



IDEA

INFANT & TODDLER

COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION

IDEAINFANTTODDLER.ORG

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Performance reports, required referrals, general supervision, communities of practice, targets, benchmarks, slippage, outcomes, indicators, appropriations, receipts, safeguards, compliance and improvement plans.

Ah, the language of Part C that surrounds me on a daily basis has certainly evolved from the language that I was surrounded by only a few years earlier. It seems like then I spent more time talking about: *developmentally appropriate practices, family centered practices, conditions of eligibility, routine based interventions in natural environments, technical assistance, multidisciplinary*

teaming, best practices, advocacy and transition plans.

I guess the world of Part C hasn't really changed all that much-- the vernacular in the second list is still relevant and critical to a successful early intervention system. So, how do we cope with the emergence of the new accountability and performance emphasis of full compliance without losing the focus on the family and the child in our early intervention systems?

Somehow, we must assure that there is a meaningful bridge between the administrative requirements with growing accountability expectations and the field-work that supports family centered and effective practices. Our challenge is to align every outcome measure, every performance indicator, and every improvement plan directly to the priorities for quality

services for infants, toddlers and their families. In state policy decisions, in interactions with OSEP, in community of practice groups and in training and technical assistance, we are charged with the responsibility to synchronize the letter of the law and regulatory requirements with evidence based practices that have positive outcomes for our vulnerable infants and toddlers. As we progress in building the structures that will sustain early interventions systems into the future, it is imperative that we keep the communication flowing so we can continue to learn from one another and continue to be recognized leaders in the early childhood field. This communication is the glue that binds us nationally.

With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching, our Infant Toddler Coordinators Association has much to be

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IDEA Reauthorization Update

IDEA conference activity continues to move very quickly with plans to complete all work on the compromise bill by November 10, 2004. All discussions are occurring in private and no information is being made available to the public. The current 108th Congress returns for a lame duck session on November 15, 2004 and is expected to vote on the bill before final adjournment later this fall. This is obviously a very different scenario than expected all summer when most involved predicted that IDEA would not be completed during the

108th Congress.

The IDEA conference committee meetings on Capitol Hill are occurring daily. The Congressional staff involved are reaching out to associations on specific topics as they want input. ITCA is providing information as requested and continuing to represent members in the process.

There is no public information on the decisions being made in these conference negotiations. All meetings are closed and there is an embargo on any discussions or results from the meet-

ings.

ITCA will continue to represent your interests in this process and will share information as soon as it becomes available.

If you have questions or want to discuss the IDEA reauthorization, please contact Sharon Walsh, ITCA Governmental Relations Consultant at walshtaylo@aol.com

President, continued

grateful for in the strength of its membership. I want to thank those of you who post the questions by e-mail so we know someone else is struggling with an issue. And thanks for those of you who take time to respond so we all know how the issue is being answered and where our resource partners are.

Thanks to those who represent us with partner organizations, demonstration projects and other initiatives that are part of the national early intervention system. And a special thanks to those who respond to the surveys so Part C is well represented in the data reports and studies that are published. Thanks to our Association contractors who assist us in generating publications and building other structures to support and guide our work. And last, but certainly not least, thanks to our ITCA staff and Board who make sure that our voices are heard and our messages are respected.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you and your families; take time to celebrate your blessings!

Mary Jones
President

ITCA WEBSITE
www.ideainfanttoddler.org

ITCA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

In anticipation of successful conference committee action, the Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association's Legislative Committee is pleased to announce two conference calls for members that will focus on IDEA Reauthorization. Sharon Walsh, Governmental Relations Consultant for the Association will facilitate the call and provide an overview of the changes to Part C as a result of the reauthorization.

The calls are planned for December 2, 2004 at 2:00 PM EST and December 3, 2004 at 10:00 AM EST. Twenty five slots have been reserved for each call. **Please notify the ITCA office at IDEAITCA@aol.com to reserve your slot.**

Prior to the call, all registered individuals will receive an email notifying them of the phone number to use. A PowerPoint file will be distributed to all registered coordinators the day before the call.

Please contact Ron Benham, Part C Coordinator in Massachusetts, if you are interested in joining the legislative committee. Ron can be reached at 617-624-5962 or e-mail at ron.benham@state.ma.us.

ITCA Awards

Since last year's annual meeting, one of the things about which we've had the most positive comment from our membership has been the parent leadership award. Consequently the Board has decided to continue this recognition. The parent leadership award recipient will receive a specially designed plaque to be presented on Sunday, February 6 at the Association's annual meeting in Washington DC.

Criteria

The award is designed to acknowledge a parent of a child with or at risk for a disability or developmental delay who has displayed outstanding leadership in Part C issues. This could be a state or local ICC member, someone associated with the PTI or an advocacy group, or an individual not associated with any formal organiza-

tion, whose leadership has made a significant difference to the Part C program in his or her state.

