



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – MARCH 3, 2011

IN THIS MEMO:

ACTION NEEDED

- 1. 19 Days Remaining** in Early Steps Public Comment Period Related to Proposed Policy Changes and the Annual IDEA, Part C Application for Funds
- 2. Public Awareness Materials**
- 3. Child Outcomes Leadership Team** is interested in feedback on the Family Flyer

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- 4. Changes in the Early Steps State Office**
- 5. Report to the Legislature on the Reorganization of the Department of Health**
- 6. DOH General Counsel Reminder on HIPAA**
- 7. New Online Resource for Families of Individuals with ASD**
- 8. Early Steps and Medicaid Managed Care**
- 9. Attention to Providers Who Submit Medicaid Claims on the HP Secure Web Portal**
- 10. NECTAC News**

UPCOMING TRAININGS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES

- 11. Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers Quarterly Meeting Announcement**
- 12. SchoolsMovingUp**

13. Center for Early Education and Development Courses

ACTION NEEDED

1. 19 Days Remaining in Early Steps Public Comment Period Related to Proposed Policy Changes and the Annual IDEA, Part C Application for Funds

The public comment period related to proposed Early Steps policy revisions and the annual Part C application for funds began on Monday, February 21 and continues through March 22, 2011. Public hearings were held February 22 in Ft. Lauderdale (29 participants), February 23 in Orlando (6 participants) and February 24 in Tallahassee (31 participants).

The proposed policies and annual Part C application for funds are available on the Early Steps public participation website (http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/public_participation.html). The website also provides detailed information regarding how to provide comments, which includes submitting to an electronic mailbox, postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery.

Proposed changes related to IDEA Part C eligibility are intended to further clarify changes made to Early Steps eligibility effective July 1, 2010, with a goal of ensuring consistency in eligibility determination across the state. We are particularly interested in receiving comments regarding whether the proposed policies and guidance, as written, clearly identify which children are eligible for Early Steps and the process for determining eligibility.

We are also interested in receiving comments from those who develop the IFSP regarding the proposal to revise Form G of the IFSP to allow clear documentation of medical necessity for services for children who are Medicaid recipients. The Agency for Healthcare Administration has requested improved documentation of medical necessity. Please comment regarding whether Form G is a practical location or whether another location such as Form D of the IFSP might be more appropriate. Also comment regarding whether it would be more appropriate to develop a new form to document medical necessity for Medicaid recipients rather than revising an existing form.

If you find a particular proposed policy unclear, please state that in your comments and provide details regarding recommended clarifying language, suggested training content or technical assistance needed related to that policy. Please identify the specific section or sections of policy documents or the Part C application that each of

your comments addresses. Please provide your comments, recommendations and implementation concerns no later than March 22, 2011.

2. Public Awareness Materials (With 1 Attachment)

The ESSO has some limited funds and is planning on purchasing ES stickers and pencils for local offices. Please see the attached worksheet for the amounts and shipping addresses; if there is a correction needed please send it to: catherine_duncan@doh.state.fl.us.

3. Child Outcomes Leadership Team is interested in feedback on the Family Flyer (With 1 Attachment)

We are interested in hearing your feedback on the Child and Family Outcomes family flyer.

- Are you currently using it with families, and if so, how/when?
- What response have you had from families to the flyer?
- Do you have any recommendations for edits or other ways of communicating information to families about child and family outcomes?

The flyer is attached here as an easy reference for you. Please provide your input to Sally_Golden-McCord@doh.state.fl.us by March 18, 2011.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

4. Changes in the Early Steps State Office

Lots of changes going on at the Early Steps State Office!

1. Our beloved D'Lo Trejo is RETIRING after 15 years with the Early Steps State Office and over 30 years in Florida state government! D'Lo has been a tremendous asset to Early Steps, and her leadership, expertise and camaraderie will be sorely missed. Her last day in the office is March 4. We wish her continued health and happiness in her retirement.
2. Carol Roberts has been hired OPS (temporary position) to take the lead for the Strategic Plan for Sustainability. The organizational meeting of the Early Steps Sustainability Strategic Plan Implementation Committee is on March 3.
3. Claudia Kassack is leaving Early Steps to pursue new opportunities in the Managed Care Unit within the CMS Network. During her time with Early

Steps, Claudia contributed greatly to both the Performance Improvement Unit \and the Training Unit. Her last day is March 4.

4. Wedding bells bring name changes!

Lynn Marie Price is now officially known as Lynn Marie Firehammer.

