



WEEKLY UPDATE - FEBRUARY 29, 2008

Action Needed:

2008 CMS Statewide Business Meeting

We have received final approval for our *2008 CMS Statewide Business Meeting*. The meeting will be held at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club located in St. Petersburg, Florida. The dates of the meeting are 7/28, 7/29, and 7/30. [You may now make your hotel reservations by calling 1-888-303-4430.](tel:1-888-303-4430) [The cost of the rooms per night will be \\$99 plus tax.](#) In order to take advantage of the reserved block of rooms at this special rate, be sure to mention that you are with Department of Health/Children's Medical Services. The rooms are limited so please make your reservations as soon as possible. I will forward more information at a later date regarding agenda and possible group dinner plans. For travel arrangements note that the approximate meeting start time will be 12:00 noon on the 28th, ending around 12:00 noon on the 30th.

Disposition Code "G" Update

[A new option has been added to the disposition codes in the Early Steps data system and is available for use immediately.](#) The code is "G-Aged out before Part C eligibility was determined". This category includes all children who reached three years of age before Part C eligibility was determined. It cannot be used for DEI-only children and should not be used when a more appropriate category exists, such as "1-Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful", "5-Transfer to Other Center/District", or "8-Withdrawn by Parent or Guardian Prior to IFSP". Training materials which include the new code of "G" have been posted to the Early Steps website at <http://www.cms-kids.com/EarlyStepsTraining.htm>. Please contact your Program Manager if you have questions.

2008 - 2009 IDEA, Part C Application

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 Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, as lead agency for implementation of Part C of IDEA in Florida has published the renewal application for Part C of the IDEA to ensure circulation throughout the State, for at least 60 days beginning March 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008. [The opportunity for public comment on the application is extended for 30 days beginning March 15, 2008 through April 15, 2008.](#) To view the application and get instructions regarding submitting comments go to <http://www.cms-kids.com/EarlyStepsPolicy.htm#PartCApp>.

Information / Resources:

Early Steps Interim Policy and Guidance Documents are available online
The [Early Steps Policy Handbook and Operations Guide](#) documents, which became effective March 1,

2008, are available on the Early Steps website. The documents replace the Early Intervention Program Plan and Operations Guide (PPOG), the Early Steps Service Delivery and Guidance Paper, Early Steps Personnel Development and Training Guide, and the System of Family Involvement Paper, all of which are obsolete as of March 1, 2008.

Please note that there have been changes to two components of the [Early Steps Policy Handbook and Operations Guide](#) disseminated prior to the February 22 policy orientation conference call:

- All references to family fees have been deleted from [Component 1 Policy Handbook](#). Florida's system of payments currently consists of the use of public and private insurance and does not include family fees.
- The timelines for data entry in [Component 12 Policy Handbook and Operations Guide](#) have been changed from 7 calendar days to 10 calendar days. If you have previously printed components 1 and 12, please discard those copies and print again to be sure you have the most current information.

The Annual Performance Report and SPP are available online

ESSO has submitted the Annual Performance Report, Revised State Performance Plan, and Child Count/Settings data reports to OSEP on 2/1 as required by IDEA 2004. Information can be located at [Annual Performance Report 2006-2007 Revised Feb. 1, 2008](#) and [State Performance Plan](#) .

Complex Child e-magazine

There is a new e-magazine available called "Complex Child" and it contains primarily parent-written articles on medical topics, along with practical tips on things like insurance and education. Please view at <http://www.complexchild.com> .

NECTAC NEWS

- Current issues of NECTAC eNotes can be viewed at <http://www.nectac.org/enotes/enotes.asp>
- NECTAC recently update their Web page of resources to include online state Part C rules, regulations, policies and guidance documents, <http://www.nectac.org/partc/statepolicies.asp>.
- NECTAC Family-Centered Services- A national workgroup has reached consensus on principles and practices validated through several research, model demonstration and outreach projects designed to enhance services in natural environments. OSEP TA Community of Practice- Part C Settings Services in Natural Environments Documents can be found at the following link: <http://www.nectac.org/topics/families/families.asp>

Upcoming Training Opportunities & Conferences

Virtual Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist Online Certificate

The Training Unit is working hard to recruit new providers. One of the initiatives is to offer a Virtual Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist On-line Certificate course through the University Distance Learning Program. These on-line courses will be offered at the graduate level and will be available through participating state universities as early as the summer of 2008. During the January PDAT meeting, the PDAT committee agreed to shift funds from the summer institutes to the virtual classroom to support tuition

to providers agreeing to make a two year commitment to Early Steps. We will keep everyone informed as efforts move forward.

*National Training Institute Presents Addressing Challenging Behaviors
April 2-5, 2008*

ADDRESSING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR presents *National Training Institute on Effective Practice* Supporting Young Children's Social Emotional Development Sheraton Sand Key Resort - Clearwater Beach, Florida April 2-5, 2008. For more information about sessions, travel, and registration please visit the Institute web site at www.addressingchallengingbehavior.org.

One Goal Summer Conference scheduled for July 16-18

The ONE GOAL: BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER "PUTTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN FIRST" Conference brings together early education and care providers and leaders from around the state. It is designed to share innovative programs, practices and techniques for improving services and outcomes for all Florida's children." The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency at Tampa City Center in Tampa, Florida. We would like to invite you and your staff to submit a proposal to present. An electronic version of the Presenter Proposal Form is located on the conference web site, <http://www.onegoalsummerconference.org>. The deadline for proposal submission is April 2, 2008. For questions on the conference, please contact the conference coordinator, Frankie Allen at (850) 893-6270 or email: frankieallen_2000@yahoo.com.