



In May, Toni Maxon, director for the New England Center for Hearing Rehabilitation's Birth to Three program was killed in a car accident on Long Island. In addition to being a tireless cheerleader for the Birth to Three System, Toni was an internationally known pediatric audiologist with a specialty in cochlear implants. We will all miss her. A memorial fund has been established in her name:

Antonia Brancia Maxon Memorial Fund
Liberty Bank
Storrs Branch
1132 Storrs Rd.
Storrs, CT 06268

Budget

As you know, we don't have an FY08 budget yet. And we have no date for when a special session will start. We are seeking permission from OPM to begin the eligibility changes 7/1 even without the budget, but I don't know whether they will agree.

FY07 Expenditures (incurred) for contracted programs

	<i>Net invoices (insurance subtracted)</i>	<i>Includes Supplemental payments of:</i>	<i>Insurance Revenue</i>
July	\$2,182,674	\$111,864	\$177,201
August	\$2,190,517	\$133,491	\$255,640
September	\$2,114,342	\$127,886	\$248,667
October	\$2,242,064	\$168,290	\$314,453
November	\$2,295,000	\$157,790	\$234,093
December	\$2,190,831	\$113,670	\$240,572
January	\$2,515,745	\$263,128	\$239,715
February	\$2,469,534	\$204,136	\$187,184
March	\$2,668,134	\$274,450	\$227,294
April	\$2,548,304	\$243,010	\$241,883

Parent Fees-FY07

	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net (collection costs and credit card fees subtracted)</i>	
July	\$62,351	\$55,598	
August	\$57,415	\$50,737	
September	\$54,860	\$48,050	
October	\$68,900	\$61,908	
November	\$51,985	\$44,983	
December	\$64,835	\$57,885	
January	\$61,375	\$54,456	
February	\$52,165	\$45,193	
March	\$71,733	\$64,811	
April	\$70,553	\$63,621	
May	\$62,447	\$55,338	\$602,580

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, 2005	533	4,744	4,206
August	615	4,660	4,152
September	665	4,521	4,136
October	603	4,536	4,050
November	643	4,476	4,015
December	538	4,409	3,875
January	736	4,382	3,914
February	612	4,338	3,857
March	665	4,426	3,953
April	578	4,430	3,936
May	619	4,457	3,999
June	742	4,501	4,006
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	
May	864	4,618	Not yet Available

The service and support office has been monitoring the names of children waiting for assignment to a program for initial evaluation daily. As of June 8, 2007:

Region	Number pending assignment to programs	Greatest lapse of time from call to Infoline	Town
North	262	49 days	Hartford
South	126	31 days	Groton
West	173	49 days	Wilton

We received six proposals in response to the RFP. Based on the large number of referrals in the North Region and anticipating eligibility changes for July 1, three new programs were selected. Those are:

- Building Bridges (accepting referrals 7/1/07)
- REM (accepting referrals 8/1/07)
- CIB/Oak Hill (accepting referrals 9/1/07)

Personnel Updates

We've just hired a new secretary to assist Heather Phillips. Her name is Ruby Trapp and she started June 8th. Her phone number is 418-6035.

2007 Legislation (JF = joint favorable)

Bill 7007 – Renaming the Department of Mental Retardation to the Department of Developmental Services. Passed both houses and became Public Act 07-73. Effective 10/1/07

Bill 1220 – Birth to Three bill. Adds eligibility for children at environmental risk of delay. JF'd from Public Health. Currently with the Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis for review. Died in the Appropriations Committee

Bill 6723 – Lead Prevention bill. One section would require the local health authority to advise families of children with lead levels of 20 or more of their “potential eligibility for Birth to Three.” JF'd out of the Public Health committee. Sent to the House calendar.

Bill 683 – Lead Prevention bill. One section would require Birth to Three to track the progress of children with blood lead levels in excess of 10 and report on their performance and the effectiveness of early intervention. JF'd out of Public Health. Died in the Education Committee.

Bill 7144 – Establishes a “Board of Education and Services for Citizens with Autism Spectrum Disorders” This was sent to the House calendar, but did not come for a vote before the session ended since they wanted to pass it after the budget. We don't know whether it will be raised in the special session or whether it will be included in a budget implementer bill. I met with Rep. Cathy Abercrombie briefly on 6/1 to discuss it, but since no one is allowed to see the final language of the bill, all I could tell her is that if they don't write it correctly it could lead to many problems if the new agency wanted to offer early intervention services to children under the age of three.

IDEA

Annual Performance Report – due Feb. 1, 2007

Determinations were made in May and each program received a letter. We have 5 programs that are “in need of assistance”.

Federal Application – due April 20, 2007

We finally received approval of our new indirect rate of 2%. The U. S. Department of Education requires each state to have a restricted indirect rate in order to receive funding. Our rate agreement had expired.

Dispute Resolution Activity FY07

Complaints (one new complaint since the last meeting)

One formal written complaint was received at the beginning of August. The complaint alleges that the Early Connections North program improperly obtained medical information. Even though the parent had signed consent. No IDEA or FERPA violation was substantiated.

One formal written complaint was received at the beginning of November. The complaint was that Rehabilitation Associates proposed to reduce services and the parents disagreed with the reduction. The complaint response directed Rehabilitation Associates to provide make-up hours. The issue of the service reduction went to a hearing.

One formal written complaint was received at the end of November. The complaint alleges that Early Connections South is not addressing the oral/motor needs of the child. The complaint response directed make-up hours and an IFSP review meeting.

One formal written complaint was received at the beginning of April. The complaint alleges that because Project Interact did not provide an autism evaluation as an early intervention service and subsequently did not provide appropriate services, the parents spent \$52,000 out-of-pocket paying for evaluations and services and they requested reimbursement. The child turned three in October, 2006. The complaint response acknowledged that the family should have been offered an autism diagnostic evaluation but that appropriate services were offered and the family chose to use an outside agency for most of their services. Project Interact was instructed to reimburse the family for any portion of the first autism evaluation obtained by the family that was not covered by insurance.

Mediations No mediations have been requested this fiscal year, although we used one of our mediators to facilitate a problematic IFSP meeting for the Early Connections West program.

Hearings (no new activity since the last meeting)

A due process hearing was held on February 27, February 28, and March 5, 2007. The program involved was Rehabilitation Associates (although the child had transferred from Reachout following mediation in 2006) and the issue was over type and quantity of services. Attorney Larry Berliner represented the parents. Attorney Emily Melendez represented the state. The hearing officer's decision requires Rehabilitation Associates to provide an OT, PT, and Developmental Therapist 2X/week, Speech 5X/week, an ABA program through an outside vendor at a frequency yet to be determined, and a feeding and oral/motor consult once/month. In addition, the parents will be reimbursed for all outside therapies and assistive technology that they have purchased over the past two years while the child was enrolled at Reachout and Rehabilitation Associates.

Quality Assurance

On June 25th there will be a training session to go over the revised QA manual. There will then be a "Webinar" on July 9th to review the performance dashboard and revised BPR data system

Focused Monitoring FY07 upcoming on-site visits:

STAR Rubino in the area of service delivery
Done

Reachout in the area of Transition
Done

Education Connection in the area of Child Find
June 25-29

CREC Soundbridge in the area of Child Find
Yet to be scheduled in July