



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – MARCH 10, 2011

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- 9. Early Steps Family Resource Specialist Spring Statewide Meeting**

10. Promising Pathways: The Road to Best Practice in Autism

11. Kennedy Foundation Fellowships

ACTION NEEDED

1. 12 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 continues through March 22, 2011. The proposed Early Steps policy revisions and the annual Part C application for funds remain on the Early Steps public participation website (http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/public_participation.html) for review. 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.

Please provide comments regarding whether the proposed policies and guidance provide clear direction and whether there are implementation concerns. If you find that the proposed language documents does not provide clear direction, please comment regarding how it might be clarified as well as any recommended training topics/content or technical assistance. If there are implementation concerns, please comment regarding how those concerns they might be addressed. Please identify the specific section or sections of the 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. Survey on Early Childhood Assessment Measures - Kent State University

Steve Bagnato, John Neisworth, and Kristie Pretti-Frontczak are inviting those who work with young children from birth to age eight to participate in a consumer rating of early childhood assessment measures. Results will expand upon *LINKing Authentic Assessment & Early Childhood Intervention*, by Stephen Bagnato, John T. Neisworth, & Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, 2010. **The survey takes about 10 minutes per assessment. The website will be open until March 18th.**

To learn more and to access the online survey, go to <http://ehhs.kent.edu/link/>

Input is being sought from teachers, family members, paraprofessionals, administrators, related service providers, therapists, consultants, social workers, school psychologists, child care providers, nurses, or others who have familiarity with early childhood assessment measures to participate.

For questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak at 330-672-0597 or kprettif@kent.edu.

Information about Kent State University's rules for research can be obtained from Dr. John West, Vice President and Dean, Division of Research and Graduate Studies 330-672-2851.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

3. Early Steps Data Entry Clarification about Other Services

Please discontinue data system recording of Other Services in Family Support Plan Service Authorization (FSPSA) records. The FSPSA records should only reflect services authorized by the IFSP for which Early Steps is indicated as the payer or for which Early Steps may be responsible for payment if third party payers appropriately deny the service.

4. "Red Book" Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules: Excerpts Related to Exceptional Student Education (ESE) (Vol. I-B)

DOE is pleased to announce that the 2011 version of the "Red Book" is now available at: <http://www.fldoe.org/ease/pdf/1b-stats.pdf>. ESE Directors will receive hard copies for distribution in their districts by next week. Other individuals may request a copy from the BEESS Resource and Information Center (BRIC) at cicbiscs@fldoe.org. Please include your mailing address with your request.

- Link: <http://www.fldoe.org/ease/pdf/1b-stats.pdf>
- Contact: BRIC at cicbiscs@fldoe.org

5. DOH Celebrates Social Work Month 2011 - March is National Social Work Month

March is National Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers from all over the country for the invaluable work that they do. This year's theme of "Social

Workers Change Futures” promotes the role of social worker as a positive change agent. There are 640,000 professional social workers in the United States who have dedicated their careers to either helping people transform their lives or improving environments that make such progress possible. The Department of Health would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank these skilled professionals who are helping to change the future for so many of Florida’s citizens.

The Social Work profession was established more than 100 years ago to provide as many people as possible with the tools and support they need to overcome adversity (poverty, illness, addiction, abuse, discrimination, etc.) and reach their full potential. The social work profession also works to change systems and customs that limit the ability of vulnerable individuals and groups to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Social Work Month provides the Department of Health an opportunity to highlight the essential role that social workers play in alleviating some of Florida’s most difficult problems. Through education, training, and dedication, social workers provide assistance in many different areas of public health including Infant, Maternal and Reproductive Health, School Health, HIV/AIDS, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Sexual Violence Prevention, Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention, and Children with Special Needs. Public health social workers identify the factors associated with resilience, strengths, and assets that promote health. They mobilize communities to enable their residents to adopt healthier lifestyles. They identify disparities in health outcomes and develop strategies to eliminate those disparities. Every day, social workers witness the best and worst of human nature. A social worker’s success is often defined by the opportunities people enjoy thanks to their intervention.

