



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO

March 28, 2014

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4 Days Remaining in Public Comment Period

This is a reminder to review the Early Steps Proposed Policies and Annual Part C Application for funds at http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/es_Policy.html. Comments will be accepted through April 1, 2014.

You may submit comments regarding the proposed policies or Part C application for funds to CMS.EarlyStepsPublicComment@flhealth.gov or via other methods outlined in the notice found at http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/PublicParticipation/PublicParticipationNotice2014_English.pdf.

You are encouraged to carefully review the proposed changes. The Early Steps State Office is interested in your comments regarding how the proposed changes will impact families, local operations/workload, data collection/reporting or other areas, either in a positive or negative way. Please comment not only regarding proposed changes you disagree with but regarding proposals you support. If you find a particular proposed policy unclear, please state that in your comments and provide details regarding what language would clarify the policy or any suggested training content or technical assistance needed related to that policy. Please identify the specific section or sections of the proposed policy documents, form or Part C application that each of your comments addresses. Thank you.

ACTION ITEM:

1. IDEA Part C SPP/APR Package is now Available

Invitations to comment on the new Part C SPP/APR packets were published in the Federal Register on March 25, 2014. The packets include changes to the SPP/APR and add the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), Indicator 11, which are intended to incorporate Results Drive Accountability (RDA). This is your **final opportunity** to provide input on accountability measurements for improved outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The comment period ends in 30 days (04/24/2014).

[Comment Request; IDEA Part C State Performance Plan \(SPP\) and Annual Performance Report \(APR\)](#)

To access the relevant materials for Part C, go to

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=ED-2013-ICCD-0048>

- Scan down to the "Forms and Instructions" dated 3/25/2014 to view the new Part C SPP/APR packet
- Scan down to the "Supporting Statements" dated 3/25/2014 to view comments submitted during the 60 day comment period and a discussion of how those influenced the new Part C SPP/APR packet
- To submit comments, click on the blue "Comment Now!" box

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

2. Essentials for Childhood Webinar Series: CDC's Framework for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment

Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

This is the first of a five-part webinar series entitled "Essentials for Childhood."

Child maltreatment is a significant public health problem. It is also a preventable one. Essentials for Childhood: Assuring Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments for All Children is CDC's framework for preventing child maltreatment before it starts. State health departments play a critical role in promoting evidence-based strategies to prevent child maltreatment.

This webinar will review CDC's Essentials for Childhood initiative, share Essentials for Childhood resource materials and CDC's work to disseminate them, and demonstrate through examples from several participating states how state health departments can use Essentials in their work to achieve collective impact for promoting safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and preventing child maltreatment.

Participants will learn:

1. Why Essentials for Childhood is CDC's vision and framework for child maltreatment prevention;
2. Four key goal areas and action steps in each that can help frame collective action work for prevention; and
3. How state health departments and their partners are using Essentials for Childhood in community efforts for preventing child maltreatment and adverse childhood experiences.

Please [REGISTER](#) and extend this invitation accordingly.

3. Family Café Information for FRS's

Family Resource Specialists (FRS's) are gearing up for the 2014 statewide Family Café. See [attached](#) document to find out some of the FRS activities that will assist Early Steps families in getting the most out of this event. Registration information as well as information about the pre-conference training "The Last Domino" is also included in the document.

UPCOMING EVENTS, continued:

4. Professional Development Opportunity for Part C Professionals

Several new one-day sessions have recently been added to the New Possibilities institute.

Knock, Knock: Strategies and Ideas for Making the Most of Our Home Visits (May 1)	Tweety Yates	As a home visitor, you have a really important job! Research continues to show us how important the first three years of life are to a child's development and how important families are in this process. This strand will focus on evidence-based practices for promoting child development through parent-child interaction, especially for infants and toddlers of diverse abilities. Discussions, illustrations, resources, and opportunities to practice will build on strengthening day-to-day home-visiting practices such as setting up activities across developmental domains in ways that promote parent-child engagement as well as parent-child competence and confidence. We only have a short period of time to work with infants, toddler and their families - so let's make the most of that time! Focus ages: Birth - 3
All Together Now: Using Parent-Child Group Settings to Promote Infant-Toddler Development (May 2)	Tweety Yates	Parent-child interaction is an essential ingredient in infant and toddler early development. Building on evidence-based practices, this strand will focus on strategies and resources that can be used during parent-child groups to support development of infants and toddlers of diverse abilities and promote developmentally supportive parent-child interactions. Demonstrations will be given for setting up environments in ways that encourage parents to observe <i>what</i> their children do, better understand <i>why</i> they do what they do, and learn new ideas for supporting their child's development. Information, strategies, and resources will be applicable for infants and toddlers of diverse abilities and their families in parent-child groups, Early Head Start socializations, and community based programs. Focus ages: Birth - 3

Other recently added sessions will focus on effective practices for supporting young children who are prenatally exposed to drugs and their families and effective practices for supporting infants and toddlers who are dual language learners.

