FRIENDS FAMILIES

WORKING TOGETHER AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The mission of the Connecticut Birth to Three System is to strengthen the capacity of families to meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities.

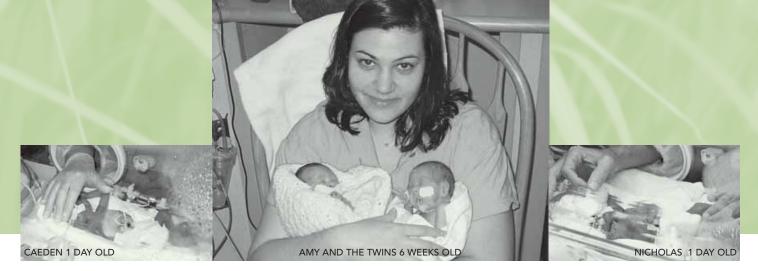
Connecticut Birth to Three System 2005

WORKING TOGETHER AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2005

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COLLABORATION

Working together with Connecticut families since 1993. Connecticut Birth to Three System



Introduction

Like many young couples, Amy and Kevin DeShazo wanted to start a family. Due to infertility issues, that dream had a bumpy start. They were thrilled when they learned they were to become the parents of twins! Their joy was short lived when halfway through the pregnancy, devastating complications occurred. The amniotic sac for Baby "A" ruptured, putting the entire pregnancy in jeopardy. The couple was counseled regarding their options, and decided to continue with the pregnancy, even though there was a strong chance that if the babies survived, they would suffer mental and physical disabilities.

Nicholas (Baby "A") and Caeden (Baby "B") came into this world four months prematurely. Weighing a little over one pound each, they were given slim odds for survival. Nicholas suffered major medical complications: heart surgery at just 12 days old, seizures, breathing and feeding difficulties. His first 6 months of life were spent in the hospital. At one point, the family was told that his long-term prognosis was questionable . . . that therapy might help, but not to expect much.

Caeden also had numerous complications, recurring infections, and was small for her age. Despite being so sick, she was full of energy! She spent four months in the hospital, finally coming home five days after her original due date.

Nicholas, Caeden and their parents began participating in the Birth to Three System when each child came home from the hospital. Throughout the past 2-1/2 years, they received various supports and services as their needs changed over time. Nicholas' major obstacle was poor muscle tone and control, while Caeden struggled with language development. Early intervention services from a physical, occupational, and speech therapist have been an important part of their routine. Their service providers used a transdisciplinary team approach to keep the number of early intervention visits manageable since Amy and Kevin felt that "more is not always better". Services were provided in their home and community locations such as the library and playgroup.

Despite being told that he may not walk, Nicholas reached his goal of independent walking at 33 months. This major milestone has opened many pathways for him. He began using some sign language and exploring food – the first step toward oral feeding. Caeden is using language more effectively, and is reaping the rewards of oral communication. She loves dramatic play and her "babies."

Nicholas and Caeden recently celebrated their third birthday and graduated to preschool! Both children are active and moving forward with their parents to explore exciting new opportunities.

Our Mission



he mission of the Connecticut Birth to Three System is to strengthen the capacity of Connecticut's families to meet the developmental and health-related needs of their infants and toddlers who have delays or disabilities. The System will ensure that all families have equal access to a coordinated program of comprehensive services and supports that:

- *foster collaborative partnerships*
- → are family centered
- → occur in natural settings
- recognize current best practices in early intervention
- → are built upon mutual respect and choice

Our Jobs as parents is to help our children become the best nicholas and caeden that they can be. We will help them reach their full potential . . . At whatever level that is. *Amy and Kevin DeShazo*

How We Fulfill Our Mission



WE RECEIVE REFERRALS by phone, fax, and e-mail to connect families with our supports through the **Child Development Infoline** (1-800-505-7000 or www.birth23.org). CDI sends the referral information to a program serving that child's town.

THE PROGRAM THAT RECEIVES THE REFERRAL meets with the child and family to evaluate the child's developmental strengths and needs. Results are shared with the family in their native language and in writing.