Nomination Process

The nomination portfolio should contain:

- a) a letter of nomination which includes an overview of the person's accomplishments in relation to this award,
- b) two additional letters of support
- c) a brief biographical sketch of the person

Nominations for the award should be mailed, fax, or E-mailed, **no later than December 10** to:

Duncan Munn
Early Intervention Branch,
Division of Public Health
2302 Mail service Center,
Raleigh, NC 27699 -- 2302
fax 919/ 733-3075
e-mail:

Duncan.Munn@ncmail.net

Welcome Part C Coordinators

Please welcome the following individuals who are new Part C Coordinators from member states and territories since the last annual meeting:

- Jean Asuega — American Samoa
- Dawn Downer — Indiana
- Deborah Parsons — Missouri
- Deborah Garneau — Rhode Island
- Mary Beth O'Hanlon — Texas
- Beth Wroblewski — Wisconsin
- Carole Grisham — Wyoming

Regina Davenport is the acting Part C Coordinator in Arkansas.

Three non-member states also have new Part C Coordinators since the last annual meeting:

- Germaine O'Connell — Kentucky
- Jannis Conselyea — Montana
- Nancy Lantini — Oregon

The Part C Coordinator position in South Dakota is currently vacant

Board Nominations

In accordance with Section C of the Bylaws of the IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association, the members of the Board of Directors and Officers shall be elected annually.

The Association Board of Directors is seeking nominations of Association members to fill vacant positions on the Board of Directors. This year, the Board is seeking nominations to fill four vacant positions. Only Part C Coordinators from member states may be nominated. In making nominations for the positions on the Board of Directors, we encourage consideration of the nominee's geographic location as well as Lead Agency representation (Non-Education or Education). Self nominations are encouraged. Please share pertinent information about the nominee in order for the Association membership to be fully informed about the individual and his/her contributions as part of the election process.

Included in the newsletter is a *Nomination Form for the Board of Directors of the IDEA Infant & Toddler Coordinators Association*. Nominations for the award should be mailed, fax, or E-mailed, **no later than December 10** to:

Duncan Munn
Early Intervention Branch, Division of Public Health
2302 Mail service Center,
Raleigh, NC 27699 -- 2302
fax 919/ 733-3075
e-mail: Duncan.Munn@ncmail.net

**ITCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATION FORM**

Pertinent Information Regarding Nominee: Include length of time in Part C services and current position, contributions made to Part C, anticipated contributions to the Board and to the Association, etc. for each nominee.

VICE PRESIDENT (President-Elect)

Name of Nominee) (State Represented) (Lead Agency)

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Name of Nominee) (State Represented) (Lead Agency)

DIRECTOR AT LARGE #1

Name of Nominee) (State Represented) (Lead Agency)

DIRECTOR AT LARGE #2

Name of Nominee) (State Represented) (Lead Agency)

ITCA Announces New Technical Assistance Product

The ITCA is excited to publish a resource and technical assistance paper regarding reimbursement methods and rate setting methodology in IDEA Part C. Funding was identified as an area of focus in the ITCA strategic plan and this paper was developed in conjunction with Solutions Inc. who responded to an RFP.

In times of limited funding, many states are examining their current funding structure and/or how much they reimburse for early intervention services. At national meetings it's common to hear Part C coordinators asking "how do you pay for x service?" or "how much do you reimburse for Y service?"

Few of us have a business or public administration background, yet find ourselves responsible for administering complex funding and reimbursement structures.

The ITCA believes that this paper will give Part C Coordinators, lead agencies and state ICC's some key concepts and tools in order to analyze their current reimbursement methods and to implement methodology to establish reimbursement rates that adequately meet costs of providing early intervention services.

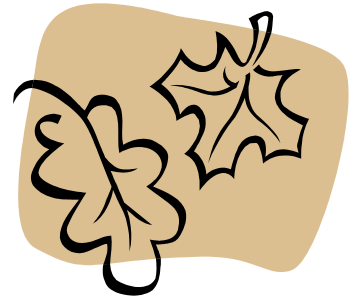
Each state has a unique reimbursement structure and even within states some services may be funded differently from

others e.g. service coordination may be a monthly rate as opposed to other services reimbursed on a 15 minute fee-for-service basis. States must examine the parameters within which the reimbursement methods are operating (incl. Medicaid, billing codes etc.) as well as guiding principles related to reimbursement (e.g. equitable, simple, based on face-to-face time etc.

Making changes to either reimbursement methods or to rates requires working with a wide variety of stakeholders as well as buy-in from funding sources regarding the process. If stakeholders are involved from the beginning, the chances of the

recommendations from any rate study being implemented increases.

The paper will be distributed later this month. The Board hopes that members will find the document useful in administering the system of payments for early intervention services in states and territories.



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