



BabyNet

South Carolina's Early Intervention System



Memorandum

To: All BabyNet Families, Service Coordinators, and Service Providers
Fr: Kristie K. Musick, Part C Coordinator
Re: **Important BabyNet System Updates**
Da: September 30, 2011

1. As Lead Agency for the South Carolina Early Intervention System, we are pleased to share the finalized new regulations for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Published in the Federal Register on September 28, 2011, **the regulations become effective October 28, 2011**. Over the coming weeks and months, the US Department of Education will be offering a series of webinars for families, providers and agencies to orient to the key changes in the regulations, and working directly with states to fully implement the regulations by July 1, 2012. Notice of the webinars will be sent through this and other list servers. The regulations can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-28/pdf/2011-22783.pdf> and will soon be posted on the BabyNet website at <http://www.scfirststeps.org/babynet.html>
2. Per vote and approval of the First Steps Board of Trustees on September 21, 2011, reimbursement rates for BabyNet Service Funds will not exceed the established Medicaid reimbursement rate (regardless of Medicaid option used by the family). **This change is effective November 1, 2011**. In the coming weeks, the fee schedule for BabyNet services not covered by Medicaid and for services provided outside the natural environment will be posted.
3. In July 2010, First Steps made an assurance to the US Department of Education that revised eligibility criteria would be developed and implemented as one of several measures necessary for South Carolina's continued participation in IDEA/Part C. In December 2010, public comment on the proposed revisions was accepted in hearings throughout the state, and in July 2011, the US Department of Education approved the changes to BabyNet eligibility criteria. Following completion of training of System Point of Entry staff September 29-30, 2011, **the revised eligibility criteria are effective immediately** for all children whose eligibility is pending, and all new referrals. These changes *do not* apply to children currently eligible for BabyNet Services.
4. Additional revisions of the BabyNet Policies and Procedures approved by the US Department of Education in July 2011 are also immediately effective. **This includes all of Sections 1-3, and Section 4.A, B, C and F**. Section 4.D-E and G-J require additional review and approval following redesign of the Evaluation and Assessment Team process.