

Informational Notice to CFCs Regarding EI Service System Outcomes

All states receiving federal Part C funds are undertaking efforts to assess the effectiveness of the supports and services provided through the Part C Early Intervention Services System. The purpose of these efforts is to establish reliable data that will allow local, state and federal early intervention systems to make informed decisions regarding system development initiatives and demonstrate accountability and efficacy.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has identified three outcomes that are designed to assess the extent to which young children are able to actively and successfully participate in their families and their communities. These outcomes are:

- Children have positive social-emotional skills (including positive social relationships);
- Children acquire and use knowledge and skills (including early language/communication); and
- Children use appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

Beginning as early as March 15, 2006 in select pilot areas, and statewide on March 27, 2006, IFSP teams will use current evaluation/assessment information, including formal assessment findings, parent input, observation and clinical judgment to rate each child's functioning related to these three outcomes in comparison to their same-age peers. An entry rating will be obtained during the initial IFSP meeting and annually, thereafter. An exit rating will be completed within 90 days of transition at age three. Ratings will be captured in Cornerstone and will print as part of the Levels of Development section of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Service coordinators (SCs) are going to play a critical role in this initiative. SCs will need to understand the new EI Services System outcomes because they will be responsible for explaining them to the IFSP team. SCs will also be responsible for leading a discussion regarding the child's current levels of development and facilitating consensus regarding the child's rating during the initial and each annual IFSP meeting. Finally, effective July 1, 2006, SCs will be required to convene a meeting of the IFSP team within 90 days of each child's transition from EI at age three in order to update the child's current levels of development, conduct an exit rating and formalize transition steps.

Face-to-face training has been scheduled for all SCs during the two weeks beginning March 13, 2006 and ending March 24, 2006. An online training module for providers and other stakeholders will be available on April 01, 2006. In addition, Illinois EI Training Program staff will be available to provide in-services and other informal training opportunities locally upon request.

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, including the process by which the outcomes were determined, the method(s) by which states will be reporting findings to OSEP, and/or resources and research related to child and family outcomes, please visit the Early Childhood Outcome Center's website at <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~eco/index.cfm>. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Human Services' Bureau of Early Intervention at 217/782-1981.