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Robert Moser, MD, Secretary

Department of Health & Environment

Sam Brownback, Governor

11-9-2011

Major Reorganization

On November 8th, the Governor announced his plans for a major re-organization of the Executive branch. SRS will be re-named Department of Children and Families Services. Among the programs that are proposed to be transferred are:

Child Care Licensing, Foster Care Licensing, Part C Infant and Toddler Services, Children and Youth with Special Needs, Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visitor Program, Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative, Abstinence Education, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Healthy Start Home Visitor Program.

An Executive Re-Organization Order will likely be issued in January at about the time of the State of the State Speech. The Legislature will then have 60 days to act upon it. The actual change is scheduled for July 1, 2012.

SoundBeginnings Newborn Hearing

Part C has been working closely with the newborn hearing screening program, in order to make sure all babies that did not pass the hearing screening at the hospital receive follow-up and are referred for services if needed. Part C local network staff has been offered certification training throughout the year, to make sure that all of the 37 networks have staff that is certified to use the tools in order to test the children's hearing. The Sound Beginnings program is now working with Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start to make sure they have OAE's (a hearing screening instrument) and testing their children. They are also working to make sure they can check each other's data systems to help improve the "lost to follow up" numbers for hearing screens.

Health Planning Consultant Position

There is an opening at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) for a Health Planning Consultant for Infant-Toddler Services. We are looking for someone with lots of experience and knowledge of Part C Infant-Toddler services, as well as an MS in an Early Childhood Special Education field.

Race to the Top

KSDE will be the lead agent for this multimillion dollar federal grant. This is a collaborative grant for early childhood programs, 0 to 5. It was due in October and a collaborative group met regularly to decide how we might proceed. It is very competitive and we are waiting to hear if Kansas will be one of the states chosen.

Part C Regulations are out

Part C regulations are out and there will be a series of webinars, explaining the changes. Sarah, Sabra, and Peggy will be going to an OSEP meeting in the D.C. next week, on the 16th. They will be explaining the changes from the old regulations. The website to look up the new regulations is: http://dec-sped.org/PolicyAdvocacy/IDEA_Part_C_Changes.

CAPTA

There will be a task force meeting to discuss and update information regarding CAPTA referrals. We will be discussing how referrals on children who are substantiate for abuse and neglect, or were exposed to substances, and what improvements we might make. Garry Kelley, KDHE Epidemiologist did research on Foster Care referrals and his report will be discussed at the first meeting, which will be next Monday, November 14th at 3:00.