



Budget

FY08 Expenditures (incurred) for contracted programs

	<i>Net invoices (insurance subtracted)</i>	<i>Includes Supplemental payments of:</i>	<i>Insurance Revenue</i>
July	\$ 2,569,552	\$ 238,840	\$ 300,301
August	\$ 2,728,801	\$ 283,151	\$ 301,542
YTD Totals	\$ 5,298,353	\$ 521,991	\$ 601,843

Parent Fees- FY08

July, 2007	\$63,734	\$57,266	
August	\$60,755	\$54,287	
September	\$64,976	\$58,488	\$170,041 YTD

Medicaid Proposed Regulations

We have, for the past 10 years, been billing Medicaid under what is called the "Rehabilitation Option" of the state plan. The Centers for Medicaid Services recently issued proposed regulation which would, if adopted, seem to redefine "rehabilitation" to exclude teaching anyone skills that they have never had, which they call "habilitation." Obviously, this would eliminate the ability to bill for children with developmental delays. In addition, they would eliminate billing for services that are an "intrinsic element" of some other program. They would most likely claim that early intervention and school-based therapy services are intrinsic to the IDEA and should be excluded. Comments on the proposed regulations were due on October 12th. The Department of Social Services (the Connecticut Medicaid agency) submitted consolidated comments on behalf of all of the agencies. If adopted, we would probably have a year to figure out some other way to bill Medicaid for early intervention services. Revenue last year was \$4,357,080 to the state general fund.

Enrollment – FY06- FY07

	All Programs		
	<u>Data from data system</u>		<u>Data from invoices</u>
	<i>New Referrals</i>	<i>Eligible Children</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
July, 2006	614	4,533	4,058
August	688	4,566	4,129
September	683	4,499	3,968
October	684	4,540	4,010
November	696	4,484	3,985
December	555	4,462	3,932
January	810	4,504	3,999
February	704	4,493	3,996
March	859	4,570	4,108
April	768	4,603	4,005
May	864	4,618	4,120
June	710	4,649	4,067

July, 2007	746	4,696	4,201
August, 2007	709	4,784	4,256
September, 2007	703	4,679*	Not yet Available

*preliminary figure since programs have until 10/15 to enter data

Each day, the service and support office monitors the names of children waiting for assignment to a program for initial evaluation. As of October 12, 2007:

Region	Number delayed in assignment to programs more than 7 days	Greatest lapse of time from call to Infoline	Town
North	104	50 days	Thompson
South	122	37 days	Ledyard
West	201	53 days	Barkhamsted

The Building Bridges Program began accepting referrals 7/1 and is currently serving 49 eligible children. REM, whose program is called the Creative Development Program for Children began accepting new referrals on 8/1 and currently has 16 eligible children and 8 pending. The Oak Hill Birth to Three Program began accepting referrals 9/1. They are currently serving 7 eligible children with 18 pending. The number of eligible children served by our other new programs is: Wheeler-58 (15 pending) and Theracare-72 (17 pending). TheraCare has just added the towns of Ridgefield and Danbury and will be opening a Connecticut office in the near future.

Proposals for autism-specific programs were received by 10/12. The panel review is being held 10/16 and 10/17. The panel will include three Part C staff, a parent of a child on the autism spectrum, the Director of the DDS Autism Division, and the autism consultant from the Dept. of Education.

We will be conducting a small study this year to determine whether, when the new Part C regulations are issued, it would be worthwhile for the state to routinely screen children who are referred for evaluations. We would not screen children with diagnosed conditions nor those who have already been screened prior to referral. Therefore, the question is whether a screening instrument would screen out any children that would have otherwise needed a full evaluation or, since they were referred because someone was concerned about their development, would they all be screened in. The study will be submitted to the IRB for approval. The results of the study screening would not affect the child's evaluation (and the evaluators would not be told of the results) and we will then be able to compare the screening results with the evaluation results. Parents would, of course, need to give informed consent for the study and we envision screening 100 children to obtain a representative sample. We may be able to have the Children's Trust Fund staff or contractors actually perform the screenings or, if not, we will arrange to do them some other way. We hope to have the results by Spring, 2008.