WHEN A CHILD IS NOT ELIGIBLE, the family is offered alternatives to monitor changes in their child's development and decide if there is a need to re-evaluate the child. Information about other community resources is shared with the family.

WHEN A CHILD IS ELIGIBLE, the family works with their service coordinator to choose what they want their child to work on and their goals for their family. Working with their Birth toThree team, a plan of services and supports is developed to help reach those goals. The child's doctor is included as an important team member.

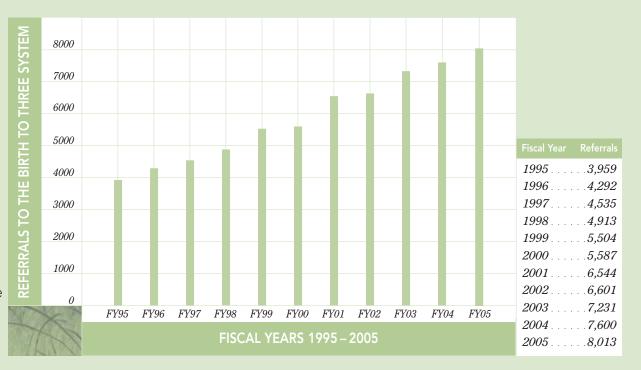
FAMILY MEMBERS LEARN new ways to teach their child during regular activities throughout the day. Services and supports change as the family's goals for themselves and their child change.

CHILDREN LEAVE THE BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM EVERY DAY. Many graduate because they no longer need Birth to Three assistance. Children also transition into school district special education programs or other community-based programs when they reach the age of three.

Making the Connection: Referrals

How many children are referred each year?

A total of 8,013 children were referred to the Birth to Three System in Fiscal Year 2005 (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005), an increase of 5% over the previous year (see Chart 1).





Birth data courtesy of the Connecticut Department of Public Health

*Provisional Data

Where were the children from?

New referrals were received from 167 cities and towns across Connecticut. One third of those newly referred children were from:

CITY NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Hartford
Bridgeport
New Haven
Waterbury
Stamford
New Britain
Norwalk
Danbury
Meriden
Greenwich

See the final pages of this book for a complete town-by-town chart of numbers of children referred and served.



Who connected families with Birth to Three?

Most families referred themselves (62%) or were referred by a health care provider (27%).

REFERRAL SOURCES	PERCENTAGE
Families, Foster Families, Relatives or Friends	63%
Health Care Providers and Hospitals	
State Agencies	
Child Care Agencies	1%
Social Service Agencies	1%
All Others	<1%

How did families or other referral sources who didn't already know about the Birth to Three System find out about it?

REFERRAL SOURCES	PERCENTAGE
From Their Primary Health Care Provider	
From a Relative, Friend, or Co-Worker	
From Another Heath Care Provider	6%
As a Result of the Ages & Stages	
Questionnaire or Calling 2-1-1	5%
From Their Child Care Provider	
Social Service Organization or State Agency	
From an Early Intervention Provider	
From Their School District	
All Others	

Making the Connection: Referrals, Continued

Who were the infants and toddlers referred?

AGE AT REFERRAL	PERCENTAGE
Birth – 11 Months	
12 – 23 Months	
24 – 36 Months	

AVERAGE AGE AT REFERRAL	AGE
Mean	.17.9 months
Median	.19.0 months

BOYS & GIRLS	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
Boys		
Girls		

What were the reasons that children were referred?

People who referred children to the Birth to Three System expressed concerns about a variety of developmental issues. For the 8,013 children referred in FY05, these were the concerns expressed:



Communication	.70%
Motor (fine & gross)	.27%
Adaptive	.13%
Social/Emotional	8%
Health	5%
Vision	1%
Hearing	1%
Cognitive	<1%

(Total percentages exceed 100 because there can be more than one concern for any single child.)



Why were children eligible?

