid Therapy Program, scheduled for February 1, 2009, has been postponed. Medicaid will update its website with the new implementation date once it has been determined and will send notification to providers who are registered on their distribution list. Early Steps will include updates in the weekly memo as information is made available.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS, TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES**

### **LES TRAINING COORDINATORS' MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL**

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

Call: 1-864-414-0089

Please put your phone on mute function during the call after Roll-Call.

### **A WEBINAR BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER ON SOCIAL EMOTIONAL INTERVENTION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (TACSEI)**

***“Implementing and Sustaining Effective Programs and Services that Promote Good Social, Emotional and Behavioral Outcomes for Young Children with Special Needs: Part 1 of 2”***

Thursday, Jan 29, 2009

1:00 PM EST

Presented by Karen Blase, Barbara Smith and Roxane Kaufman

Register now for this FREE webinar at [http://www.challengingbehavior.org/webinar\\_registration.htm](http://www.challengingbehavior.org/webinar_registration.htm)

Space is limited and registrations will no longer be accepted once capacity is reached.

Please note that a recorded version of this webinar will be available to the public on the TACSEI website within one week of the event.

#### **Webinar Description:**

Successfully implementing the Pyramid Model or any evidence-based initiative is challenging. And it is even more challenging to sustain that success over time and in the context of staff turnover and changing organizational, social, and political environments.

This webinar is the first of two related webinars focused on state and program level implementation and sustainability of evidence-based practices. We will briefly review the TACSEI mission and the Pyramid Model for promoting social and emotional competence in young children. However, it will primarily be focused on how to develop the right infrastructure for implementing evidence-based practices to fidelity and sustaining an effective approach overtime. Effective strategies will be reviewed along with the roles that Implementation Teams can play in ensuring that there is an adequate and science-based infrastructure for achieving program implementation. The webinar will also review strategies and structures for developing internally and externally hospitable environments that support fidelity and positive outcomes.

A second related webinar, which will be held on May 21, 2009 from 1-2:30 EST, will build upon this one and will discuss structures, procedures and financing for sustainability. Registration will open approximately three weeks before the event and preference will be given to individuals participating in this first webinar as the content will build upon the content of the first webinar. Participation in both webinars is strongly recommended.

### ***ONLINE COURSE OFFERED BY LESLEY UNIVERSITY***

Early Childhood Educators: Are you seeking an interesting professional development opportunity for yourself or for staff with whom you are working? Lesley University is offering an online course:

**EEDUC 5051.80 - CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS: RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE.**  
Based on a case study format, the course is designed to strengthen participants' ability to work effectively in inclusionary settings.

**DATES:** Module I: January 26 – March 1, 2009 Special Focus: Children Whose Behavior is impacted by Physical and Interpersonal Factors in the Environment.

Module II: March 9 - April 12, 2009

Special Focus: Children Whose Challenging Behavior is Impacted by Neurological or Biological Factors

Module III: April 20 - May 24, 2009

Special Focus: Programs that Help Children Learn to Manage Their Own Behavior

**REGISTRATION:** Participants may enroll in 1, 2, or all 3 modules. Each module offers the opportunity to earn 1 credit. Or participants may enroll for the entire course and earn 3 credits.

Cost: \$465 per module, plus a \$30 registration fee.

For further information about the course, contact:

Professor Mary Mindess  
Lesley University  
mmindess@lesley.edu

To register, contact:

Heather Olson  
holson2@lesley.edu

Registration deadline: January 19, 2009 for the module beginning on January 26.