

October 19, 2005

Request for comments on definition of "timely services" for Early On[®]

The Leadership Team for the *Early On* Redesign is seeking stakeholder comment on an item in the Federally required *Early On* State Performance Plan. The State Performance Plan is required as a part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. It is used by the state to measure the effectiveness of the *Early On* system. Michigan's *Early On* State Performance Plan is under development at this time.

One indicator in the Performance Plan requires states to measure whether infants and toddlers with IFSPs are receiving the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a *timely* manner. This indicator is intended to measure whether the time from when a family signs the IFSP to when a service actually starts (i.e. date of the first appointment for any one of the early intervention services listed in the service plan) is "timely".

Each state is being asked by the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to define the term 'timely services' for itself. Our research shows that some other states and several programs within Michigan (across Education, Public Health, Mental Health) have adopted 14 calendar days as a definition of "timely" and/or an appropriate timeline for when services should start.

The Leadership Team for the *Early On* Redesign is recommending that Michigan adopt 14 calendar days as its definition of the term 'timely services'. This means that *Early On* would expect that for every family enrolled, at least one of the early intervention services listed in their service plan would start no more than 14 calendar days after the family signs their IFSP (*Note: 'services' does not include Service Coordination*). Data on this indicator would be gathered within the EETRK/MI-CIS system and reported on an annual basis.

The Leadership Team would like your input on this proposed definition for the term 'timely services.' You can return your comments to earlyonredesign@michigan.gov. All comments are due **on or before October 31, 2005**.

When you send your comments, place "Timely Services" in the subject line and please be sure to tell us:

- Your role related to *Early On* (e.g. parent, provider, administrator, etc.)
- The county you represent (state agency personnel can indicate 'state')

Contact earlyonredesign@michigan.gov if you have questions about this request for comments, or about *Early On* redesign.