Of the 4,649 Connecticut children who were found eligible for Birth to Three services in FY05:

94% OF CHILDREN HAD DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS

- **73%** tested 2 standard deviations below average in at least one area of development
- **19%** tested 1.5 standard deviations below average in two or more areas of development
- **2%** could not be tested, but had a significant developmental delay according to informed clinical opinion

6% OF CHILDREN HAD DIAGNOSED CONDITIONS LIKELY TO RESULT IN DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY SUCH AS:

Down syndrome	. 63
Extremely low birth weight	. 43
Brain deformities and anomalies	. 40
Hearing loss	. 33*
Cleft Palate	. 30

* Twelve infants younger than three months were referred as a direct result of universal newborn hearing screening.

Making the Connections: Referral, Continued

What does the System offer for children who are referred but are not eligible for Birth to Three services?

Eligibility was modified effective July 1, 2003 in order to contain enrollment and thereby the cost of services. **Follow-Along** visits were offered to directly monitor the development of three groups of children found not eligible:

- infants less than six months adjusted age whose birthweight was between 750g – 999g
- children whose receptive language was fine, but whose expressive language was tested as being at least 2 standard deviations below the mean and who were reported as having a biological risk factor for speech development
- infants and toddlers with a confirmed diagnosis that has some likelihood of later developmental delay who already exhibited a 1.5 standard deviation delay in at least one area of development.

These quarterly visits to a child's home provide ongoing developmental surveillance as well as support and information for the family on how to stimulate their child's development and connections to community resources and activities. During Fiscal Year 2005, 59 children qualified for Follow-Along visits. Additionally, parents of all children who were found not eligible for Birth to Three services or whose children left the Birth to Three System before age three are offered a program for tracking their child's ongoing development. **Ages and Stages Questionnaires** are mailed to the family a few times a year so they may report about their child's mastery of new skills. If scores show that a child's development is increasingly delayed, the family is offered another eligibility evaluation by Birth to Three. If the child's development appears to be on track, the family is sent a developmental status report with suggested activities to continue to help their child learn new skills.

This past fiscal year, 689 new families whose children were evaluated chose to enroll their children in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire monitoring process. An additional 189 were enrolled through the **Help Me Grow** program (which assists families of children that are at-risk) and 10 from neonatal intensive care units. Overall, this represented a 5% increase over the previous year.

By June 30, 2005 **Child Development Infoline** was actively following 1,932 children, a 15% increase from the previous fiscal year. The overall return rate on the written question-naires mailed to families was 35.6%.



How We Make a Difference: Service Delivery

How many children received services over the course of the year?

During fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005), 35 approved programs employing approximately 760 service providers worked with 8,893 eligible children and their families.

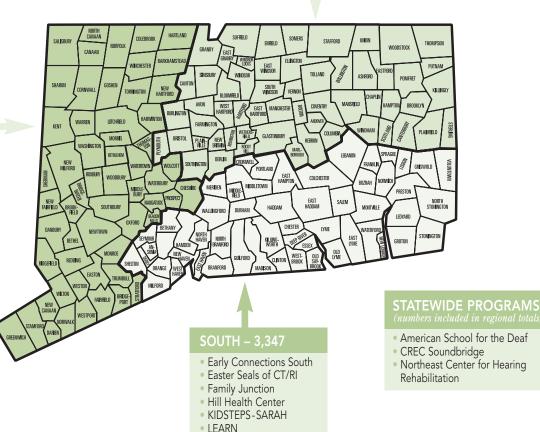
NORTH – 2,898

- CT Children's Medical Center
- Capitol Region Education Council
- Early Connections North
- East Hartford Public Schools
- Easter Seals of CT/RI
- HARC Steppingstones

- Jane Bisantz & Associates
- Key Service Systems
- KIDSTEPS-SARAH
- Klingberg Family Center
- McLaughlin & Associates
- Project Interact

WEST - 2,557

- Ahlbin Centers for Rehabilitation Medicine
- ARC Greenwich
- Cheshire Public Schools
- Child & Family Network
- Children's Therapy Services
- Cooperative Educational Services - Beginnings
- Danbury Public Schools
- Early Connections West
- Easter Seals of CT/RI
- Easter Seals Rehabilitation of Waterbury
- Education Connection
- Family Junction
- Kennedy Center
- Project Interact
- Rehabilitation Associates
- St. Vincent's Special Needs Services
- STAR/Rubino Center
- Therapy Solutions Center



RFACHOUT

Rehabilitation Associates

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How We Make a Difference: Service Delivery, Continued

Who supported enrolled children and their families?

