



Technical Assistance Bulletin

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

FROM: WV Birth to Three

DATE: November 9, 2006 (**Revised September 26, 2022**)

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 process for the implementation of the WV Birth to Three Child Outcomes measurement process as required under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Effective November 1, 2022, all Developmental Specialists enrolling in WV Birth to Three will be required to attend the Child Outcome Summary Form training and sign a COSF Facilitator Agreement as part of the initial enrollment process. Developmental Specialists currently enrolled who have not taken the Child Outcome Summary Form training and who have not signed a COSF Facilitator Agreement will need to complete the requirements by December 31, 2022.

Child Outcomes measurement requirements have been 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), makes 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 states to 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. States report on child and family progress towards these measures through the Annual Performance Report. Previous Annual Performance Reports are 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.

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 uses a nationally developed Child Outcomes Summary Form as the foundation for teams to measure each child's progress toward the three Part C Child Outcomes. The Child Outcomes Summary Form 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.

WV Birth to Three designed our child outcome measurement process in 2005 and went into full implementation in 2007. In 2018, WV Birth to Three incorporated the Child Outcome Summary Tool into the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and now requires all children who received a Part C service to have an exit rating.

The following is a general summary of how the child outcomes measurement process is to be implemented:

- The Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF) will be completed for each child at initial and annual IFSP meetings, and within 30 days of the child's exit from the WV Birth to Three System.
- All Developmental Specialists will be required to attend the WV Birth to Three COSF training as part of the enrollment process.

- 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 COSF training (this information will be available on the Service Directory listing).
- The trained Developmental Specialist will be responsible for facilitating the team's completion of the Child Outcomes Summary Form as part of the initial and annual IFSP meetings and at Exit when a Developmental Specialist is part of the IFSP team. When a Developmental Specialist is not part of the IFSP at Exit, the Ongoing Service Coordinator will facilitate the completion of the Exit COSF. This facilitation will include being knowledgeable of early childhood development, and the process of completing the COSF.
- The Interim Service Coordinator or Ongoing Service Coordinator will be responsible for uploading the completed initial and annual IFSP and Exit COSF to WVBTT Online and sending a copy to the appropriate RAU for data entry in the child's educational record.

Questions about the Child Outcome Measurement System may be directed to the Regional Technical Assistance Specialist for your region or any other state staff.