

ednNetworking



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

EARLY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of *ednNetworking*! The Nebraska Co-Leads have created this quarterly email to keep you in touch with current events in the Early Development Network (EDN) through brief news stories that highlight current topics of interest.

Newsletter topics will be listed in a blue box for easy referral. We hope that you find this newsletter useful and informative.

Communication

The *ednNetworking* newsletter is being distributed to all of the Planning Region Teams (PRTs), Nebraska Parent Training Information Center, Nebraska Advocacy, EDN Services Coordinators, Special Education Directors, Munroe-Meyer Institute, Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council members, agency partners, and families. Our goal is to make this newsletter inclusive and relevant. We can best accomplish this goal with your help. Send your suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in the newsletter to Pam Kasl, Nebraska Department of Education PRT Coordinator, at Pam.Kasl@nebraska.gov.

The PRT Lead Agency should have a process for sharing all communication with Team members (such as a List Serve and/or posting this newsletter on a shared website).

New EDN App



The mobile app is a good tool for parents and Staying on Track professionals to use as a guideline to track a child's development. It contains developmental milestones for children ages birth through 3 as well as additional resources and information for families. For example, the mobile application allows you to find tips for supporting your child's growth, choosing quality childcare, preparing for Kindergarten and more. You can easily download the app from Google Play, iTunes, or the App Store onto your mobile device (cell phone, Blackberry, iPad, etc.) in fewer than 5 minutes. For more information, go to <http://edn.ne.gov/stayontrackapp.html>.

Distribution strategies: WIC, medical/health clinics, NICUs, DHHS Children and Family Services Workers and Children's Waiver Services Coordinators, churches/synagogues, childcare programs, etc. Please make sure that your PRT childfind committee has looked at who in the community has received information and who hasn't and that you have established a timeline for distribution.

Part C/EDN Family Survey



The *Family Survey* is a very important tool for learning about the desired outcomes our families want to achieve while participating in EDN. A high response rate helps us achieve that goal. EDN sent the survey introductory letters to families in February, and the surveys are already being returned! Data collection will continue until the end of April. EDN Services Coordinators and districts



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are to be commended on the high return rate of the surveys. **PRT Next Steps:** Discuss how the results of the family survey are being shared locally with school districts, providers, and families. Ensure that everyone understands why this information is collected and what is done with it. Use PRT meetings to develop a strategy on how to go the next step with the results. For more information, or questions, please contact **Pam Kasl at Pam.Kasl@nebraska.gov**.

Part C/EDN Family Rights DVD

Ensuring that families are aware of their rights is one of our primary goals. To help foster a greater understanding of a family's rights under Part C of IDEA, EDN created English and Spanish DVDs/videos. Every family who comes in as an initial referral should be given the DVD and/or web access along with the EDN *Family Rights* guidebook and receive follow up to answer any questions. Families new to EDN have already been receiving the English version of the *Know Your Rights* DVD. The English version is available at <http://edn.ne.gov/parentrights.html>. The Spanish version is in final development and will be distributed shortly. Both the English and Spanish versions will also be posted on YouTube. Pam Kasl will notify PRT Lead Agencies when these become available, and the Lead Agencies will send this information to the PRT members.

Meeting News

Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Committee (ECICC)

The ECICC meets four times a year, most recently on February 15, 2013, in Lincoln. The ECICC chair is Pam Dobrovoly from Grand Island, pdobrovo@gips.org. Minutes from this meeting are available at <http://www.education.ne.gov/ecicc/index.html>. The remaining three meetings will be held:

May 10, 2013, Valentine

August 23, 2013, Lincoln

November 15, 2013, Lincoln

Planning Region Team (PRT) Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is the time to begin planning for next year's Systems Support/Change Grant goals and objectives. Services Coordinators and school districts should bring their data to the meeting to analyze and drill down to understand gaps and barriers to outreach, identification, and services. Possible questions to analyze include:

- **How large is the difference between referral and verification rate?** Use the Referral/Verification chart that was previously sent to the Lead Agency and Chairs to review these data.
- **Why is there disparity?** Look at things such as over-referral, a large percentage of infants and toddlers being screened out, has sufficient information been gathered such as medical/health records, etc. to assist in the screening/evaluation decision, etc.
- **Are school districts rescreening children who have already been referred by a physician, social worker, or Early Head Start?** Is this a duplication of effort and/or a waste of resources?
- **What are the primary referral sources to EDN? Is the PRT childfind committee reaching all referral sources?** Is the PRT Childfind Committee reaching all referral sources? Do certain agencies need to be targeted due to low referral rates? These data can be provided by EDN Services Coordinators.
- **How are CAPTA referrals handled?** Is the child seen in person or is a screening conducted over the phone? (**When conducting a screening, all children must be observed in person by the school district provider.**) Are CAPTA referrals timely? What percentage of CAPTA referrals are: (1) located and consent is signed, (2) evaluated, and (3) verified? Has sufficient information been gathered during the screening/evaluation process such as medical/health records, collateral case information form CPS, CASA, the courts, etc.

These are a few of the questions each region should consider. If certain requirements are met, a regular Early Childhood PRT meeting can serve as the Annual Meeting. In February, the Co-Leads sent PRT Lead Agencies and Chairs and Special Education Directors a memo that outlined the requirements for such a meeting.