SERVICE DELIVERED BY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF CHILDREN
Speech and Language Pathologist		60%
Special Educator		
Occupational Therapist		
Physical Therapist		
Early Intervention Associate or Assistant		
Social Worker		
Audiologist		
Nutritionist		
Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA)		
Nurse		
Board Certified Behavior Analyst or Associate An	alyst 44	
Family Therapist / Professional Counselor		
Physical Therapy Assistant		
Psychologist		
Orientation and Mobility Specialist		
Vision Specialist		
Physician		

Where were services delivered?

PRIMARY LOCATIONS	PERCENTAGE
Home (includes foster homes)	
Program Designed for Typically Developing Children	n 4%
Service Provider Office	
Hospital (inpatient)	
Program Designed for Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities	<0.1%
Residential Facility	
Other	

How much service did children and families receive?

During the year, 492 children received what are described as "intensive services" (more than 15 hours per month) and approximately 240 of these children have an autistic spectrum disorder. On average, these children were scheduled to receive 39 hours of service per month. If we look only at children who are not receiving intensive services, the statewide average as listed in their Individualized Family Service Plans is 4.66 hours per month.

When It's Time to Say Goodbye



When and why do children leave the Birth to Three System?

Most families continue with Birth to Three until their children turn three years old or no longer need our services and supports. Families are connected with new community resources as the transition process unfolds. The 4,481 children who exited the System in Fiscal Year 2005 left because:

REASON FOR LEAVING BIRTH TO THREE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF CHILDREN
Child turned three years old		
Parent withdrew child		
No further service needed by child		
Unable to locate		
Moved out of state		
OF THE 798 WHO WITHDREW THEIR ELIGIBLE CHI	LD, 266 WITHDREW PRIOR TO TH	HEIR INITIAL IFSP MEETING

Of the 2,666 children who left at age three:

PLANS AFTER BIRTH TO THREE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF CHILDREN
Eligible for special education		70%
Not eligible for special education but referred to another program		
Not eligible for special education and not referred to another program		
Referred to public school but special education eligibility not determined by 3rd birthday		
Not referred to public school		

Costs of Early Intervention

Our Budget and Expenses

The Birth to Three budget for Fiscal Year 2005 was \$33,423,421 from state and federal sources, with total system expenditures (including parent payments and health insurance) of \$35,980,488. Only 5% of that total amount was spent on administration of the System, leaving 95% for direct services.

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES BY FUNDING SOURCE							
FUNDING SOURCE	DOLLARS						
Total State Funds	\$26,964,321						
Total Federal Funds	5,081,990						
Commercial Insurance Funds	3,230,026						
Parent Fees	704,151						
TOTAL SYSTEM EXPENDITURES*	\$35,980,488						

Medicaid claims resulted in \$4.4 million in revenue to the State General Fund, DECREASING the net state contribution to Birth to Three by that amount.

COSTS PER CHILD

Average statewide gross annual cost per child was	\$7,937
After commercial insurance reimbursements, the net average cost per child was	\$7,039







State Fiscal Year 2005 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005) Expenditures Part C of IDEA Federal Funding Only

CATEGORIES DOLLARS
Salaries and Fringe for 11.5 FTE Positions \$1,295,458 (Birth to Three central office and regional staff)
Other Expenses
State ICC
Local ICCs
Public Awareness
Data System
Personnel Development
Supervision and Monitoring
Procedural Safeguards
TOTAL SYSTEM COMPONENTS \$1,785,687
TOTAL DIRECT SERVICES \$2,377,094
TOTAL PART C OF IDEA FUNDED EXPENDITURES

The available state and federal funding for Fiscal Year 2006 is \$35,676,315. With the addition of \$3,300,000 in projected commercial health insurance funding and parent payments of \$650,000, the total projected budget for the System is \$39,626,315.