As the nation recognizes March as National Social Work Month, the Department of Health honors the many dedicated social work professionals and thanks them for their contributions in helping Florida’s most vulnerable citizens.

6. Reminder about Protected Health Information

This is a reminder that you should not take unsecured Protected Health Information home or anywhere off site. This means paper records, laptops with unencrypted drives, etc. Theft or loss of computers and equipment is by far the most frequent cause of data breaches and a violation of confidentiality laws. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Purvis at Kelly_Purvis@doh.state.fl.us .

7. NECTAC News

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

UPCOMING TRAININGS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES

8. What Would "Better" Diagnosis of ASDs Look Like?

DSM-5 and Beyond - A Webinar from AUCD's Autism Special Interest Group

About the Webinar

Because there is not yet a biological test that indicates autism, these diagnoses must be based on the observations of clinicians and the reports of caregivers and teachers. Due to the variability in ASDs, inexperienced or ill-informed clinicians can make incorrect diagnoses, which can cause hardship for families and significant cost to children and adults with and without ASD. In addition, research to determine causes and effective treatments for ASD is dependent on being able to compare groups of children or adults with ASD across different studies. If participants are chosen whose diagnoses are based on different information, results may be impossible to interpret. This presentation will address how research in ASD has attempted to address these issues by moving in several different directions, using the newly-proposed DSM-5 criteria as a framework.

Speaker: Catherine Lord, PhD

Dr. Catherine Lord is a clinical psychologist who has worked in Canada and the U.K and at various universities in the U.S., including the TEACCH program. She was involved in developing standardized diagnostic instruments for ASD [the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), an observational scale, and the Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R), a parent interview], considered the gold standard for research diagnoses. She was the Chair of the Committee on Effectiveness of Early Intervention in Autism for the National Research Council. This Webinar will take place on **Friday, March 18th from 4:00PM to 5:00PM Eastern Standard Time**. The visual portion of the webinar will be conducted via GoToMeeting and the audio portion via telephone or VoIP (requires microphone and speakers).

After registration you will be given a unique web address for viewing the webinar and audio information.

For more information please see the [EVENT WEBSITE](#) or contact [Jennifer Bogin](#), Project Manager at AUCD

Please Note- There is NO cost for this webinar!

This webinar will be archived and can be viewed in AUCD's 'Webinar Library' at www.aucd.org

This Webinar is in part made possible with support from The Maternal and Child

HealthBureau and the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the CDC

9. Early Steps Family Resource Specialist Spring Statewide Meeting (With 1 Attachment)

The Early Steps Family Resource Specialist Spring Statewide Meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM, Thursday, June 2 – Noon, Sunday, June 5, 2011.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Family Café at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. Please see the attachment for additional details.

10. Promising Pathways: The Road to Best Practice in Autism (With 1 Attachment)

Registration is now open for the 4th Annual *Promising Pathways: The Road to Best Practice in Autism* conference. This free, one-day event held at Florida Gulf Coast University on Saturday, **April 9, 2011**, from 8:00 a.m. -3:15 p.m., brings national experts in the research and study of autism and autism spectrum disorders to Florida and addresses a variety of topics. Working with the Experts is a co-sponsor, enabling CEUs to be offered free of charge to Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Language practitioners. In addition, CEUs are available for Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors and Nurses for a flat \$25 processing fee. For more information contact Peg Sullivan or Stephanie Goodwin at spdg@fgcu.edu.

Link: <http://www.fgcu.edu/events/promisingpathways/>

- Filename: Promising Pathways Flyer 4.9.2011.pdf
- Contact: Peg Sullivan or Stephanie Goodwin at spdg@fgcu.edu

11. Kennedy Foundation Fellowships (With 1 Attachment)

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is seeking exemplary professionals and/or family members of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are currently working or volunteering in the field of inclusive services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for an intensive one-year Public Policy Fellowship in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the Fellowship is to prepare both early career and seasoned leaders to assume leadership in the public policy arena in their home state and/or nationally. See attached for the application process and guidelines.

- Filename: FellowshipAnnouncement2011-2012Disseminated2.pdf

