



ESSO WEEKLY MEMO – JANUARY 27, 2011

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ACTION NEEDED

1. Early Steps Public Participation Period re: Proposed Policies and Annual Part C Application for Funds (With 3 Attachments)

The 60-day public participation period related to proposed policies and the renewal application for funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C will begin January 28, 2011. For 30 days within that 60-day period, the Early Steps State Office (ESSO) will accept comments from the public related to the proposed policies and Part C application. **Comments will be accepted beginning February 21, 2011 through March 22, 2011.** Go to http://www.cms-kids.com/families/early_steps/public_participation.html to review the documents. We are requesting your assistance in getting the word out regarding the public participation process. The attached flyers in English, Spanish and Creole provide detailed information regarding the public participation process, including how to submit comments. Please forward and/or print and post these flyers in public places. Take the next 3 weeks to review the proposed policy changes and Part C application and prepare to submit comments using one of the methods specified beginning February 21, 2011. Please do not submit comments prior to February 21.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

2. Invitation to Negotiate for Local Early Steps Contracts Beginning July 1, 2011

The Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) has been advertised as of Friday, Jan. 21, 2011. The ITN can be found at the link below. Just a reminder that the Early Steps State Office staff cannot answer any questions related to this ITN. All questions must be directed as instructed in the ITN. The deadline for receipt of proposals is 2:30 PM Feb. 28, 2011.

http://myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_www.ad.view_ad?advertisement_key_num=91939

3. WEDU Be More Awards (With 1 Attachment)

Each year WEDU, together with the ABC Network, sponsors the BE MORE AWARDS for non-profits. Over 50 non-profit agencies compete for recognition of their agencies that highlight their successes. At this January 13, 2011 premier event for non profits, with over 500 participants in attendance, our Bay Area Early Steps agency, Infants & Young Children of West Central Florida, Inc. (IYC), won the WEDU Be More Knowledgeable Award. IYC's proposal showcased their work with assistive technology and their adaptive toy collection that is available to children with special needs. IYC was also a finalist in the Be More Unstoppable category. Two board members of IYC, Shannon Greene and Jeraldine Williams-Shaw, were finalists in the Be More Involved category. Attached are pictures of IYC Board and Staff at the event and pictures of Pat Grosz with the masters of ceremony, Jack Harris and Lissette Campos of ABC, accepting the award for the agency.

4. Spina Bifida Association's New Resources

The Spina Bifida Association (SBA) is pleased to announce the availability of several exciting new online resources for the Spina Bifida community.

[SBA's Preparations](#) website was created to give parents of children living with Spina Bifida and their clinicians tips and tools to help kids with Spina Bifida develop into successful and happy adults. It also has information for young adults seeking ways to become more independent and lead a fuller, richer life. This interactive website allows users to answer a series of questions about their child, or themselves. The site then generates a report specific to the child's developmental needs and provides suggested interventions as well as resources and tips.

[Spina Bifida University](#) is a series of pre-recorded presentations on the clinical and social aspects of Spina Bifida. Sessions are aimed at providing the most up-to-date and accurate information to persons living with Spina Bifida, their families and caregivers. Currently thirteen sessions are available to view, covering a variety of topics such as: bladder and bowel management; education and employment; aging with Spina Bifida; and general health and wellness. Additional sessions will be available in early 2011. Simply register as a viewer to receive a username and password to view all sessions.

Join the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) listserv to receive their monthly newsletter that is packed full of very valuable information at the following link:

<http://www.friendsofncbddd.org/>

5. CDC's new Pediatric Genetics Website

Dear All,

We wanted you to be one of the first to know about CDC's new **Pediatric Genetics website!** We've been working hard to create a research-based site that is user-friendly, up-to-date, and appealing.

Some of the new features of the site include:

- Easy-to-read information on genetic disorders, family health history, genetic counseling, and newborn screening.
- A compilation of important data and scientific publications.
- Individualized page for health professionals.

Visit our site: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/pediatricgenetics/>. Be sure to check back often as we continue to add new content and features!

Thanks for your time and support.

Sincerely,
Pediatric Genetics Team
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

6. NECTAC News

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

UPCOMING TRAININGS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

7. Training Coordinator Conference Call Notes and Upcoming Call

(With 1 Attachment)

The minutes for the January 18, 2011 Training Coordinator Conference call are attached. The next Training Coordinator conference call is scheduled for February 15th from 1:00 - 2:30.

8. Learning Disabilities Association of America 48th Annual International Conference

(With 1 Attachment)

The Learning Disabilities Association of America will be hosting their 48th Annual International Conference on February 23-26, in Jacksonville at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. There will be numerous speakers, including Florida Department of Education Bureau Chief Bambi J. Lockman, throughout the conference on a wide range of topics – for more information, go to the pre-conference book at <http://www.ldanatl.org/conference/2011/Jacksonville-2011-Pre-book.pdf>.

9. 2010-2011 Working with the Experts for Speech-Language Pathologists (WWE-SLP) (With 1 Attachment)

We are pleased to announce the third event for the 2010-2011 school year scheduled for February-25-26, at the Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina, 555 NE Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, Florida, (800) 775-5936. Dr. Barbara Ehren of the University of Central Florida will be presenting "*You Have Heard about RTI. Now What Do you Do?*" Registration is free. Following the regional facilitation model, registration begins January 18, for school districts within the Treasure Coast consortium (Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Martin). All other districts may register participants during the period of January 26 to February 15 for the waiting list. Beginning February 15, the remaining seats will be filled with registrants from the waiting list and any subsequent registrations as space permits. All registration ends February 15, 2011. A reduced lodging rate of \$129 is available until February 4 at the Hutchinson Island Marriott. Registration must be made by the SLP contact/program coordinator from each district using the online registration system at <http://www.flwwe.net>. A flyer is attached with more information.

10. Dual Language Learners Teleconference

Tuesday, February 8, 3:00 - 4:00 PM EST

Part 3 of a 4 Part series on evidence-based practice with young children who are Dual Language Learners. This presentation will focus on identifying issues and strategies.

Presenter - Dr. Lillian Duran - Assistant Professor in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Utah State University (USU). Dr. Duran's research interest is in early bilingual language development and programs that support dual language learners. She was an early childhood special education teacher in Maryland, and served for 10 years in Minnesota as an infant home visitor and preschool teacher. She currently teaches courses at USU related to dual language learners, and recently presented a pre-conference workshop on Evidence-Based Practices with Dual Language Learners: Assessment and Intervention at the DEC, 26th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families.

Sponsored by: The Curriculum & Instruction and Evaluation & Assessment Communities of Practice of the Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS).

Audience: Families, teaching staff, and administrators

To Register: Visit by <http://tats.ucf.edu/Forms/Reg/WebinarFeb08.html> Friday, February 4.

Materials: Directions for connecting to the Conference call-in number and link to materials will be sent the day prior to the call.

Direct questions to Wanda Wint (407-823-3058 or 1-888-823-8287 or wwint@mail.ucf.edu)