Please see attached flyers for further details.

For information about New Possibilities, contact [DEC](#) today or go to www.dec-sped.org

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MEDICAID UPDATES:

5. 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.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

6. Florida's FFY 2012 Part C State Annual Performance Report

Florida's FFY 2012-2013 Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on February 3, 2014. No changes were made to Florida's Part C State Performance Plan (SPP). ESSO looks forward to OSEP's response regarding any necessary clarification for the APR.

The FFY 2012-2013 APR can be found at: http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/providers/early_steps/reports/Florida_PartC_APR.pdf

The most current SPP can be found at: http://www.cms-kids.com/providers/early_steps/reports/SPP_Florida_PartC_Revised_Dec_2011.pdf

7. Make-A-Wish

The purpose of Make-A-Wish is to grant the wish of each child who has reached the age of 2 ½ and is under the age of 18 who has a life-threatening medical condition, i.e., a progressive, degenerative or malignant medical condition that has placed the child's life in jeopardy at the time of referral.

A life-threatening medical condition, as defined by Make-A-Wish, satisfies one of the following:

- Progressive:** worsening in severity over time; or
- Degenerative:** of, relating to, causing, or characterized by on-going deterioration of specific tissues or organs with corresponding impairment or loss of function caused by the disease or its treatment; or
- Malignant:** tending to metastasize; cancerous.

Chronic medical conditions, mental/psychological disorders, neurobehavioral development disorders or other non-life-threatening medical conditions would not qualify for a wish from Make-A-Wish.

Attached you will find their referral form. If you feel any of your children on your case load may qualify using the above criteria, please fill it out and fax it to **407-622-5803** or e-mail it to ssmith@wishcentral.org.

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INFORMATION & RESOURCES, continued:

8. DCF “Who’s Really Watching Your Child?” Campaign Launched, Resources Available

The Florida Department of Children and Families launched the “Who’s Really Watching Your Child?” campaign this week. The campaign will be targeted toward struggling caregivers of children ages 0-4 who need child care in order to work and may be using a caregiver they know little about. A Casey Family Programs report showed that the situation is often unsafe and may lead to child abuse and even child death. Partnerships are a large part of the campaign, and all aspects of the statewide campaign were inspired by successful local programs. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness among the target group, those who may come into contact with that group, and the public. The website is now live at www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching.

Here are a few highlights:

- Information and resources for caregivers:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/caregivers
- Searchable database of parenting programs:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/programs
- Free materials for parenting program providers:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/programs
- Child care information:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/childcare
- Free printed materials, videos, PSAs, photos and press conference multimedia:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/resources
- A free parenting guide available in e-book format, online and in hardcopy:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/ebook
- List of partners:
www.myflfamilies.com/whoswatching/partners

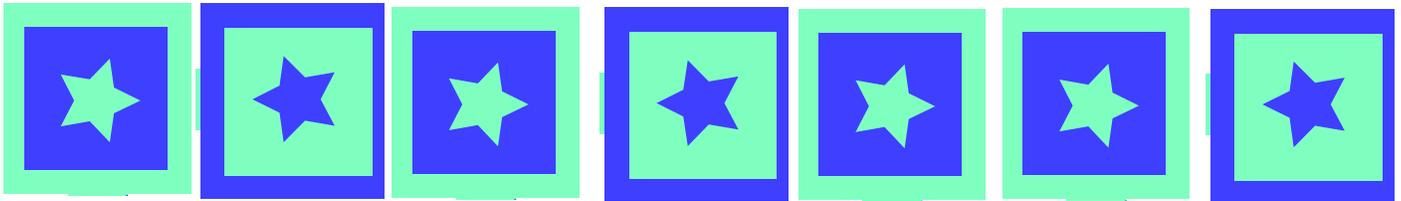
Early Steps looks forward to partnering with this campaign. If your LES would like to order free posters and/or brochures for use with Early Steps families, please email Katie Williams at Kathryn.williams@flhealth.gov with the title of the item(s) you are requesting, quantity (no limit), and your mailing address by **March 31, 2014**. Requests made after that date should be sent directly to DCFSocial@dcf.state.fl.us

CMS-K.I.D.S.:

9. Weekly Provider Load File

In an effort to better manage the flow of provider information in CMS-K.I.D.S (additions, changes or terminations), please do the following steps:

1. Use the attached CMS-ES Weekly Provider Load File 3.25.14 effective immediately. Discontinue any other versions at this time.
2. Add only providers that require additions to, changes in or termination of Practice/ Billing relationships in CMS-K.I.D.S. to the spreadsheet under the appropriate tab. Community and internal staff/direct staff are all under the same tab.
3. If the provider is a Service Coordinator then column AD (Primary Care Provider Y or N) should be answered with SC.
4. If the provider is internal staff or the LES is billing for the services provided then column AE (Provide CMS Clinic Services (Y or N) should be answered as Y.
5. All cells must be completed including columns with the zip code which requires the plus four numbers. Do not leave any spaces blank repeat information if this is pertinent.
6. Completed forms should be submitted to David Johnson and Arnetta Givens immediately and no longer Shawn Hamm
7. Please submit only one form per week by the close of business on Thursday of each week.
8. If there are questions, please contact David Johnson or Arnetta Givens.



