



Technical Assistance Bulletin

TO: WV Birth to Three Payees, Practitioners, and Service Coordinators
WV Birth to Three Regional Administrative Units

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WV Birth to Three

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ISSUE: WV Birth to Three Outcomes Measurement Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The purpose of this Technical Assistance Bulletin is to provide enrolled practitioners and the public with information regarding the background and next steps in implementation of the WV Birth to Three Child Outcomes measurement process as required under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

As a brief background reminder, Child Outcomes measurement requirements were implemented by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program (OSEP), in response to the Department's obligation to provide systematic national data on the effectiveness of federally-funded early childhood education programs. The U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO), in order to make recommendations about the continued funding of programs, conducts PART reviews of all federally-funded programs to determine if there is data that demonstrates the effectiveness of the programs. In 2002, the GAO conducted reviews of Part C and Section 619 of IDEA. Those reviews determined that there was no systematic, national data to demonstrate that early intervention and/or preschool special education services resulted in improved developmental and educational outcomes for the infants, toddlers, and preschoolers served. This doesn't mean that children do not benefit from these services, but there was no consistent, national means of measuring and reporting child progress at that time.

As a result of the PART review, the U.S. Department of Education funded the Early Childhood Outcomes Center (ECO) to develop national outcomes measures that would provide a consistent means of measuring and reporting the impact of services under Part C and Section 619 of IDEA. The ECO Center utilized a multi-year, broad-based stakeholder process that resulted in the recommendation of national Child Outcomes and Family Outcomes measures, for which each state must develop systems to measure and report the progress of children who receive Part C and Section 619 services, as well as the benefit of those services to their families. Each state was required to submit to OSEP, a six year State Performance Plan in December, 2005 that outlined how the state would measure and report on the required Child Outcomes and Family Outcomes measures as well as twelve other national performance measures under Part C of IDEA. The WV Birth to Three State Performance Plan is available on the website at www.wvdhhr.org/birth23.

Following are Child and Family Outcomes for Part C of IDEA.

Children who receive services through WV Birth to Three will have:

- Positive social emotional skills (including positive social relationships);
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication); and
- Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

Families who participate in WV Birth to Three will report that WV Birth to Three helped them:

- Know their rights;
- Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
- Help their children develop and learn

West Virginia held an initial Kick-Off meeting in September, 2005 to gather input and to provide an outline of the State's approach to implementing a system to measure and report the progress of children toward achieving the three Child Outcomes measures under Part C and Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

WV Birth to Three is dedicated to implementing a child outcomes measurement system that promotes the understanding of typical child development, and enhances the opportunities for children with special needs to participate in, and learn through, typical daily routines and activities. It is critical that the child outcomes measurement system also support the desired family outcomes by including the families as integral partners in the evaluation and intervention process.

WV Birth to Three has decided to use the nationally developed Child Outcomes Summary Tool as the foundation for teams to measure each child's progress toward the three Part C Child Outcomes. The Child Outcomes Summary Tool assists IFSP teams to understand and record a child's functional abilities in the three outcomes areas at various intervals, and to use this information to affect the day to day strategies of family members and other adults who are supporting the child's development.

In April, 2005, WV Birth to Three began a pilot child outcomes measurement process in Regions 3, 4, 6, and 7. In this pilot process, selected WV Birth to Three practitioners facilitated the completion of the WV Birth to Three Child Outcomes Summary Tool, by all members of the IFSP team, especially including families. WV Birth to Three is now ready to expand the pilot process to all children in Regions 3, 4, 6, and 7 and the following counties: Barbour, Braxton, Randolph, and Taylor. The additional counties have been added because the preschool special education programs in those counties are also using the Child Outcomes Summary Tool to report child outcomes under Section 619 of IDEA.

Additional training and technical assistance opportunities will be provided over the next few months, to all enrolled practitioners and service coordinators in the designated

regions, in order to prepare for fully implementing the child outcomes measurement process by March 1, 2007.

The following is a general summary of how the child outcomes measurement process will be implemented in these designated regions and counties effective March 1, 2007:

- The Child Outcomes Summary Tool (COST) will be completed for each child at initial and annual IFSP meetings, and just prior to exit from the WV Birth to Three System.
- Only Developmental Specialists who have completed the WV Birth to Three COST training will be selected to provide Evaluation/Assessment activities.
- The Interim Service Coordinator, or Ongoing Service Coordinator, will be responsible for assisting the family to select a WV Birth to Three Developmental Specialist who has completed the COST training (this information will be available on the Service Directory listing).
- A trained Developmental Specialist will be responsible for facilitating the team's completion of the Child Outcomes Summary Tool. This facilitation will include being knowledgeable of early childhood development, and the process of completing the COST.
- The Interim Service Coordinator or Ongoing Service Coordinator will be responsible for sending the completed COST to the appropriate RAU for entry in the child's educational record.

WV Birth to Three will be providing ongoing training on the Child Outcomes Summary Tool process. These trainings will provide a background on the importance of child outcomes measurement, and the specifics about how that process is working in WV Birth to Three. Initially, priority for training registration will be given to Developmental Specialists, in order to assure that currently enrolled Developmental Specialists are able to complete the training prior to March 1, 2007. It is however, very important that all practitioners and service coordinators who provide service in the designated regions and counties, are knowledgeable of the Child Outcomes Summary Tool process, as all team members play an important role.

Please check the WV Birth to Three website at www.wvdhhr.org/birth23 for additional information. The IDEA 2004 tab includes information about Child and Family Outcomes measurement in WV Birth to Three. Child Outcomes Summary Tool (COST) training is being added to the training registration section of the website. Registration information for initial trainings to be held on November 29 and 30, 2006 will be posted on the website bulletin board.