

WV Birth to Three Communications to the Field

Subject: BTT Payment and other updates

Released: May 1, 2008

Hello,

Payment Updates - Payment for the EOP payment file dated 3/6/08 should have been released yesterday.

West Virginia has submitted the application to the U.S. Department of Education for continuation of funding under Part C of IDEA. This means that WV Birth to Three will continue to operate under the regulations of IDEA while we are investigating all options for supporting the provision of services for eligible children and families.

I wanted to also alert you to the new TA Bulletins on Non-Face-to-Face service coordination that are posted on the BTT website in the TA Bulletin section.

These two TA Bulletins deal with the definition of activities that are reimbursable under the Non FF code, as well as the rate of reimbursement. Please read them carefully. Both of these TA Bulletins are effective on June 1 - until then, the previous definition and rate continue to be in effect.

Other updates - The Family Cost Participation Task Group is assisting the Lead Agency to look at options around family cost participation, including family fees and use of private insurance. The group is examining how other states have approached family cost participation and eventually will be making recommendations as to what might work for WV. Please remember that under IDEA, any such changes around family cost participation require public comment and hearings, and approval of the policy by the U.S. Department of Education. So it will take several months before anything new could be in effect. We do, however, want to show that we are accessing any funding source that is possible and recommended under Part C of IDEA.

The FCP group is also taking a look at our current eligibility criteria compared to research on developmental delay and the demographics of West Virginia's children, to assure that we are indeed targeting those children who are most likely to have developmental delays without the benefit of early intervention services.

Please know that we are interested in all comments and we consider them as we continue to work together to provide quality services to children and families.

We are currently working on a TA Bulletin around the issue of teaming. That work is happening with comments from folks in the field, and with direct input from the Family Cost Participation Task Group.

We are working with Covansys/CSC to conduct routine audits of the data that they have

regarding claims. We have now began a process to conduct reviews of all initial eligibility determinations, in order to identify areas where more clarification may be needed - and ultimately to assure that documentation is present for the determinations. We appreciate that E/A team members, including Interim Service Coordinators and Service Coordinators, are responsible for assuring that the team decision regarding eligibility is backed by the required documentation. (If you have questions, please check out the TA Bulletins on Clarification of Initial and Annual Eligibility and Clarification of Evaluation and Assessment Activities.)

Please note that there will soon be further clarification around the determination of assistive technology services. But even now, as I have noted before, AT is like any other service - the team needs to have documentation as to why the child cannot make progress toward the IFSP outcome without that service. I'd like to note also that this does not mean that the team should write a new outcome just for the purpose of obtaining a particular assistive device or equipment.

We want to thank everyone who is working so hard to make a difference for children and families - while we sort through finances and other issues, we all remember that it is the families and their children who we are working for.

Thank you - and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me - you can use my email address at pamroush@wvdhhr.org.

Pam