

- PD Opportunity
- Family Voice
- Coordinator Update

August 27, 2010

*Children will get the services they need...
Families will get the supports they need...
First Steps will be within budget...*

Professional Development Opportunity:

**“Supporting Families of Young Children with Accessing Services”
A Statewide Seminar for Families & Professionals**

September 17, 2010

1:00pm – 3:00pm

UK Coldstream Research Campus

Human Development Training Room

1525 Bull Lea Rd., Suite 160

Panelists Include:

Brenda English – HANDS

Paula Goff – First Steps

Tal Curry - EC Mental Health

Beth Jordan - KY SEED

Janis Logsdon - KY Department of Education

Beverly Malone – Parent Consultant

Facilitator: Brenda Mullins, Director of the Kentucky EC Transition Project

Please register online at <http://www.hdi.uky.edu/news>

HDI would also like to arrange live video-conference for local communities if teleconference-friendly locations are available. To arrange for a video-conference site, contact Matt Renfroe at 859-257-4357 or mrenf@email.uky.edu.

Family Voice-One Family’s Story:

My daughter was born 7 weeks premature. I had a very high risk pregnancy because my daughter had a brother that was stillborn one year earlier. I had been on bed rest for 5 weeks in the hospital prior to my daughter’s birth. I have a rare blood disorder called Protein S Deficiency, which can cause problems with pregnancy. I also had high blood pressure issues while pregnant with my daughter. My doctor waited as long as he could until he had to make the decision to deliver my daughter early by c-section.

My daughter was blue at birth and had to be rushed to the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She was given surfactant for her premature lungs. The neonatologist worked with her for hours that morning in the NICU. That night the NICU registered nurse assured me that my daughter would live, but that she was very agitated as she remained on the a machine to help her breath (C-PAP) for another 3 days. My daughter stayed in the NICU for 10 days and then was released home. She had weight gain issues since she was born at 3 pounds 12 oz.

At 9 months of age, my daughter was referred by her pediatrician to First Steps for torticollis (her neck leaned toward one side). She began to receive both Physical Therapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT). I kept being told that she would outgrow her "torticollis." My daughter also received speech therapy. She had such stranger anxiety due to being in and out of the hospital for asthma and RSV (a respiratory virus) during the first year of her life. In order for my daughter to let her therapists from First Steps work with her, she had a psychologist from First Steps intervene. Eventually, she was comfortable with her therapists. My daughter had a nutritionist from First Steps work with our family to give us strategies for her weight gain. She eventually caught up on the growth chart once her breathing problems were under control.

By 12 months of age, my daughter still had torticollis. Her PT recommended to me that my daughter be seen at Shriner's Hospital for an evaluation. She was seen at Shriner's Hospital and tests were run. We were informed that our daughter had a birth defect and that her C2 and C3 vertebrae were fused together on her spine and that was the reason for the torticollis.

My daughter continued OT and PT for her torticollis. It is much better now and one does not even notice the lean of her neck. She will continue to be checked at Shriner's Hospital every 6 months. My daughter continued speech therapy and made tremendous strides. By the time we had her transition meeting into Early Start, her scores were so high that she did not qualify for Early Start in the school system.

I owe First Steps therapists a great deal for all of their hard work and time that they spent helping my daughter. I highly recommend First Steps to any family in need of their services. She is now a happy three year old who celebrated her third birthday on August 7th. Thanks again to First Steps!!!

From, a mother of a child who recently transitioned out of First Steps

Coordinator's Update:

Family Survey

The annual Family Survey is currently being printed and will be disseminated to families very soon. This survey provides the data for one of the State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators. Indicator 4 is the percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family:

- A. Know their rights;
- B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
- C. Help their children develop and learn.

We will announce when the survey has been mailed; please encourage the families you work with to complete the survey and return it.

Preparations for SPP/APR Work

September marks increased activity around the Annual Performance Report (APR) in anticipation of the submission to OSEP in February, 2011. State Lead Agency staff, including the State Technical Assistance Consultants, will be reviewing improvement activities for each indicator to determine the level of progress. Some of the data is collected already so analysis of the data can begin. A draft APR will be presented to the ICC in early January for feedback and input.

Public Comment Period on Proposed Regulations

Written comments on the proposed regulations for First Steps will be accepted until close of business, August 31, 2010. The regulations are posted on the LRC website at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/TITLE902.HTM> (scroll to Chapter 30). Comments must be submitted to: Jill Brown, Office of Legal Services, 275 East Main Street 5 W-B, Frankfort, KY 40621, Phone: 502-564-7905, Fax: 502-564-7573.

Training Updates:

First Steps Face to Face Orientation for new providers is now posted on TRAIN-1023950. The first training is scheduled for September 9, 2010 in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Other trainings will be scheduled as needed.

<i>State Lead Agency Closings</i>
The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is closed Friday, September 3, in observance of a statewide furlough day - a budget balancing measure. The Cabinet will also be closed on Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day.