

# *ESSO WEEKLY MEMO*

February 13, 2014

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## Early Steps State Office Public Participation Process

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 IDEA at 34 CFR §303.208, the Early Steps State Office (ESSO), as lead agency for implementation of IDEA, Part C in Florida, has published proposed policies and the annual renewal application for funds under IDEA, Part C. In accordance with IDEA, Part C, the proposed policies and the application will be available for public review on [http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es\\_policy/Policy.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/Policy.html) for at least 60 days. The 60-day public participation period began on **February 10, 2014** and will continue through **April 10, 2014**.

The opportunity for public comment on the proposed policies and the Part C application is available for **30 days beginning March 3, 2014 through April 1, 2014**. Comments will be accepted from the general public, including parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, providers of services, advocacy groups and organizations and other stakeholders in the state.

The purpose of the public participation period is to gather comments regarding the proposed policies and the annual Part C application for funds. The ESSO is interested in information that would assist us in maintaining a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families.

During the public comment period, public meetings to hear comments via webinar will be conducted on the following dates and times:

	DATE/TIME	TOLL FREE NUMBER	PARTICIPANT PASSCODE
<b>1</b>	<b>Wednesday 3/26/14</b> <b>11:00 am – 1:00 pm Eastern Time</b>	<b>1 888 670 3525</b>	<b>6272156732 then #</b>
	To join the online meeting, please go to: <a href="https://floridanewbornscreening.adobeconnect.com/esso/">https://floridanewbornscreening.adobeconnect.com/esso/</a> Log-in as a Guest		
<b>2</b>	<b>Thursday 3/27/14</b> <b>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern Time</b>	<b>1 888 670 3525</b>	<b>6272156732 then #</b>
	To join the online meeting, please go to: <a href="https://floridanewbornscreening.adobeconnect.com/esso/">https://floridanewbornscreening.adobeconnect.com/esso/</a> Log-in as a Guest		

Additional details and procedures for submitting comments on the proposed policies and the application are available on [http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es\\_policy/es\\_Policy.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/es_Policy.html)

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **2. Children's Week 2014**

Children's Week 2014 will host hundreds of events and activities in communities from Pensacola to Key West. Local elected officials and families come together and participate in local forums, receptions, public awareness events, arts & crafts fairs and other fun and free educational events and activities designed to highlight the health, safety and well-being of Florida's children and families.

Click [here](#) for the Schedule of Events.

Click [here](#) to view Events by County.

Or visit the website at [www.childrensweek.org](http://www.childrensweek.org)

### **3. Webinar: Autism Spectrum Disorder in Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM EST. Click [here](#) to register.

#### **Description:**

Funded through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), the LEND Pediatric Audiology Training Program supports 10 LEND programs to increase the didactic content and clinical experience of trainees in pediatric audiology. This webinar will use a combination of information from the literature, retrospective chart review of children with a dual diagnosis and feedback from family and professional focus groups to assist the learner in understanding the unique needs of children who are deaf/hard of hearing (hoh) with an autism spectrum disorder. Red Flags for atypical communication will be presented as well as information about the needs related to communication, functional skills, and integrated care models.

#### **Objectives:**

- Describe aspects of atypical development in children with the dual diagnosis
- Identify communication strategies which can help with children with a dual diagnosis
- Gain an understanding of family perspectives regarding the dual diagnosis of hearing loss and autism spectrum disorders

For more information please see the [EVENT WEBSITE](#) or contact [Meaghan McHugh](#), Project Manager at AUCD. For more information on the LEND Pediatric Audiology Training Program, please visit the [AUCD LEND Audiology Webpage](#).

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## **MEDICAID UPDATES:**

### **4. Medicaid Alerts and Questions**

The Florida Medicaid program has created an e-mail alert system to supplement the present method of receiving Provider Alerts information and to alert registered subscribers of "late-breaking" health care information. An e-mail will be delivered to your mailbox when Medicaid policy clarifications or other health care information is available that is appropriate for your selected area and provider type. Visit the [Florida Medicaid's Health Care Alerts](#) page to subscribe now, or to unsubscribe or update your subscription at any time. Please direct questions about Medicaid policies to your local Medicaid area office. The Medicaid area offices' addresses and phone numbers are available on the [Area Offices](#) web page.

