



## WEEKLY UPDATE – MARCH 4, 2010

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### GOOD LUCK AND FAREWELL PAM

It is with feelings of happiness and sadness that we announce Pam Tempson has accepted the position of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Coordinator for CMS-Newborn Hearing Screening. During the past 4 ½ years Pam has been an invaluable asset to Early Steps and will be greatly missed. Although she will be with a different program within CMS, she will continue to work closely with Early Steps through SHINE. Her last day with the Early Steps State Office is March 4, 2010.

Please contact Liza Smith regarding Pam's responsibilities at [Liza\\_Smith@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Liza_Smith@doh.state.fl.us) or 850-245-4200 extension 2269.

Pam would like to thank all Early Steps partners for a great 4 1/2 years!

## ACTION NEEDED

## ANNUAL RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR FUNDS UNDER IDEA, PART C

In order to meet the public participation requirements under §441 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) at 20 USC 1232d(b)(7)(B) and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at 34 CFR §§303.110 through 303.113, the Early Steps State Office (ESSO), as lead agency for implementation of Part C of IDEA in Florida, is publishing the annual renewal application for funds under Part C of the IDEA. The application will be available for public review for 60 days beginning **March 1, 2010 through April 30, 2010**.

**The opportunity for public comment on the Part C application is available for 30 days beginning March 16, 2010 through April 15, 2010.** Comments will be accepted from the general public, including parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, providers of services, advocacy groups and organizations and other stakeholders in the state.

**The Early Steps State Office must receive your comments no later than April 15, 2010. Note that the Early Steps State Office will *not* accept comments by phone, fax or e-mail to ESSO staff.**

The purpose of the public participation process is to gather comments regarding the annual Part C application for funds. Responses to individual questions will not be provided; however, the ESSO will review and consider all comments and make any modifications deemed necessary to the application. All comments received, will be available for public review at <http://www.cms-kids.com> after the public comment period ends, without personal identifiers or contact information.

To review the application, go to: [http://www.cms-kids.com/home/resources/es\\_policy/annual\\_renewal\\_application.html](http://www.cms-kids.com/home/resources/es_policy/annual_renewal_application.html)

## SURVEY: MANAGED CARE SWITCHING AND MEDICAID COVERAGE

(With Attachment)

On a recent statewide call, several people discussed local challenges regarding Early Steps infants and toddlers who have been switched from MediPass to a Medicaid HMO reportedly without the families' prior knowledge or consent. This issue was brought to the attention of AHCA Medicaid staff, who were already aware and working on it. AHCA is trying to document the extent and particulars of the problem... is it statewide, or only within certain areas? Is it only between certain companies or widespread? Does it only affect Medicaid enrollees in certain programs, or across all? Is it limited to counties with Reform HMOs and PSNs, or non-reform areas as well?

We are also hearing that Medicaid is either denying payment or limiting prior authorization of services more often than in the past. Again, is this a widespread issue or only in certain LES areas or with certain providers (i.e. HMOs, PSNs, MediPass, Fee For Service)? Are only certain services not being covered, or most?

The attached survey has been designed to collect as much information as possible for AHCA and ESSO to work with to find resolution. Please complete as thoroughly and promptly as you can, enlisting the assistance of your providers and families as appropriate. We are requesting a short turnaround time, with a **due date of Friday, March 12**, for submission of the information.

Thank you for your assistance with helping us reach resolution. If you have any questions after reviewing the forms, you may contact Carol Burch at: [carol\\_burch@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:carol_burch@doh.state.fl.us), or Renee Jenkins at: [renee\\_jenkins@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:renee_jenkins@doh.state.fl.us).

## ***INFORMATION AND RESOURCES***

### **THE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SPP ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

ESSO has submitted the Annual Performance Report and Revised State Performance Plan to OSEP on 2/1 as required by IDEA 2004. Information can be located at [APR Florida PartC FY0809.pdf](#) Submitted February 1, 2010 and [SPP for Florida Revised Feb 2010.pdf](#) Revised February 1, 2010.

### **FLORIDA KIDCARE POSTERS**

Florida KidCare posters are still available from the DOH Distribution Center without shipping costs. These posters are a great way to get the word out about Florida KidCare. The posters are:

- Florida KidCare... for kids, it's great health insurance.... for parents it's "One Less Worry"
- Put health insurance on your child's Back-to-school list
- Florida KidCare...For Every Stage of your child's life

Please contact Jennifer Mitchell, Program Assistant, KidCare Unit at (850) 245-4200, ext. 2251 for ordering information.

### **FLORIDA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AT USF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS (With Attachment)**

#### **Community Advisory Committee**

The Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of South Florida is seeking interested self advocates and family members to serve as members on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is charged with the responsibility of advising FCIC staff. CAC membership is a 2 year renewable commitment and there are four meetings per year (2 are face to face and 2 are by conference call). Travel costs are reimbursed.

#### **Committee Roles and Responsibilities**

The role of the Community Advisory Committee is to strengthen the work of the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities by:

- Serving in an advisory capacity,
- Assisting with the dissemination of information and resources,

- Meeting 4 times a year (2 face to face meetings and 2 conference calls),
- Advocating for, and on behalf of, the center and its work, and
- Advising and informing staff about other relevant organizations, programs, networks or activities that may provide opportunities collaboration.

### Application Process

Complete the CAC application and submit it no later than *March 23, 2010*. The application is attached to this email. If you need any assistance with completing the application process, please call us toll-free at (866) 818-4797 or email [benito@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:benito@fmhi.usf.edu).

## FEDERAL FUNDING AND BUILDING INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

The BUILD Initiative recently published a paper, entitled *Federal Funding and Young Children: Directions, Opportunities, and Challenges to States in Building Early Childhood Programs* (2009), by Charles Bruner. The report highlights current and new federal sources of funding for early learning programs and discusses the challenges states are facing in trying to effectively coordinate and use this array of federal funding to build integrated early childhood systems. It is available online at <http://www.buildinitiative.org/files/Federal%20Funding.pdf>

Source: Build Initiative - Retrieved January 5, 2010; NECTAC eNotes, January 8, 2010

## NECTAC NEWS

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

### UPCOMING NECTAC WEBINAR PRESENTATION (With Attachment)

#### Session 2: Rigorous Definitions of Developmental Delay

You may now register for the second webinar in the series, [Rigorous Definitions of Developmental Delay](#) by Steve Rosenberg, on Wednesday, March 10, 4PM EST / 3PM CST / 2PM MST / 1PM PST (the call will last approximately an hour).

Register here: [https://tadnet.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl?div\\_view=reg&event\\_user\\_id=](https://tadnet.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl?div_view=reg&event_user_id=)

Place a check mark next to "Rigorous Definitions of Developmental Delay" and click the "Register" button at the bottom of the list to begin your registration process.

**Promising Pathways: the Road to Best Practice in Autism conference** – Don't miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Promising Pathway: the Road to Best Practice in Autism conference. This complimentary event is being co-sponsored by Working with the Experts and will be held on **April 10, 2010**, from 8:00-4:00 p.m. at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. CEUs will be available free of charge for Occupational and Physical Therapists as well as Psychologists, School Psychologists, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed

Clinical Social Workers and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists and Nurses. Please see flyer for more details and registration information.

- Filename: Promising Pathways Autism Conference.pdf
- Filename: Local Hotels with Special FGCU Rates Available.pdf
- Contact: [pdp@fgcu.edu](mailto:pdp@fgcu.edu)