We Can't Do It Alone: Our Collaborators

MANY PEOPLE, COMMITTEES AND AGENCIES WORK WITH THE BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM IN SUPPORTING CONNECTICUT'S FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN. HERE ARE SOME OF OUR CLOSEST ALLIES:

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Laurel Ross, CHAIR ARC GREENWICH, PROVIDER Karen Biernat, PARENT Carmina Cirioli. PARENT Mary Ann Dayton-Fitzgerald, DEPT. FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES *Elizabeth Daly*, OFFICE OF PROTECTION & ADVOCACY Mary Eberle, UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE Maria Engborg, PARENT *Rita Esposito*, REACHOUT, INC., PROVIDER Ann Gionet, PARENT Linda Goodman, DEPT. OF MENTAL RETARDATION Mark A. Greenstein, M.D., DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN *Clara Gutierrez*, PARENT Jeanette Haines, BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND *Moira Herbert*, DEPT. OF INSURANCE *Melvette Hill*, parent Cynthia Jackson, CHILDREN'S THERAPY SERVICES, PROVIDER Robert LaCamera, M.D., AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Joseph McLaughlin, MCLAUGHLIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC, PROVIDER Denise W. Merrill, CT LEGISLATOR Amy Moncy, EASTER SEALS OF CT/RI, PROVIDER Maria Synodi, DEPT. OF EDUCATION Robin Tousey-Ayers, DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH Myra Watnick, REHABILITATION ASSOCIATES, PROVIDER Aurele Wilson, DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Diane Wixted, COMMISSION ON THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED

COMMITTEES & COUNCILS

Medical Advisory Committee Early Childhood Multi-Cultural Competence Committee Public Awareness Committee Comprehensive System of Personnel Development Council Local Interagency Coordinating Councils: DANBURY GREATER HARTFORD LOWER FAIRFIELD MERIDEN / WALLINGFORD MIDDLESEX COUNTY NEW HAVEN TORRINGTON

WATERBURY

CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

Children's Trust Fund Commission on Children Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Department for Children and Families Department of Education Department of Social Services Department of Social Services Department of Insurance Office of Protection and Advocacy Board of Education and Services for the Blind University of Connecticut – University Center for Excellence

... and many families and healthcare providers throughout Connecticut.

Numbers of Children by Town

Here are the numbers of children in each town who were referred to Birth to Three for the first time in FY2005, and the number of eligible children in each town who received early intervention services:

TOWN	CHILDREN REFERRED	CHILDREN SERVED	TOWN	CHILDREN REFERRED	CHILDREN SERVED
Andover	6	12	Columbia	10	11
Ansonia	52	66	Cornwall	0	0
Ashford	7	9	Coventry	25	23
Avon	52	43	Cromwell	25	22
Barkhamsted	<	6	Danbury	191	207
Beacon Falls	13	8	Darien	62	56
Berlin	45	37	Deep River	10	9
Bethany	9	7	Derby	30	36
Bethel	56	62	Durham	11	18
Bethlehem	<	<	East Granby	11	13
Bloomfield	18	20	East Haddam	20	13
Bolton	10	9	East Hampton	29	31
Bozrah	<	11	East Hartford	131	156
Branford	48	52	East Haven	41	52
Bridgeport	386	435	East Lyme	28	33
Bridgewater	<	0	East Windsor	21	21
Bristol	124	142	Eastford	<	
Brookfield	38	46	Easton	17	26
Brooklyn	26	25	Ellington	31	30
Burlington	28	27	Enfield	97	102
Canaan	11	9	Essex	12	15
Canterbury	10	6	Fairfield	142	149
Canton	23	26	Farmington	39	36
Chaplin	<		Franklin	<	
Cheshire	57	61	Glastonbury	71	79
Chester	<	6	Goshen	6	<
Clinton	28	23	Granby	28	26
Colchester	59	66	Greenwich	146	154
Colebrook	<		Griswold	30	35

NOTE: REFERRED means children newly referred during the fiscal year, while SERVED means an eligible child who received services during any portion of the fiscal year.

