



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO –APRIL 14, 2011

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ACTION ITEM

- 1. Local Early Steps Claims Survey
(With 1 Attachment)**

The Third Party Administrator developers have asked for information on the volume of claims that Local Early Steps process annually. The numbers should represent claims that Local Early Steps pay to community providers that are paid for with Early Steps contract funds. Please complete the survey attached entitled, *LES Claims Volume.xls* and return it to David Johnson at David_Johnson3@doh.state.fl.us by **COB April 22**.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

2. Cassie Johnston Memorial Scholarship (With 1 Attachment)

The Early Intervention Family Alliance has established a scholarship in memory of Cassie Johnston, a long time advocate and supporter of Part C. Please share this information as appropriate. Thank you.

In honor of her inspirational leadership, and with fond memories of our good friend and founding member, the EIFA has established the Cassie Johnston Memorial Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to help support one or more family leaders, especially those with young children, to actively participate in the discussion, development, and/or implementation of Part C policies through participation in the OSEP National Early Childhood Meeting which will be held this year from July 31st to August 3rd.

Please see the attached document for information on eligibility, scholarship amount and use, and the application. Applications are due back to the EIFA by May 27th, 2011. Approved applicants will receive notice by June 15th, 2011. Please contact Roxane Romanick at romanick@bis.midco.net or 701-391-7421 for further questions. We look forward to receiving the applications.

3. Family Outcomes Resources

This is the first in a series of State Performance Plan (SPP) indicator resources to assist LESs in identifying additional supports. Our focus for this edition is Family Outcomes (SPP Indicators 4a, 4b and 4c.)

Annually, the Early Steps State Office conducts a family survey on how well LESs are supporting parents' involvement in their child's early intervention services. Specifically, the survey measures the percent of families participating in Part C who report that Early Steps services have helped the family know their rights, effectively communicated their children's needs, and helped their children develop and learn. Families are asked to indicate how much they agree or disagree with statements on the survey. In order for LESs to meet the standard, parents have to express strong agreement with many of the survey statements.

Resources of information that may contribute to your efforts toward reaching and maintaining performance expectations for Indicator 4 follow.

Connecting the Three OSEP Family Outcomes with IFSP Outcomes and Local Practices: This PPT presentation from the 2010 OSEP Mega Conference discusses the importance of using family outcomes data to inform State/local program improvement and the connections between the services and supports families receive and the global outcomes reported for accountability purposes. It

includes information on steps to customize improvement activities to address specific issues and challenges. [Hawkins-Kasprzak-PowerPoint](#)

Family Centered Principles and Practices: Family-Centered Principles are a set of interconnected beliefs and attitudes that shape directions of program philosophy and behavior of personnel as they organize and deliver services to children and families. This section of the NECTAC web site offers numerous articles and papers pertaining to family centered principles and practices.

<http://www.nectac.org/topics/families/famctrprin.asp>

Promoting Family Outcomes in Early Intervention: This session from the 2010 OSEP Mega Conference discusses ways to improve family outcomes in early intervention through the use of family-centered practices. Presenters provided an overview of the ways family-centered practices affect family outcomes, discussed ways to incorporate family-centered practices into different points of a family's journey through early intervention (e.g., referral, assessment, IFSP planning), and provided examples of types of technical assistance and training activities, both system- and practitioner-level, that can lead to better outcomes for families. [iLinc Audio Recording: https://tadnet.ilinc.com/join/brwyfyz](#)

For more information about the State Performance Plan, the Annual Performance Report, and Public Reporting of state and local performance, go to http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/reports/program_performance.html

4. NECTAC News

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