

A place where you can get quick updates that spotlight what's going on in Kentucky's Early Intervention System (KEIS) through the listserv on the first Friday of every month

Have you missed previous editions? There is a First Friday Focus section on the Service Provider Information Page on the [KEIS website!](#)

National Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month, and we would like to give a huge shout out to all KEIS Nutritionists and Registered Dieticians. They help provide education and coaching around mealtime food habits, food preferences, restricted diets due to a medical diagnosis (i.e., cardiac diet, gluten free, or other allergies) and overall nutrition. We know that a well-fed brain and body are critical for optimal success and without appropriate and adequate fuel the child's brain and body are unable to make the rapid changes necessary in early childhood. Thanks for all you do!

Family Advisory Council Coming Soon

The Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and the Kentucky Early Intervention System (KEIS) are seeking parents who wish to serve on a Family Advisory Council (FAC). Council members will assist in helping to shape MCH programs, reaching other parents and families within their community and region with vital early intervention information, and helping others learn to advocate for their children. FAC members will also assist with creating new family outreach programs and support groups. We're looking for a group of diverse parents/guardians who are passionate about helping their families and others by representing the parent voice in Kentucky. Participants would be responsible for attending four virtual meetings a year, as well as occasional trainings. FAC members will receive a stipend in the form of a gift card for each meeting and training attended.

Although it would be ideal to have parent participation from each Point of Entry region in the state, open slots are limited so not every parent/guardian who applies will be accepted. If you know a parent/guardian who might be interested in participating, please have them contact the KEIS Parent Consultant, [Karen McCracken](#), for additional information.

DMS 2.0

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is providing Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) to Kentucky

as part of its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system. KEIS has been preparing for DMS and is currently in the Discovery Phase of monitoring. Required documents have been submitted to OSEP for review. If needed, OSEP will schedule virtual meetings to clarify information and ask questions.

As part of DMS 2.0, stakeholder involvement will also occur. OSEP will interview the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) as part of the April 13 meeting. Other stakeholder interviews will be held with parents, Point of Entry Staff, and KEIS providers. OSEP expects the interview groups to represent the diversity of the state. Interviews will be offered at multiple times to accommodate busy schedules. Please be on the lookout for listserv announcements about the stakeholder DMS meetings. **As a reminder, the KEIS listserv email address is first-steps@listserv.ky.gov. Please add this address to your safe contact list so the emails don't inadvertently go to junk email.**

In May, OSEP will make an onsite visit to the SLA. After their visit KEIS will receive notification of their findings. As more details are known, they will be shared.

Tele-intervention

Exciting news! Tele-intervention services in KEIS can continue even after the Federal State of Emergency ends until the KEIS updated regulations take effect. The new regulations have not been filed yet, so it will be a while before anything changes. KEIS revised regulations will have a public comment period for input. Once the regulations are filed, passed, and implemented, notification will be provided and an implementation plan will be shared.

5AA Billing

It is essential that all 5AAs (initial, annual, and exit) are conducted in-person even if the child is seen by tele-intervention. There are two exceptions:

- A provider lives more than 50 miles one way from the family and sees them by tele-intervention only. In these cases, the assessment may be conducted virtually. Please be sure to document this reason in the service log to ensure approval for payment.
- A child is medically fragile. Exception requests for this situation must be sent to chfs.firststeps@ky.gov and approval must be obtained prior to conducting the tele-assessment.

Benefits of TOTS

Did you know that TOTS provides ghost prompts on the service log page to offer guidance about documentation? The service note/description of intervention, participants in intervention visit, caregiver report, response to intervention, and plan for next visit sections of the service log page include a prompt that helps providers know where to document key information about their service visits. The next time you enter a service log, be sure to take a minute to check out this feature.

Quote from the field:

"Our KEIS registered dietician has prepared me to do this on my own. She has given me all the tools and strategies that I need to be successful. I'm thankful that my child is trying more foods and getting what he needs to grow and be healthy."