TOWN	CHILDREN REFERRED		TOWN	CHILDREN REFERRED	CHILDREN SERVED
Groton	102	135	Naugatuck	61	72
Guilford	41	46	New Britain	197	262
Haddam	16	11	New Canaan	55	52
Hamden	126	134	New Fairfield	44	45
Hampton	<		New Hartford	13	15
Hartford	485	536	New Haven	328	341
Hartland	<		New London	70	82
Harwinton	6	8	New Milford	65	68
Hebron	21	34	Newington	42	42
Kent	<	10	Newtown	79	89
Killingly	49	58	Norfolk	<	
Killingworth	13	12	North Branford	d 31	26
Lebanon	24	18	North Canaan	0	<
Ledyard	32	42	North Haven	40	51
Lisbon	10	8	North Stoning	ton 10	14
Litchfield	8	15	Norwalk	194	195
Lyme	<		Norwich	82	111
Madison	45	46	Old Lyme	17	20
Manchester	140	156	Old Saybrook	16	24
Mansfield	23	31	Orange	24	28
Marlborough	12	18	Oxford	36	38
Meriden	159	191	Plainfield	33	48
Middlebury	18	17	Plainville	43	36
Middlefield	<	8	Plymouth	25	35
Middletown	89	89	Pomfret	14	16
Milford	96	112	Portland	22	22
Monroe	43	44	Preston	<	8
Montville	35	35	Prospect	15	22
Morris	<	<	Putnam	27	30

TOWN	CHILDREN REFERRED	CHILDREN SERVED	TOW	/N CHILD	REN REFERRED	CHILDREN SERVED
Redding	23	17	Vern	ion	61	81
Ridgefield	60	63	Volu	ntown	<	
Rocky Hill	33	32	Walli	ingford	90	103
Roxbury	<		Warr	ren	<	
Salem	<	10	Was	hington	<	6
Salisbury	<		Wate	erbury	303	345
Scotland	<		Wate	erford	21	23
Seymour	32	34	Wate	ertown	47	53
Sharon	<		West	t Hartford	124	141
Shelton	59	71	West	t Haven	136	125
Sherman	10	11	West	tbrook	9	12
Simsbury	49	63	West	ton	32	35
Somers	21	20	West	tport	66	69
South Winds	or 55	61	Weth	hersfield	44	50
Southbury	44	39	Willi	ngton	9	18
Southington	79	92	Wilto	on	58	56
Sprague	7	9	Wind	chester	24	31
Stafford	18	19	Wind	dham	58	73
Stamford	278	307	Wind	dsor	48	51
Sterling	6	8	Wind	dsor Locks	18	18
Stonington	24	36	Wold	cott	21	28
Stratford	116	137	Woo	odbridge	17	17
Suffield	22	24	Woo	odbury	18	17
Thomaston	16	16	Woo	odstock	9	10
Thompson	28	28				
Tolland	36	35	TOT	AL	8,013	8,893
Torrington	61	78				
Trumbull	101	99				
Union	<	0				

The Connecticut Birth to Three System is administered by the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation

Peter H. O'Meara, COMMISSIONER Kathryn duPree, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM CENTRAL OFFICE

Linda Goodman DIRECTOR

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Deb Resnick COORDINATOR FOR COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

Alice Ridgway QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

Pietro Rosato ACCOUNTANT

BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM REGIONAL OFFICES

WEST REGION Tom Coakley, MANAGER Ray Horvath, FISCAL COORDINATOR Tina Cox, SECRETARY

NORTH REGION Tammy Garris, MANAGER Sandy McNally, FISCAL COORDINATOR Lana Raymond, SECRETARY

SOUTH REGION Lynn Skene Johnson, MANAGER Ray Horvath, FISCAL COORDINATOR Stacy Eagan, SECRETARY

MEDICAL ADVISOR

Ann Milanese, M.D. DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN



CENTRAL OFFICE 460 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

INFORMATION & REFERRALS

1-800-505-7000 Multilingual (Voice/TDD) www.birth23.org

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To receive a copy of this 2005 Data Report, please contact: Connecticut Birth to Thee System, 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 860-418-6146 or email to dmrct.birthtothree@po.state.ct.us

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