

MSC E-VISORY

Issue # 23-12

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State of New York Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Courtney Burke, Commissioner
Distributed by: Division of Person-Centered Supports
Gerald Huber, Acting Deputy Commissioner

The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory which provides pertinent and timely information about programs and services available to individuals receiving MSC. Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly. **MSC Supervisors: Please share this issue with all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.** In order to receive an email notification when a new MSC E-Visory is posted, please sign up for our mailing list (listserv). Listserv information and past issues can be accessed via the OPWDD website at www.opwdd.ny.gov or via the following link: http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/msc_e-visories

In This Issue:

Interagency Coordination between OPWDD and Early Intervention Services (EI)

Attached to this e-visory is a memo from Gerald Huber, dated July 12, 2012 related to "Interagency Coordination between OPWDD and EI. Children who are in receipt of EI services receive service coordination through the EI program, and are therefore unable to receive Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC). Families interested in accessing OPWDD's HCBS Waiver Services for EI participants must therefore use Plan of Care Support Services (PCSS) to prevent the duplication of the provision of service coordination.

Further information on the EI program is available of the NYS Department of Health (DOH) website at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/

An EI guide designed specifically for parents may be found at:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0532/>

Division of Person-Centered Supports

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MEMORANDUM

To: OPWDD State Operations and Regional Office Directors
Executive Directors of Voluntary Agencies
Waiver Coordinators
MSC Coordinators

From: Gerald Huber, Acting Deputy Commissioner
Division of Person-Centered Supports

Subject: Interagency Coordination between OPWDD and Early Intervention Services

Date: July 12, 2012

OPWDD's mission to help people with developmental disabilities lead richer lives includes supporting young children with developmental disabilities and their families. Recent Early Intervention (EI) reforms presented in the Governor's executive budget for State Fiscal Year 2012-2013 strengthen the referral process for children (ages birth to three years old) receiving EI services who are identified as having a developmental disability. The goal of these reforms is to ensure interagency coordination in the provision of vital services for infants and children with developmental disabilities. In light of these reforms, we would like to take this opportunity to review the supports available through EI and OPWDD for this population.

The early years of a child's life are a critical time of rapid development. The Department of Health's Early Intervention program is designed to provide extra help to children and families who face special challenges during this time, such as supports to strengthen parenting skills and help with inclusion in family and community life.

Families seeking supports for children ages birth to three years old should first utilize services through the EI program before accessing OPWDD services. As referenced from the NYS Department of Health's website, the Early Intervention Program offers a variety of therapeutic and support services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, including:

- Family education and counseling, home visits, and parent support groups
- Special instruction
- Speech pathology and audiology
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services

- Service coordination
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Social work services
- Vision services
- Assistive technology devices and services

For more information on the EI program, visit DOH's website at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/

An EI guide designed specifically for parents may be found at the following link:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/0532/>

While there are many beneficial services available through the EI program, OPWDD offers other supports through OPWDD's **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver**, which may assist young children who also enrolled in Early Intervention with developmental disabilities and their families, including the following:

- **Respite:** Short-term relief for a child's primary caregivers provided in the home or other approved site.
- **Community Habilitation:** A flexible, individualized service designed to improve individual skills and increase community integration.
- **Family Education and Training:** Education and training to enhance the knowledge, skills and decision making capacity for caregivers of a child with a developmental disability.
- **Environmental Modifications:** Adaptations to the home that are necessary to increase or maintain a child's ability to live at home with independence.
- **Plan of Care Support Services*:** Providers of PCSS assist an OPWDD eligible child to enroll and maintain eligibility in the HCBS Waiver by reviewing the ISP every six months and performing the annual level of care evaluation.

***Note:** Children who are in receipt of EI services receive service coordination through the EI program, and are therefore unable to receive Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) through OPWDD. Families interested in accessing OPWDD's HCBS Waiver Services for EI participants must therefore use Plan of Care Support Services (PCSS) to prevent the duplication of the provision of service coordination.

For eligible children who have a developmental disability and also have complex medical needs, families may choose enrollment in OPWDD's **Care at Home (CAH) Waiver**. Case management through the CAH waiver helps children and families to access OPWDD services such as respite and assistive technology in addition to Medicaid services such as nursing and home health aide supports. Once enrolled in the program, the CAH case manager is responsible for coordination of services. If the child enrolled in CAH is receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, the CAH case manager will assume the role of EI service coordination for the child.

For questions related to the provision of OPWDD waiver services, please contact the Division of Person-Centered Supports at (518) 473-9697. For general information on how OPWDD services can support the needs of children with developmental disabilities and their families, please contact Nicole Suto at (518) 402-4677 or nicole.l.suto@opwdd.ny.gov . We appreciate your commitment to our mission of helping children and families to lead richer lives.

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