



ESSO Weekly Update – March 21, 2008

***ACTION NEEDED:***

**Annual Deaf-Blind Census**

At the beginning of March all LES Directors were sent a packet of materials by mail and by fax regarding the annual deaf-blind census. [Please provide this information no later than April 4<sup>th</sup>](#). These children tend to be very medically and educationally complex. Once identified the families and Early Steps can receive free technical assistance from the Florida Outreach Project for Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind including support from Parent Partners. If you have any questions you can contact Shelly Voelker who works for the Outreach Project at 352-273-7534.

***Service Coordinator Training Needs Assessment (link updated)***

A training needs assessment survey for service coordinators and service coordinator supervisors has been developed to determine the agenda topics for the 2008 Service Coordinators Statewide Meeting this fall. For this reason, it is important that all service coordinators and service coordinator supervisors be encouraged to complete the survey. [Please complete the survey online](#) at <http://survey.doh.state.fl.us/survey/entry.jsp?id=1205151684228> . You may also print the survey from the website and fax it to Pam Tempson at 850-921-8138. The deadline for submitting the survey is COB on Friday, March 28.

***Phase 3 BDI2 Trainings***

The kickoff for the BDI2 has been confirmed for April 24, 2008 and we have been preparing for phase three of the BDI2 trainings. We have identified the following school districts and corresponding LES for phase three implementation:

Osceola and Seminole County School Districts/Central Florida LES  
Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco County School Districts/West Central LES

Bay, Gulf, Holmes and Jackson County Districts/Big Bend LES (Panama City)

Madison and Taylor County School Districts/Big Bend LES (Tallahassee)  
Glades, Hendry, and Lee County School Districts/Southwest Florida LES  
Charlotte County School District/Gulf Central LES  
Flagler and Volusia County School Districts/North Beaches LES  
Broward School District (Early Adopter)/Gold Coast LES

If you have not registered for the April 24, 2008 kickoff meeting, [please register at](http://www.tats.ucf.edu/Forms/registration/2008April24.html) <http://www.tats.ucf.edu/Forms/registration/2008April24.html>. The kickoff will occur at the Ocala Courtyard Marriott located at 3712 SW 38th Ave, Ocala, FL 34474. Thanks again for all your hard work and we look forward to our continued efforts. Contact La'Tasha at [LaTasha\\_Dullivan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:LaTasha_Dullivan@doh.state.fl.us) with any additional questions.

### ***Information / Resources:***

#### **Nectac News**

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

#### **Family Resource Coalition Inc**

Attached are the Spring 2008 Newsletters, in English and Spanish, developed by the Family Resource Coalition Inc. This material is currently distributed to CMS enrollees, their families, providers, and staff. FRS's were provided this information earlier this month.

### ***Training Opportunities & Conferences***

#### **Virtual Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist On-line Certificate**

The Virtual Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist On-line Certificate course through the University Distance Learning Program will launch on April 21, 2008. The online courses will be offered at the graduate level and will be available through nine participating state universities. The nine state universities involved the Florida Virtual Online Distance Learning Program include:

Florida Atlantic University	Florida Gulf Coast University	Florida
International University	Florida State University	University of Central Florida
University of Florida	University of North Florida	
University of South Florida	University of West Florida	

The Virtual Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist Online Certificate course through the

University Distance Learning Program will allow each student to enroll in the course offered at one of the nine universities listed above and receive credit through the university in which they are currently enrolled. ESSO Training Director will be participating in a conference call with the nine universities, facilitated by Florida Virtual Schools, in the coming week to determine the approved course that will be sponsored for this semester. The Early Steps State office will also provide tuition reimbursement to those individuals willing to participate and commit to a minimum of 2 years in our Early Steps system. This initial semester will be considered a pilot to facilitate ongoing coursework development and will be funded through ESSO based on the availability of funds. A flyer outlining the additional details as well as weekly memo updates will be forthcoming.

### **Hanen Certification Workshop Takes Two To Talk – The Hanen Program® for Parents**

North Central Division, Allison Caldwell MS CCC- SLP will host a Hanen Certification Workshop titled *Takes Two To Talk*. The training is scheduled for October 22-24 and the target audience includes Speech Language Pathologists who are interested in being trained in the Hanen Program approach. The Hanen Centre has developed a mediator model approach, which provides speech-language pathologists with the training and tools needed to provide family-centered early language intervention. The Hanen approach equips speech-language pathologists to expand their role from early language interventionist to adult educator and coach/counselor. In so doing, speech-language pathologists learn to help parents and other caregivers foster the child's communication development – and make learning to communicate an enjoyable, natural part of everyday life. CEU's will be offered.

Upon completion of the 3-Day Hanen Certification Workshop on Takes Two To Talk – The Hanen Program® for Parents, speech-language pathologists become Hanen Certified for two years. They receive accreditation of their certified status upon signing a Cooperative Agreement with The Hanen Centre. This agreement licenses them to run It Takes Two To Talk – The Hanen Program® for Parents according to specified guidelines and to use the Hanen name and logo when running the program.

If you are interested please contact Allison Caldwell at [allison.caldwell@chsfl.org](mailto:allison.caldwell@chsfl.org) or visit: [www.Hanen.org](http://www.Hanen.org) for more information.

### ***Job Opportunities & Reminders***

Many Local Early Steps agencies are looking for candidates to work with infants, toddlers, and their families. Please visit <http://www.cms-kids.com/EarlySteps/ESJobListings.htm> for current listings. Please remember, to post job opportunities on this site, please fill out the [Job ePosting Form](#) and email it to [EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us) .