

FEBRUARY 2012

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council, will hold a hearing on the Commonwealth's application for 26th year funding under Part C.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE HEARING

This hearing is being held for the specific purpose of discussing the Department of Public Health's 26th year grant for funding under Part C, and includes necessary changes to policies and procedures based on the new Part C Federal Regulations that became effective October 28, 2011.

The following is a listing of areas where changes will be made in the Early Intervention Operational Standards:

**Child Find and Public Awareness
Evaluation & Assessment
IFSP Development
Transition
Procedural Safeguards
Accessing Private Insurance**

During the hearing the Department welcomes testimony regarding the changes in Child Find; Evaluation & assessment; IFSP Development; Transition; Procedural Safeguards and Accessing private insurance and on any other aspects of the grant.

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, P.L. 108-446, provides funds to assist states in providing services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. The hearing is about Massachusetts' grant application for 26th Year funding under Part C and is open to families, service providers, and professionals serving young children and families.

ASSURING SERVICES TO ALL ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

In the application the state must include assurances demonstrating to the satisfaction of the federal Secretary of Education that:

All eligible children shall be identified and their families offered an evaluation. If eligible for the Federal EI program, the child and family shall be entitled to the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan and to the early intervention services described in that plan. All families and children shall have procedural safeguards throughout this process.

This law also lists the components of a statewide system and requires that the state application include the state policies and procedures to assure all components.

WHO SHOULD TESTIFY?

Members of families with young children, professionals who serve young children and families, and officials from any state agencies with responsibilities for services to children and families are encouraged to come and speak on the issues outlined in this notice or on any other related concerns.

WHEN IS THE HEARING?

February 6, 2012

DPH Western Regional Office
23 Service Center Road
Northampton, MA 01060
11AM – 1PM

February 9, 2012

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center
181 Boston Post Road West
Marlboro, MA
1:00 – 3:00 PM

Written comments may be sent until 3/9/12 and should be addressed to:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Early Intervention Services
250 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108 – 4619

Attn: Ron Benham, Director, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition

The hearing sites are accessible and sign language interpreters will be present upon request. Please call Early Intervention Services at the Department of Public Health for more information or if you need assistive devices/services to participate in the hearing. The number is: (617) 624-5901 (Voice) and (617) 624-5992 (TTY).

