



TO: Early Intervention Directors, Community Centered Boards, Service Coordinators, Providers and Colorado Interagency Coordinating Council

FROM: Lenita Hartman, Program Initiatives Manager

DATE: February 25, 2015

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION BRIEF: Integration of the Individualized Family Service Plan and the Child Outcomes Summary Process

Purpose

To inform the Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and their service coordinators, providers and the Colorado Interagency Coordinating Council of the intent to pilot an integrated process for conducting the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) with the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) activities. Beginning in July 2015, Early Intervention (EI) Colorado will be launching the initial integrated process with multiple CCBs selected as early implementation communities in preparation for statewide implementation in July 2016.

Background

It has been widely recognized by multiple states, including Colorado, that there is a discrepancy between the focus at the national level that programs and states be accountable for children making progress on the three global outcomes and how the global outcomes are incorporated in the individual outcomes on children's IFSPs.

The three global outcomes include:

- Children will have positive social relationships (including appropriate social emotional skills);
- Children will acquire and use knowledge and skills (including communication skills); and,
- Children will take appropriate action to meet their needs.

The recommended practice is that Individual outcomes on the IFSP support the three global outcomes. Integration of these two processes will support the EI Colorado program's overarching goal that a child and family's involvement in EI services will enhance the development of the child and support effective participation in daily routines that have been identified by the family. The integration of the IFSP/COS is also a key component of EI Colorado's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that addresses how EI services can best support families to help their children in making progress so they can be active participants in a variety of settings throughout their childhood.

The recommendation to integrate the IFSP/COS processes is the result of a year-long effort by a work group that included representation from CCBs (EI coordinators, service coordinators, and providers), the Colorado Department of Education, higher education, and community partners. This work group gathered information and feedback from CCBs, the Colorado Interagency Coordinating Council, and other stakeholders. Up to five CCBs will be invited to serve as early implementation sites based, in part, on criteria identified in the *IFSP Outcomes Integration Tool*



that all CCBs completed in the fall of 2014, as well as their agencies' enthusiasm for integrating the IFSP/COS and commitment to the change process.

Information

- A. CCBs will be selected as early implementation communities in April 2015. They will play an integral role in the development and refinement of this new and exciting process as they receive training and technical assistance to infuse the three global outcomes throughout their current IFSP practices, administer the new integrated IFSP form, and provide feedback to EI Colorado. Training for the selected CCBs will commence in May 2015.
- B. During the fall 2015 and winter 2016, policy and procedure changes will be developed and vetted through the mandatory public review process.
- C. In May 2016, the new integrated IFSP/COS process will be introduced to all CCBs statewide. The entire EI process from referral to transition will be impacted by this change including the introduction of new training, forms, and technical assistance.
- D. Full implementation of the integrated IFSP/COS process is expected to take place in July 2016 for all CCBs.

If there are questions regarding the integration of the IFSP/COS process, early implementation activities, or requirements, please contact Lenita Hartman at 303-866-5419 or Lenita.Hartman@state.co.us.

