



Weekly Update – April 30, 2008

Action Needed

Team – Based Primary Service Provider (PSP) Training Registration page is available!!

Please register for the PSP training via the director/coordinator in your area.

ESSO has recently contracted with Dr. Juliann Woods and Dr. Jade Coston of FSU to provide the Team–Based Primary Service Provider training in the Jacksonville, Sarasota/ Bradenton, Orlando, and Ft. Lauderdale areas. We are encouraging each LES to invite teams (newly formed, potential teams, or struggling teams) to this training. The training will provide guidance through case discussion, integration of PSP models into program practice, coaching, development of instructional strategies, development of key indicators, development of strategies for role extension, developing a team action plan, and much more. If you are trying to develop teams and or having a hard time getting providers to invest in the PSP model, this is a great opportunity. CEU's will be provided and specific dates are listed below:

Date	Location	Contact training	Host LES region	LES's expected to attend area
May 15, 2008	Fort Lauderdale	Ellie Schrot Early Steps Coordinator	Gold Coast	<i>Gold Coast (FLL) Treasure Coast (W. Palm, Port St. Lucie) North Dade (N. Miami) Southernmost Coast (S. Miami, Keys)</i>
May 16, 2008	<i>Jacksonville area</i>	Dan Kurmaskie Early Steps Director	<i>Northeastern Central</i>	<i>Northeastern (Jacksonville) Western Panhandle (Pensacola), Big Bend (Panama City/Tallahassee) North Beaches (Daytona)</i>
May 29, 2008	<i>Sarasota area</i>	<i>Eileen Welch Early Steps Director</i>	<i>Gulf Central</i>	<i>Gulf Central (Sarasota) W. Central (St. Petersburg) Bay (Tampa) S. West Florida (Ft. Myers)</i>
May 30, 2008	<i>Orlando area</i>	Lourdes Quintanta Early Steps Director	Central Florida	<i>Central (Orlando area) Space Coast (Melbourne) North Central (Gainesville)</i>

There is a limit of 40 participants per location and ESSO is working on an electronic registration process and will assist LES's in determining how many providers from each areas can attend. This is the first training initiative, there will be additional PSP training opportunities in the future.

Please email LaTasha_Dullivan@doh.state.fl.us for additional information.

CONTRACT LINE ITEM BUDGETS DUE MAY 16, earlier is preferable.

We have an opportunity to get matching dollars from the Florida State University Center for Early Intervention and Prevention against the amounts that are budgeted for your Training Coordinators. This match is for training initiatives in Early Steps and could be approximately \$280,000. Please indicate in your line item budget the person(s) that will be fulfilling the 1/2 FTE Training Coordinator requirement. We need to know how much in salary and benefits will be budgeted. You can do that on the line item budget itself, or in a note to the budget.

SERVICE COORDINATOR LAPTOP CONNECTIVITY

The Early Steps State Office has finally been able to arrange for the Local Early Steps to be able to take advantage of the state contract rates for Verizon wireless and voice services to get wireless connectivity on the the Service Coordinator laptops. Attached is a summary of the rate plans and equipment as a general guide, although a Verizon representative will be able to explain it more clearly.

We have arranged for a Verizon representative to contact you directly to determine your current needs and help you with setting up services. Of course you are under no obligation to utilize these services, but you will find that the rates will be substantially lower than what you might be paying now, or what you could get outside the state contract. I have also attached the contact information that we sent to Verizon so you can see who in your program will be getting the call. Each Local Early Steps contract number is included in the letter so Verizon could verify that you are eligible for the state contract rates. **Please refer to attachments.**

Information/ Resources

UNITE NITE

It has been determined that Unite Nite, a meeting with families in Early Steps prior to the Annual Family Café Conference, will not be held this year, due to logistical purposes. Unite Nite has been an extremely successful meeting for the past two years and we are hopeful we can host a Unite Nite in 2009. Early Steps will have a presence at the Annual Family Cafe Conference to ensure families have access to information on Early Steps. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Purvis at (850) 245-4444 ext. 3019 or Kelly_Purvis@doh.state.fl.us

Survey of Professional Reports on Early Childhood Assessment Measures

Steve Bagnato, John Neisworth, and Kristie Pretti-Frontczak are working on a 2nd edition of "Linking Assessment and Early Intervention: An Authentic Curriculum-Based Approach." A critical aspect of the revision is a consumer rating of various early childhood assessment measures. In an effort to get ratings from as many consumers as possible, an online survey (<http://ehhs.kent.edu/link>) was developed where users can rate up to 81 different measures according to 8 recommended assessment practices standards.

The survey (per assessment) takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Please take time between now and June 30th to rate the assessment measures you use or are very familiar with. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Kristie Pretti-Frontczak (kprettif@kent.edu), Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Research and Training at Kent State University.

Background Information:

The 1997 edition of "Linking Assessment and Early Intervention: An Authentic Curriculum-Based Approach", by Drs. Stephen J. Bagnato and John T. Neisworth proposed exemplary, field-validated methods for assessing the capabilities of young children at developmental risk and with developmental disabilities. The Linking approach emphasized the exclusive use of measures that were curriculum-based and which relied on the collection of functional information about children's competencies expressed in everyday settings and routines rather than in contrived arrangements. This approach was characterized as "authentic" assessment.

The 1997 book had the following features:

- * Overview and definition of authentic and curriculum-based assessment
- * Explanation of 8 overarching standards linked the DEC and NAEYC "recommended practices" standards on assessment by which measures should be evaluated and used
- * Ratings of the extent to which conventional and authentic measures meet the 8 standards
- * Closeups and snapshots of over 60 measures which best meet the 8 Standards
- * Vignettes which demonstrated "how-to" conduct authentic curriculum-based assessment using selected exemplary measures for identification, program planning, progress monitoring and program evaluation

The prospective 2009 edition of Linking will be co-authored with Stephen J. Bagnato, Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, and John Neisworth. The new edition tentatively named, /Linking Authentic Assessment and Early Childhood Intervention: Curriculum-Based Prescriptions/, will cover the same topics as the 1997 edition, but will add features on new trends. The hallmark of the new book will be a rigorous research using a national web-based electronic consumer survey of the extent to which

popular conventional and authentic and alternative assessment methods meet the DEC and NAEYC standards for “authentic” and developmentally appropriate assessment in early childhood intervention.

Nectac News

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

The 8th Annual Infant Mental Health Conference

The 8th Annual Infant Mental Health Conference “*Building Our Future*” is scheduled May 15-16, 2008 at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk in Jacksonville, Florida. Please visit <http://www.cpeip.fsu.edu/faimh/resourceFiles/08%20Conf%20Brochure.pdf> to view the full conference brochure which includes the registration, agenda and conference contact information.

Florida Virtual Online Distance Learning Program

Beginning May 21, 2008, the Virtual ESE Online Distance Learning Program in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health, Children’s Medical Services, Bureau of Early Steps will begin a pilot program to offer courses that will allow participants to be eligible for the Florida Department of Health Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) certificate. **A flyer outlining the additional details is attached.** Please contact Lori Massey at lmassage@ircc.edu to enroll.

2008 Early Steps Service Coordinators Statewide Meeting

Please save the dates for the 2008 Early Steps Service Coordinators Statewide Meeting on September 9-10, 2008 at the Hilton Walt Disney World Resort. The agenda, registration forms, travel information, and hotel information will be sent in June.