



## WEEKLY UPDATE – OCTOBER 31, 2008

### *ACTION NEEDED*

#### *WONDERFUL ASD TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!*

The Florida Atlantic University CARD program will be hosting Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) training on January 14th-15th in West Palm Beach. They have agreed to save 15 of the 100 seats for this training to be filled by one participant selected from each LES. ESSO will pay the \$250 registration fee and \$70 for an ADOS training manual for each of these carefully selected participants.

The ADOS has become the standard instrument for assessing autism and PDD across age, developmental level, and language skills. Catherine Rice, one of the developers of the ADOS, will be the workshop leader and will describe the ADOS and demonstrate administration and scoring, operationalizing DSM-IV/ICD-10 diagnostic criteria for Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders not Otherwise Specified. Participants will have the opportunity to practice scoring while observing the instructor administer the ADOS to a child.

The training is for clinicians with a prior background in autism and formal testing. This 2-day workshop is sufficient to support use of the ADOS to diagnose autism and autism spectrum disorders. **Physicians, psychologists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists** will be better prepared to make early intervention service recommendations after completing the workshop.

Participants to be paid for by ESSO must meet the following criteria:

- Be an enrolled Early Steps provider or have an application under review by December 1, 2008 (preference given to psychologists and speech language pathologists who can take a lead role in diagnosis)
- Currently a participating member of a multidisciplinary team that evaluates children under the age of 3 years and who has some experience evaluating children suspected of having ASD
- Already have access to an ADOS test kit or to the items needed for Module 1 and Module 2. Some CARD centers may lend their ADOS kits to Early Steps partners.  
[http://portal.wpspublish.com/portal/page?\\_pageid=53,70384&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://portal.wpspublish.com/portal/page?_pageid=53,70384&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)
- Be willing to be a member of multidisciplinary team that will evaluate children referred to Early Steps who are suspected of having ASD

The LES Training Coordinators will be the point people for communicating the name of the selected participant to ESSO. More information will be shared with them during the 11/3/08 teleconference call regarding selection of participants and the registration process for these people. **ESSO sponsored participants must be selected by November 7th**. Registration to the ADOS training will open on November 10th.

## ***CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROCESS***

ESSO is interested in your feedback on the Continuous Improvement Plan process in order to make it more focused and effective at promoting compliance. **Please submit your input in the following format to [Kelly\\_Johnson2@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Kelly_Johnson2@doh.state.fl.us) by November 7:**

- What works
- What doesn't work
- Recommendations

## ***INFORMATION AND RESOURCES***

### ***APPRECIATION FROM A FAMILY IN EARLY STEPS***

Below is feedback received by the Early Steps State Office from a family currently served by Early Steps. It is being sent as thank you for all you do!!!

"I'd like to thank the people who in one way or another helped with my son's well-being and education, and particularly our service coordinator, who coordinates all my son's activities. She is someone I can always call, speak to, and share my problems with. In all, she is marvelous and I really appreciate all of her attention and help. The other person I'd like to thank is my therapist who is very responsible and dedicated to her job. She teaches me everything related to the exercises for my son and is very sweet and caring. I am very happy with the job done by this team to which you all are a part of on a daily basis. You strive to improve each day. Thanks again to everyone!" (Early Steps Family)

## ***COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS***

OSEP has recently clarified that substantial compliance thresholds can only be applied to the determinations process and may not be used for identification of non-compliance. Any performance of less than 100% for compliance requirements must result in official findings of non-compliance, unless correction can be demonstrated prior to the official notice of findings. Official notice of findings should occur within 90 days of identification. Opportunity to correct data entry errors for the 2008-2009 Quality Assurance Monitoring is being made available now. Please watch your email closely for this opportunity which will have a submission deadline of November 10. The 08-09 Quality Assurance Monitoring Reports will be issued by November 14th, and include official notice of findings of non-compliance. Due date for submission of Continuous Improvement Plans will be postponed to 12/15/08, accordingly.

## ***NECTAC NEWS***

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

## *UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONFERENCES*

### *ANNUAL PRE-CONFERENCE DAY FOR EDUCATORS*

The Florida Department of Education and Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA) announce the Annual Pre-Conference Day for Educators on January 16, 2009. This conference is held in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Conference. The CARD conference will take place on January 16-18, 2009, in West Palm Beach at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport Hotel. The keynote presentation will be given by Scott Bellini, Director of the Social Skills Research Center (SSRC), a university-based center specializing in developing and empirically examining the outcomes of social skill interventions for youth with autism spectrum disorders. Registration is now open!

- Link: <https://fauf.fau.edu/CARDconference>
- Contact: Donna Casella at [dcasella@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:dcasella@fmhi.usf.edu) or (813) 974-6168