



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO

September 12, 2014

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Save the Date—Partnering for Success

The upcoming 2015 *Partnering for Success* statewide training event is scheduled for May 13-15, 2015 in Orlando, Florida at the Caribe Royale. The goal of this meeting is to provide training, technical assistance, and opportunities for networking and collaboration among early intervention and early childhood professionals. The registration fee is \$60. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be available for many of the breakout sessions. Please share the attached Save the Date flyer with others.

2. Call for Proposals—Partnering for Success

The Planning Committee is accepting proposals from those interested in presenting at the 2015 *Partnering for Success* statewide training event. The focus of the presentations should be on healthy social-emotional development of infants and toddlers and their families. If you are interested in presenting please complete and submit the attached Presenter Proposal form to Haylie Mistrot at Haylie.Mistrot@flhealth.gov by October 15, 2014.

The Planning Committee requests that you share this information with anyone who may be interested in presenting at this exciting event.

3. Free FASD Webinar: Supporting Individuals with FASD Across the Lifespan

September 24, 2014, 12:00-1:30 PM Eastern

About the Training: Families with loved ones diagnosed with an FASD are often caught up in the day to day challenges of raising their children, but in the back of their minds, they worry about the future. The questions of what, how and who are foremost in thinking about providing for their children's wellbeing and safety. Unfortunately, there is no "how to" guide when it comes to this; organized and comprehensive sources of information don't exist. Often information is passed on by word of mouth in snippets. Families need support and encouragement from professionals in looking at the lifespan of their loved ones.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Become familiar with traditional supports and services available for adulthood
- 2) Recognize the limitations of these supports for those with an FASD
- 3) Support families as they think "outside the box" in planning the future for their loved ones

REGISTER NOW:

<https://casatunr.wufoo.com/forms/fasd-supporting-across-the-lifespan-92414/>

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MEDICAID UPDATES

4. Medicaid Alerts and Questions

The Florida Medicaid program has 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. You will receive an email 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 at <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/alerts/alerts.shtml> to subscribe, unsubscribe, or update your subscription.

5. ICD-10

The implementation of the International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (ICD-10) code sets has been delayed by federal law (HR 4302) until at least October 1, 2015.

The State of Florida acknowledges the federal legislation delaying ICD-10 implementation and will continue its initiatives as scheduled for system remediation, internal and external testing, and provider awareness and education. We encourage providers to remain committed to ICD-10 transition efforts and continue preparation as planned.

For additional questions and concerns, please contact your local ICD-10 Field Service Representative at 1-800-289-7799, option 7.

6. Early Steps/Medicaid Freedom Of Choice Statement/Checklist

Please see [attached](#) information.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

7. Early Steps Orientation Modules Requirement for Providers

Effective October 1, 2014, all provider applicants who want to serve Early Steps children must complete the three Early Steps Orientation Modules before they are eligible for enrollment in the Children's Medical Services Network. There is also a notice of this requirement under the Provider News and Alerts section of the CMS Providers webpage. This requirement will also apply to providers who have started the enrollment process but not sent in all required documents by October 1.

8. CEED Online Courses - Fall Semester Center for Early Education and Development (CEED)

Fall 2014 Session Online Courses - [Register Online](#)

Online Courses

Begins Sept. 8	Supporting Stressed Young Children Through Relationship-based Teaching	42 clock hours or 1 academic credit
Begins Sept. 8	Working with Parents: Considerations for Special Populations	84 clock hours or 2 academic credits
Begins Sept. 15	Parent-Infant Pathways	63 clock hours
Begins Sept. 15	Premature Babies and Their Parents	63 clock hours
Begins Sept. 15	Critical Learning Through Movement: Infants and Toddlers	42 clock hours or 1 academic credit
Begins Sept. 22	Preschoolers in Movement: Exploring Their World	42 clock hours or 1 academic credit
Begins Sept. 29	Bridging Education and Mental Health	42 clock hours or 1 academic credit

9. American Foundation for the Blind, FamilyConnect Program

FamilyConnect.org connects families of children with visual impairments to knowledge, resources, and support. It was created in partnership with the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments. FamilyConnect gives parents, grandparents and other caretakers a place to find comprehensive resources and support 24 hours a day, with access to message boards where they can talk to other parents, compelling videos featuring real-life families, parenting articles, parent-authored blogs, and links to local resources. The site also features sections dedicated to multiple disabilities, technology, education, and every age group from infants to teens. Visitors to www.FamilyConnect.org can also create a personal profile and receive information on news and events based on their child's age, eye condition, and location. Articles are also available in Spanish. [Back to the Top](#)

SPOTLIGHT:

10. North Dade Early Steps Support Group

The new Family Resource Specialist from North Dade, Sandra Angulo, has started an Early Steps Support Group. She focused this support group on reading to infants and toddlers, and each family received both a book and DVD.

The parents watched an informative video about taking care of their child. And all the families enjoyed the snacks provided by the Doral Dunkin Donuts and the Doral Publix.



PROGRAM MANAGER INFORMATION

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
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North Dade	Janice Miller (ext. 3910) Janice.Miller2@flhealth.gov	Angela Marcus (ext. 3278) Angela.Marcus@flhealth.gov
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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

EARLY STEPS/MEDICAID FREEDOM OF CHOICE STATEMENT/CHECKLIST

The Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services (CMS), Early Steps Program, has reviewed the Medicaid Freedom of Choice and Conflict of Interest policy located in the Medicaid Early Intervention Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook, dated August 2007 and referenced in Early Steps component 10.3.5.D. Operations Guide. With the roll out of the Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) program, there was a need to clarify the continued need for this requirement. No changes have been made to the Early Steps/Medicaid Freedom of Choice Statement, but minor changes have been made to the Early Steps/Medicaid Freedom of Choice Statement Checklist.

Early Steps Case Managers/Medicaid Targeted Case Managers, may provide direct services to Medicaid-eligible Early Steps-enrolled children. Medicaid allows targeted case managers to also be the primary service delivery provider for the same child and allow billing for both services. Florida Medicaid is required to allow a Medicaid beneficiary to obtain Medicaid services from any institution, agency, pharmacy, person, or organization that is (a) qualified to furnish the service; and (b) willing to furnish them to that particular beneficiary. Certain exceptions are granted of this requirement, but Medicaid Early Intervention Services is not one of the exceptions to "freedom of choice" of Medicaid providers.

A provider may refer a patient to an entity in which the provider has a financial interest if the provider furnishes the beneficiary with written notice that includes, in part, a statement of the investment interest, a statement that the patient has the right to freely choose from whom to obtain the referred items or services, and the names and addresses of alternative sources for the referral items or services, if alternative services are available in the community.

Therefore, to ensure "freedom of choice" of Medicaid providers and inform the beneficiary of any possibility of "conflict of interest", Florida Medicaid policy requires the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Early Steps Program Medicaid-enrolled targeted case managers to:

- obtain a dated and signed statement from the beneficiary, parent, guardian, or legally responsible caretaker stating that the beneficiary has the right to freely choose from any Medicaid provider within their service area to obtain the Medicaid reimbursable items or services identified or authorized on the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP); and
- provide a current (dated) list of names and addresses of Medicaid-enrolled providers in the service delivery area for the recommended, identified or authorized items or services, if service providers are available in the community; and
- when appropriate, a statement that the targeted case manager has a financial interest in the service or item being recommended, identified or authorized on the IFSP.

The signed statement is to be obtained when a Medicaid funded service is authorized or stated on the IFSP. The one-time signed statement is to be maintained in the local Early Steps recipient's case record. Attached is the current form and the updated checklist.