Tameka Davis is now officially known as Tameka Footman

5. Report to the Legislature on the Reorganization of the Department of Health

As required by House Bill 5311 - Section 34, beginning on page 75, the Department of Health released their report on the evaluation and justification review of each division to determine, among other things, whether the department could be organized in a more efficient and effective manner, including whether each division's mission, goals, or objectives should be redefined. The link to HB 5311 and the department's report are below for your information. Keep in mind that these are recommendations to the legislature and are not final. The legislature will be considering these recommendations in their deliberations on the reorganization of state government. We will not know the final outcome until the end of legislative session.

DOH Report <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/REPORT.PDF>

HB 5311

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h5311er.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=5311&Session=2010>

6. DOH General Counsel Reminder on HIPAA

Please take note of HHS' record civil fine of CIGNET for HIPAA violations at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/02/20110222a.html> , and the fine levied against Massachusetts General Hospital at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/02/20110224b.html>.

Some key action points to keep in mind in light of these two recent cases are:

1. When patients ask for copies of their medical records, provide them without delay. (This was the issue in the CIGNET case).
2. Do not take unsecured Protected Health Information home or anywhere off site. This means paper records, laptops, unencrypted drives, etc. Theft or loss of computers and equipment is by far the most frequent cause of data breaches.

Please remember that PRIVACY MATTERS.

7. New Online Resource for Families of Individuals with ASD

Autism NOW: The National Autism Resource and Information Center, the nation's source for resources and information on community-based solutions for individuals with autism, other developmental disabilities, and their families. Autism NOW is a national initiative of The Arc. Check out their website, sign up for their enews, register for webinars and find information about the Regional Autism NOW Summit coming to Orlando on July 9-10. www.autismnow.org

8. Early Steps and Medicaid Managed Care (With 2 Attachments)

The paper developed by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council on a solution for Early Steps in a Medicaid Managed Care environment is attached for your information. There is also attached a shorter "talking points" version.

9. Attention to Providers Who Submit Medicaid Claims on the HP Secure Web Portal

Providers have been notified of changes in Medicaid billing regarding the use of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) on electronic claims as of April 1, 2011. The requirement to use only an NPI in the billing/pay-to provider and the rendering/treating provider loops for providers who are required to obtain an NPI applies only to claims submitted on the X12 837 transactions. There is no change for the use of the Medicaid Provider ID for claims submitted on the secure Web portal.

10. NECTAC News

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

UPCOMING TRAININGS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES

11. Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers Quarterly Meeting Announcement

April 12 & 13, 2011

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and Conference Center
Palm Beach Gardens
4431 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Call the reservation department at 1- 800-222-8733.

Tell the reservation department that you would like to make a reservation FROM the group code FDH.

All attendees who wish to procure a sleeping room must call and make their reservation by March 19, 2011

FICCIT Liaison: Tameka Footman
850-245-4444 extension 2268
Tameka_Davis@doh.state.fl.us

12. SchoolsMovingUp

SchoolsMovingUp, by WestEd Announces **Enhancing Infant and Toddler Care through Reflective Practice, Part III** Webinar

MAR 9 | 10:30am-12:00pm (PT)

In this third webinar of the Enhancing Infant and Toddler Care through Reflective Practice series, Cheryl Williams-Jackson, Professor at Modesto Junior College, and Margie Perez Sesser, Early Childhood Education Consultant, will discuss the connections between responsiveness to children's cultural and linguistic context and learning.

13. Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) College of Education and Human Development University of Minnesota

There is still time to register for two of the winter/spring online courses. Quick online registration is available at http://www.regonline.com/ceed_online_courses

Continuing education certificates for 24 clock hours, approved and issued by the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, can be earned by successfully completing course requirements.

These courses are also approved for members of the International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA) for 24 clock hours per course.

Click on the links below to learn more about each course.
March 7 to May 9, 2011 (9-week session):

Bridging Education and Mental Health

(24 clock hours)

Instructor: Leah Hjelseth, M.A.

March 14 to May 16, 2011 (9-week session):

Prenatal Development and Its Influence on Child Development:

A Foundational Course on the Parent-Infant Relationship

(24 clock hours)

Instructor: Joann O'Leary, Ph.D., MPH, MS

More Information

[CEED online courses](#)

[Costs and How to Register](#)

Group rates: There are discounted course fees for organizations who enroll a group of people.

[2011 CEED Online Course Schedule \(pdf\)](#)

Unfamiliar with distance education? [Learn how we conduct our online courses.](#)

If you would like a sample syllabus or have questions:

Please contact Karen Anderson, CEED online course manager, at 612-625-6617 or ander352@umn.edu.

Center for Early Education and Development (CEED), College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, 1954 Buford Avenue, Suite 425, St. Paul, MN, 55108. Phone: 612-625-3058. Fax: 612-625-2093. <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed>. [Like us on Facebook.](#)