



**Budget**

The budget that was finally passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor on June 26, 2007 did include the additional funding (almost \$1m in FY08 and a little over \$2m in FY09) to restore eligibility for preemies and children with speech delays. In addition, we added mild and unilateral hearing loss as diagnosed conditions.

*FY08 Funding*

State	\$26,945,837
Federal Part C	\$ 3,914,074 (+ \$776,318 carryover)
Federal Part B	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>
Total	\$32,636,229 (+parent fees of \$650,000 and insurance revenue of \$3.5m and state staff of \$5m for a grand total of \$41,786,229)

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	\$ 2,597,969	\$ 245,321	\$ 242,325
May	\$ 2,656,742	\$ 293,129	\$ 300,010
June	\$ 2,534,762	\$ 262,529	\$ 286,898
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$28,678,638</b>	<b>\$2,353,379</b>	<b>\$2,956,764</b>

Parent Fees-FY07/FY08

	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net (collection costs and credit card fees subtracted)</i>
July, 2006	\$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
June	\$65,636	\$59,124
		\$661,704 total FY07
July, 2007	\$63,734	\$57,266
August	\$60,755	Not yet Available

Enrollment – FY06- FY07

	<b>All Programs</b>		
	<u>Data from data system</u>		<u>Data from invoices</u>
	<i>New Referrals</i>	<i>Eligible Children</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
<b>July, 2005</b>	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
<b>July, 2006</b>	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	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 August 8, 2007:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number pending assignment to programs</b>	<b>Greatest lapse of time from call to Infoline</b>	<b>Town</b>
North	167	35 days	Hartford
South	118	29 days	Stonington
West	213	36 days	Wilton

Building Bridges began accepting referrals 7/1 and is currently serving 19 eligible children with 25 pending. REM, whose program is called the Creative Development Program for Children began accepting new referrals on 8/1 and currently has 2 eligible children and 6 pending. The CIB program will be known as the Oak Hill Birth to Three Program and Aggie Pont is their new director. They will begin accepting referrals by 9/1. The number of eligible children served by our other new programs is: Wheeler-44 and Theracare-63. The department will issue an RFP for autism-specific programs in August.

## **2007 Legislation Summary**

Bill 7007 – Renaming the Department of Mental Retardation to the Department of Developmental Services. Became Public Act 07-73. Effective 10/1/07. The Governor will hold a ceremonial bill signing on August 15, 2007, 3:30 PM, at the NEAT Marketplace.

Bill 6723 – Lead Prevention bill. Became sections 47-60 of Public Act 07-02. Section 50 requires the local health authority to give families of children with lead levels of 20 or more “information about potential eligibility for services for children from birth to three years of age pursuant to sections 17a-248 to 17a-248g” Effective October 1, 2007.

Bill 7144 – To establish a “Board of Education and Services for Citizens with Autism Spectrum Disorders” Became sections 109-114 of Public Act 07-04 which establishes a Division of autism spectrum services within DMR. “The division...may within available appropriations, research, design and implement the delivery of appropriate and necessary services and programs for all residents of the state with autism spectrum disorders. Such service and programs may include the creation of: (1) The Autism-Specific Early Intervention Program, (AEI) designed to deliver services to any child who becomes at risk or is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder<sup>4</sup> and who was previously placed in the “birth to three” program administered by the Department of Mental Retardation.” Effective from passage.

## **IDEA**

### Annual Performance Report – submitted Feb. 1, 2007

OSEP determined that Connecticut Part C “meets requirements” for compliance with the IDEA. Connecticut was one of only four states in which both Part C and Part B received such a determination.

### Dispute Resolution Activity FY07

*Complaints (one new complaint since the last meeting, see below)*

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.

One formal written complaint was received mid-June. The complaint alleged that Project Interact did not provide appropriate services, that there was conflicting information provided about an OT evaluation, and that the program refused to attend the child's transition conference with the school district. The complaint response did not find any IDEA violations related to the services or OT evaluation, although part of the complaint had to do with the issue of how "hands off" services should be. There was, however, a violation related to the refusal to attend the transition meeting. Even though the parent had specified that they no longer wanted services from their current service coordinator and the program was actively encouraging the family to transfer, the family was still enrolled as of the day of the transition conference and the mother specifically asked that someone from the program attend the meeting. The program director refused to do so. Based on that and other similar formal and informal complaints over the past years, the program has been asked to complete and sign a compliance agreement with the department by August 23<sup>rd</sup> that includes restructuring of administrative duties between the two co-directors and offering various training opportunities to its staff. The family was transferred to another program immediately after the transition conference had been held without any Birth to Three participation.

*Mediations* No mediations were requested in FY07.

*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.

New Dispute Resolution Activity in FY08

One formal written complaint was received mid-July. The complaint alleges that Therapy Solutions failed to provide appropriate services. The child was transferred to another program but the investigation of the complaint itself is in process.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Meetings

Alice Ridgway and Sandy Booth attended the Part C data meeting held in Bethesda, MD in July. Alice Ridgway, Linda Goodman, and Anna Gorski will be attending a combination Early Childhood Outcomes Meeting and OSEP Monitoring and State Improvement Planning meeting the last week of August in Baltimore.

## **Quality Assurance**

Focused Monitoring FY08 to date:

CREC Soundbridge in the area of Child Find  
Done

Four of the five programs that were determined to “need assistance” have corrective action plans that include technical assistance. Staff from Planning and Practice and Quality Assurance are working together to monitor these plans and provide TA.

### Early Childhood Cabinet

The cabinet met on 7/30 and will, beginning in September, be meeting monthly at the State Education Resource Center in Middletown. Upcoming dates are 9/10, 10/15, and 11/12. The Cabinet has some considerable resources to spend this year on areas specified in the budget. In terms of Birth to Three, the infant/toddler plan that will be issued sometime in the Fall will most likely include a recommendation to expand eligibility to children with mild delays and those at environmental risk. We have suggested that the recommendation should say something like: “In partnership with local school districts, expand eligibility.....” because with an expansion of that magnitude, we would have to have more local districts participating as providers, especially those priority school districts. There will be one or more infant/toddler meetings and an infant/toddler summit held this Fall and Winter.

### Service Guidelines

We’ve been very busy lately updating existing guidelines and working on new ones. Here’s the list:

<b>Title</b>	<b>New or Revised</b>	<b>Status</b>
Children with Speech Delays	Revised	Revised for 7/1 change in eligibility. Printed and distributed. Reviewed by ICC Rep. Myra Watnick.
Children with Complex Medical Needs	New	Comment period complete. Almost ready for printing. Robin-Tousey Ayers was ICC Rep. on the committee.
Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Revised	Revised for 7/1 change in eligibility for mild and unilateral hearing loss. Sent to printer.
Multi-cultural competence	New	Final draft issued to programs for comments 8/13. Public comment period to begin November 1.
Autism	Revised	To be revised to cover autism-specialty programs. Will be ready for comments by 11/1/07 and finalized by 1/1/08.
Natural Environments	Revised	Revised as part of the video on making home visits. Bonnie Kielty primary author. Will be ready for comments by early September.
Infant Mental Health	Revised	To begin Fall, 2007. ICC Rep. Lolli Ross. Margaret Holmberg primary author. Anticipating completion by Winter, 2008
Evaluation	New	To begin Fall, 2007. ICC Rep. Needed Melissa Van Buren primary author. Anticipating completion by Winter, 2008