



WEEKLY UPDATE – AUGUST 1, 2008

ACTION NEEDED:

QA Q + A (Quality Assurance Question and Answer)

LES Directors and Coordinators have now received forms and instructions for the 2008 - 2009 Quality Assurance Self Assessment. Two conference calls have been arranged to provide an opportunity to ask questions about the process, forms and probes. While [participation in at least one of the calls is encouraged](#), it is not required. There will be no formal presentation. Instead, it's a time for you to ask questions.

CALL #1: Wednesday, August 6, 11:00 - 12:00
Dial-In Number: 1-888-808-6959
Conference Code: 6463553

CALL #2: Thursday, August 7, 10:00 - 11:00
Dial-In Number: 1-888-808-6959
Conference Code: 2454200

Local Early Steps Training Coordinator Designees

The Statewide Service Coordinators Meeting will take place September 9-10, 2008, in Orlando, Florida. The Local Early Steps Training Coordinator designees need to register via the ESSO website for the meeting ASAP and also make their hotel reservations. **Please register for the meeting and to make hotel reservations by Friday, August 8, 2008.** To make hotel reservations, call 1-800-HILTONS and indicate that you will be attending "FDOH Coordinators Statewide Meeting".

Please register at http://www.cms-kids.com/EarlySteps/SCstatewideMtg08_reg.htm.

ESSO will provide full reimbursement for the Local Early Steps Training Coordinator designee in addition to the allotted service coordinators reimbursement that was previously provided to you. The designee will request reimbursement the same way the service coordinator(s) will request reimbursement after attending the meeting. However, they will need to specify that they are the training coordinator designee for the LES they represent.

Previously, it was stated that hotel reservations can be cancelled up to 72 hours before check-in, however, this information is incorrect. **The deadline for canceling hotel reservations is 6 days before check-in.**

Also, registrants are reporting that some confirmations from the hotel indicate a fee for parking. ESSO has been reassured that meeting participants will not be charged for parking. On another note, ESSO is unable to do anything about the deposit that some registrants report being charged by the hotel.

Early Steps 2008 Service Coordinator Statewide Meeting Registration

We are pleased to announce that participants from all LES' have staff registered for the 2008 Service Coordinator Statewide Meeting on September 9-10 in Orlando, FL. There are approximately 200 individuals registered which shows tremendous support from LES to make this an excellent training event. **The deadline to make hotel reservations is August 8, 2008.** (To make hotel reservations, call 1-800-HILTONS and indicate that you will be attending "FDOH Coordinators Statewide Meeting".)

Please note that previously it was stated that hotel reservations can be cancelled up to 72 hours before check-in. This is incorrect. **The deadline for canceling hotel reservations is 6 days before check-in.**

Information / Resources:

Parents of Children with Autism

The **Autism Speaks 100 Day Kit** was created specifically for families to make the best possible use of the 100 days following the diagnosis of autism. The kit contains information and advice collected from trusted and respected experts on autism as well as from parents of children with autism.

The 100 Day Kit includes a week by week plan for the next 100 days, as well as organizational suggestions and forms that parents/caregivers can use to help with the paperwork and phone calls, as they begin to find services for their child.

The kit is available on line in PDF format for all to view and download. Users also have the ability to personalize their own kit with local resources in their area.

Go to http://www.autismspeaks.org/community/family_services/100_day_kit.php for information about any of these options.

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2008 (AUGUST 1-7)

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) celebrate August 1-7 as World Breastfeeding Week 2008.

In conjunction with the 2008 Olympics, this year's theme is "Mother Support: Going for the Gold." Through this message, World Breastfeeding Week advocates call for increased support to breastfeeding mothers so that these mothers can provide a golden start for their children. Just as an Olympic athlete needs support

from family, friends and coaches to succeed, the breastfeeding mother also needs the support and encouragement of family, friends, the healthcare system, workplace, government policies and legislation, so that she will have the confidence, correct information and tools to breastfeed her child successfully.

Breastfeeding's positive effects provide critical health benefits to both the mother and her breastfed baby, while saving healthcare dollars. Mounting evidence demonstrates that breastfeeding exclusivity and duration contribute to significantly better health outcomes for infants, children and mothers.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers exclusively breastfeed for the first six months of life. They also recommend that mothers continue breastfeeding, with the addition of appropriate complementary foods until at least the baby's first birthday.

DOH promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida. For more information about the Florida WIC program, call 1-800-342-4556 or visit www.FloridaWIC.org. To learn about breastfeeding, visit www.lalecheleague.org, www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/index.cfm?page=home or the African-American Breastfeeding Alliance's website at www.aabaonline.com.

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