

# Babies Can't Wait Program

August 2010

AB-0810-001

## ACTION BULLETIN

The purpose of this Action Bulletin is to provide updates and clarification to Section R. (Transition) of the BCW Standards and Implementation Manual.

Under IDEA, transition from Part C should be planned and supported, regardless of the services or settings where a child moves to upon his/her third birthday.

It is the responsibility of Babies Can't Wait/Early Intervention Coordinator to ensure Service Coordinators begin transition for all children by twenty-seven (27) months of age. During this meeting, parents are informed of all transition options available.

### **Transition from Part C services:**

- a. The IFSP must include the steps to be taken to support the transition of the child to:
  - i. Preschool services under Part B of the Act, to the extent that those services are appropriate; or
  - ii. Other services that may be available, if appropriate.
  
- b. The steps required in this section include:
  - i. Discussion with, and training of, parents regarding future placements and other matters related to the child's transition;
  - ii. Procedures to prepare the child for changes in service delivery, including steps to help the child adjust to and function in a new setting; and
  - iii. With parental consent, the transmission of information about the child to the local educational agency (LEA), to ensure continuity of services, including evaluation and assessment information and copies of IFSPs that have been developed and implemented.

### **Transition to Part B**

#### **Late referral to the BCW program:**

1. A child referred to BCW 46-90 days before the 3rd birthday that is not suspected of having a disability as defined by Part B shall be assigned a service coordinator, receive an evaluation for Part C eligibility, and begin transition planning.
  
2. Any child referred to BCW 45 days or fewer before his/her 3rd birthday shall be referred directly to the LEA if suspected of having a disability as defined by Part B, and/or other community programs, with parent consent.

3. For a child referred with a suspected disability, as defined by Part B, a referral shall be made directly to the LEA. The child shall be entered into the Children's 1<sup>st</sup> program with parental consent to assure appropriate linkages, reduce service duplication and prevent children from being lost to follow-up.
4. For a child referred without a suspected disability as defined by Part B, a referral shall be made directly to Head Start, childcare or other community programs of interest to the parent. The child shall be entered into RBB as a referral and exited as referral outcome that identifies that the child was referred directly to a community program; a service coordinator shall not be assigned; and, referral to the LEA or other community programs shall be coordinated by BCW.

### **Documenting Transition on the IFSP**

1. Transition planning with BCW shall be discussed and documented at each IFSP meeting beginning at the time the initial IFSP is developed. Transition planning is required to assist children and families as they move from BCW to:
  - a) The Part B preschool special education program;
  - b) Other community programs, such as Head Start;
  - c) Another district; or
  - d) Another state.

As well as, if they leave the BCW program for any reason prior to age 3.

2. A transition meeting must be convened to develop a written transition plan, with informed, written parental consent. Participants must include the family, service coordinator, and, with parental consent, a Part B representative(s), and other community representatives as appropriate. This meeting must occur at least 90 days and up to nine months prior to the child's third birthday if the child is exiting at age three or as early as possible if exiting prior to age three.
3. Children transitioning from BCW at any time must be referred back to Children 1<sup>st</sup> with informed, written parental/legal guardian consent, if the child is not enrolled in other Children with Special Needs programs (e.g. Children's Medical Services or High Risk Infant Follow-up).

***See Georgia Babies Can't Wait Policy for Parents "Opting Out" of IDEA Part C's Local Educational Agency (LEA) Notification Requirements***