Program Manager Information

10. List of Program Managers & 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	QA Lead
Bay Area	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Big Bend	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Central Florida	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Gold Coast	Haylie Mistrot (ext. 2267) Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Gulf Central	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
North Beaches	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
North Central	Dawn Lynch (ext. 2270) Dawn.Lynch@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
North Dade	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Northeastern	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Southernmost Coast	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Southwest	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Space Coast	Susan Casey (ext. 2231) Susan.Casey@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
Treasure Coast	Mary Sandler (ext. 2240) Mary.Sandler@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov
West Central	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
Western Panhandle	Katie Williams (ext. 2211) Kathryn.Williams@flhealth.gov	Jesse Kemper (ext. 2227) Jesse.Kemper@flhealth.gov

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 *Directors/Coordinators Call 9:30-12:00 *CMS-KIDS Reporting Call 3:00-5:00	3	4	5
6	7	8 Autism Navigator Learner Community 12:00–1:00	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Training Coordinator Call 1:00-2:00	16 *CMS-KIDS Process Strategies Call 3:00-4:00 *Early Steps Operations Call 4:00-5:00	17 Directors/ Coordinators Cohort Call 1:00-2:00	18	19
20	21	22	23 Family Resource Specialist Call 10:00-11:30	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2014

TO: Early Steps Family Resource Specialists
Early Steps Directors/Coordinators

FROM: Sue Cannon, State Parent Consultant
Early Steps State Office
Children's Medical Services

SUBJECT: Early Steps Family Resource Specialist Spring, 2014 Meeting at the Family Cafe

DATES: Hotel Reservations ASAP
FRS Statewide Meeting: Thursday, June 5, 2014 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday, June 6, 2014 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday, June 7, 2014 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday, June 8, 2014 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

The Early Steps Family Resource Specialists Spring 2014 Meeting will be held beginning Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 9:00 AM, and end on Sunday June 8, 2014 at 1:00 PM. This meeting will be held in conjunction with The Family Café, the statewide event designed to meet the need for information and networking for individuals with disabilities and their families.

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Orlando located at 6001 Destination Parkway in Orlando. Room rates are \$109.00 per night, and should be reserved as soon as possible, since they normally fill up quickly. Make reservations by calling 407 313-4300. You are **not** required to provide a one night deposit when the reservation is made.

In addition, you must register for the Family Café either online at familycafe.net. There is no registration fee for individuals with disabilities or their families.

The preconference training this year goes back to its focus on leadership and advocacy. **The Last Domino** provides FRS's with skills to continue using their passion as family members of individuals with disabilities to expand their reach as advocates. **The Last Domino** training event will invite participants to identify their big goals, and learn a new approach for planning how to achieve them. Participants will gain insights about their own talents and personal leadership capability, as well as understand their unique voice and its role in pursuing their goals. Registration for this training is separate from the Family Café registration – go to the website familycafe.net to register for this required FRS training.

Early Steps Early Wishes is a huge playgroup for Early Steps families attending the Family Café. All FRS's participate in this event. This event includes activities for families, such as face painting,

Florida Department of Health

Division of Children's Medical Services • Bureau of Early Steps
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A06 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1707
PHONE: 850/245-200 • FAX 850/921-8138

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adaptive books and toys, family photo shoot, story times, parachute activities, and free play. Early Steps partners that participate by providing an activity for families include: Florida's Central Directory, Florida Outreach Project for Children and Young Adults Who are Deaf Blind, and the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers.

Below is the schedule for the events on Thursday and Friday.

EVENT	DAY/TIME	PURPOSE
FRS's Meet	Thursday 9:00 AM	Gather for Meeting
FRS Leadership Workshop	Thursday, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	The Last Domino Leadership Training
Volunteer at Family Café - optional	Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 PM	Assemble bags for conference
FRS Meeting	Friday 9:00 AM– 11:00 AM	Set Up for ESEW event
Family Café Opening	Friday 11:30 – 1:00	
Early Steps Early Wishes Event	Friday, 1:30 – 4:00	Gather and Unite Early Steps Families
ESEW Take Down	Friday, 4:00 – 5:00	Assist in moving supplies from room

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday Early Steps Family Resource Specialists will be involved in providing leadership and supports for Early Steps families during New Star Workshops, playgroups and other events at the Family Café. Each FRS has specific responsibilities related to facilitating or assisting workshops as well as manning the Department of Health/CMS exhibit.

We hope to have all Family Resource Specialists attend this weekend of leadership, support and family involvement in Early Steps as part of their required twice annual statewide meeting requirement.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact State Parent Consultant, Sue Cannon at 321 725-5763 or Sue.Cannon@flhealth.org