2007 Legislation Summary

The department's name change was effective 10/1/07, therefore the lead agency is now officially the Department of Developmental Services. All staff e-mail addresses now end in ct.gov instead of po.state.ct.us.

Public Act 07-1 An Act Concerning Clean Contracting Standards passed both chambers during the special session on September 20 and was signed by Governor Rell on October 10th. Its major provisions are:

- establishment of 14-member contracting standards board (Governor appoints eight members and the legislature appoints six)
- the board will hire a Chief Procurement Officer to establish a training program for all agency personnel who do procurement and to ensure uniform procurement practices throughout state government
- the board will work to establish a uniform procurement code
- the board will audit state agencies triennially to ensure compliance with procurement policies
- the board may recommend termination of an existing contract for cause
- the board shall review all new proposed privatization contracts to ensure that the state saves money without jeopardizing the quality of services. State agencies must prepare and submit to the board a cost-benefit analysis as well as a business case prior to board review. Unless there is a significant public policy reason to do so, the board shall not approve a privatization contract that does not achieve at least 10% cost savings.
- core governmental functions may not be privatized.
- the board may disqualify contractors for cause.

IDEA

Dispute Resolution Activity FY08

Complaints

One formal written complaint was received mid-July. The complaint alleged that Therapy Solutions failed to provide an appropriate evaluation and subsequent services. The finding was that the program was out of compliance with the IDEA in providing an accurate, appropriate evaluation/assessment of the child's strengths and needs. The child was transferred to another program where the family is very satisfied. The cost of the evaluation was deducted from the program's payment and the program implemented an internal quality assurance process for all initial evaluations/assessments.

Mediations No mediations have been requested in FY08.

Hearings No hearings have been requested in FY08.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Meetings

Linda Goodman was invited (along with Maria Synodi from the Dept. of Education) to attend a national meeting to discuss issues of transitioning children from Part C to Part B. Connecticut was invited because of their excellent transition data as reported on the annual performance report. The meeting will be held November 12-14 in San Antonio, TX. Anna Gorski and Linda Goodman (and Maria Synodi) will be attending the OSEP Early Childhood conference in Washington, DC December 1-5 and Linda and Maria will be presenting with the state of Indiana on the topic of transition.

Quality Assurance

The Biennial Performance Reports were due from 13 of the 14 programs in cohort 1. Official letters notifying programs of any compliance issues that must be remediated as soon as possible but no later than 12 months from identification were sent.

As we've been implementing focused monitoring for the past three years, there is one item on the implementation checklist that was developed by the National Center for Special Education Accountability and Monitoring that we haven't completed. That is a third party evaluation. The Northeast Regional Resource Center, under the umbrella of their fiduciary agency WestEd will be conducting the review for us. We have already submitted their proposal to the department's IRB for either exemption or an expedited review.

The next Annual Performance Report is due to the U. S. Department of Education on February 1, 2008. We plan to have a draft ready for the ICC to review at its December meeting.

Early Childhood Cabinet

The cabinet meets again today (10/15) and has monthly meetings scheduled for the rest of the fiscal year. There will be an infant/toddler "summit" on 10/29 at the Legislative Office Building which will be a ½ day recreation of the summit that was held in Washington in May. Rosa DeLauro is expected to attend. Then, there will be an early childhood summit on January 15th using funds from a grant from the National Governor's Association.

Service Guidelines

Here's the list of the status of all new or revised guidelines:

Title	New or Revised	Status
Children with Speech Delays	Revised	Issued.
Children with Complex Medical Needs	New	Issued
Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Revised	Issued
Multi-cultural competence	New	We may give this draft product to the Early Childhood Cabinet or Early Childhood Bureau at SDE so that it can be released as a broader document covering all early childhood programs.
Autism	Revised	To be revised to cover autism-specialty programs. Will be ready for comments by 11/07 and finalized by 1/1/08.
Natural Environments	Revised	Bonnie Kielty was the primary author. Draft is now ready for comments
Infant Mental Health	Revised	Began Fall, 2007. ICC Rep. Lolli Ross. Margaret Holmberg is the primary author. Anticipating completion by late winter, 2008
Evaluation	New	Began Fall, 2007. Melissa Van Buren, ICC member, is the primary author. Anticipating completion by spring, 2008