### **5. News Bytes Volume 25**

The latest edition of "News Bytes" is available. "News Bytes" is a monthly newsletter showcasing the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration's Health Information Technology initiatives. In this edition of "News Bytes" you will find information on: 2013 Grace Period for the Florida Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program (EHR Incentive Program); Meaningful Use Medicare Payment Adjustments; and News on the Florida Health Information Exchange (Florida HIE). You can find "News Bytes" on the following websites:

[www.ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/ehr/](http://www.ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/ehr/)

[www.fhin.net](http://www.fhin.net)

[www.Florida-HIE.net](http://www.Florida-HIE.net)

### **6. Reminder-Provider Training: Verifying Medicaid Recipient Eligibility**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.**

Medicaid providers are invited to participate. The training will be performed via teleconference.

**To join the teleconference training, please:**

**Dial 1 (888) 670-3525 and enter the Participant passcode: 2509287551 then #**

You don't need to register or reserve space. Just call at the designated time. The training will follow a PowerPoint presentation found at the [Florida Medicaid Provider Training e-Library](#) website. Please have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation available before the teleconference so you can follow along.

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## **MEDICAID UPDATES, continued:**

### **7. Webinar on Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities - February 14, 2014, 10:30 a.m. EST**

The Agency for Health Care Administration will be hosting a webinar on February 14, 2014, to provide potential network providers and the public the knowledge and understanding of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Program. This webinar's focus is Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities - What you need to know about Statewide Medicaid Managed Care for Services under the Medicaid State Plan.

If you have questions that you would like to submit for consideration during the Webinar or during future Webinars, please submit your questions to [FI MedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:FI MedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com).

Attendance for the webinar is limited and will be provided on a first-come first-serve basis. In order to accommodate as many participants as possible, please try to consolidate participation within your organization.

If you are unable to attend, please visit the Agency YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/AHCAFlorida> to find previously held webinars as well as video coverage of AHCA events, campaigns and initiatives around the state.

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To join the training session

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1. Go to <https://suncom.webex.com/suncom/k2/j.php?MTID=t6f34359b64e24496cd7f51012e96549b>
  2. Enter your name and email address.
  3. Click "Join Now".
  4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

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To join the teleconference only

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To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the training session. Alternatively, you can call the following number and enter the access code:  
Call-in toll-free number: 1-888-6703525 (US)  
Attendee access code: 771 963 1696

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## **INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

### **8. New Issue Briefs on Healthy Weight for People with Disabilities**

There are [five new issue briefs](#) that describe what people and organizations can do to help combat obesity among people with disabilities and assist them in achieving healthy weight and an improved quality of life. CDC's [Division of Human Development and Disability](#) at the [National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities](#) released the briefs, each targeted at specific audiences including: communities, health departments, employers, schools and healthcare professionals. View all of the issue briefs at [People with Disabilities: Healthy Weight Issue Briefs](#).

### **9. Input Sought on DRAFT Position Statement: The Role of Special Instruction in Early Intervention**

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is seeking input on a new DRAFT position statement, [The Role of Special Instruction in Early Intervention](#). The position statement describes special instruction, provides recommendations for professional preparation and qualifications for special instructors, and discusses the unique role of the special instructor throughout the early intervention process. To share your input, complete this [short survey](#) by February 19, 2014.

## **STAFF & LES SPOTLIGHT**

### **10. Please Submit Your Employee/LES Spotlight**

Has one of your co-workers received an award? Has your LES hosted a successful event or been mentioned in the media? Then this section is for you! Please submit items for recognition of major accomplishments, awards, and milestones reached by either LES/ ESSO Employees OR Local Early Steps Programs. All entries must be emailed to Katie Williams and Patricia Herring by 5:00 EST on Tuesdays. The subject line should read "ESSO Weekly Memo Entry." Please include a picture when possible.



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# PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION:

## 11. List of Program Managers and their Contact Information

The assigned program manager at ESSO is the primary contact person for the LES to submit questions, issues or concerns to. The program manager will be responsible for responding to the LES and prior to responding, will inform and involve others in the ESSO, when necessary, to assist in clarifying or resolving the issue. **Early Steps State Office Telephone Number - (850) 245-4444**

LES	Program Manager	PI Lead
<b>Bay Area</b>	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) <a href="mailto:Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov">Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Big Bend</b>	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) <a href="mailto:Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov">Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Central Florida</b>	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) <a href="mailto:Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov">Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) <a href="mailto:Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov">Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
<b>Gulf Central</b>	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) <a href="mailto:Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov">Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov</a>	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) <a href="mailto:Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov">Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov</a>
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<b>North Central</b>	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) <a href="mailto:Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov">Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
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<b>Treasure Coast</b>	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) <a href="mailto:Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov">Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>
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<b>Western Panhandle</b>	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) <a href="mailto:Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov">Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov</a>	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) <a href="mailto:Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov">Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov</a>