Agenda Items Included in Presentation

• Revisions to Bulletin 139 – *Technical Changes*

• Update on Developmental Screenings and Special Education Supports

• Early Childhood Care and Education Advisory Council Quarterly Report – Quarter 2
Proposed Revisions to Bulletin 139
Definition of Back Scans and Absences

Definitions need to be added to ensure full implementation of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule.

• The definition for the terms “back scans, excessive back scan, unexplained absences, and excessive absences” did not exist prior to these proposed changes.

• Excessive back scans is an indicator of possible improper payment activity and needs to be defined.

• Unexplained and excessive absences are defined to align with kindergarten readiness attendance goals in Final Rule 45 CFR 98.21.
Definition of Redetermination and Graduated Phase Out

Once a household reaches the end of a certification period, household eligibility must be redetermined.

• The definition of redetermination of eligibility (REDET) for child care services is aligned with the continuity of care as determined in CCDF Final Rule 45 CFR 98.21.
  o **REDETS shall be made prior to the expiration of certification period, but no sooner than 12 months following the initial determination or most recent redetermination.**

• Graduated Phase Out is defined in accordance with Final Rule 45 CFR 98.21.
  o **At the time of redetermination, households whose income is above the initial state threshold for eligibility but below the federal threshold for eligibility of 85 percent of state medium income, will be eligible for 12 additional months of child care services as part of a graduated phase out.**
In accordance with CCDF Final Rule, CCAP will now cover registration fees in order to better support families.

- In accordance with Final Rule 45 CFR 98.45, registration payments made on behalf of households was added to Bulletin 139.
  - Payments for registration fees will be made to providers on behalf of all households once per certification period.
  - Allowable registration are based on the amount recorded in the provider certification agreement or the current market rate, whichever is lower.
Update on Developmental Screenings and Special Education Supports
In March 2017, the ECCE Advisory Council requested additional information about the existing resources and supports that exist for young children with special needs.

In response to this request, several agencies and programs have collaborated to provide an update to the ECCE Advisory Council:

• Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Bureau of Family Health)
• Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks (CoIINs)
• Project LAUNCH- Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health
• CLASS Special Learners Pilot and Development Screening Guidebook (Louisiana Department of Education)
• Louisiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (LSU-HSC)
• EarlySteps

By identifying current programs and available options, we can seek opportunities increase coordination for families.
Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant
Bureau of Family Health

The Title V MCH Block Grant supports programs and activities to promote the health and well-being of women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and youth with special health needs.

Title V Block Grant:
• Also known as the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.
• Works to increase the percent of children, ages 10-71 months, that receive a developmental screening using a parent completed tool.
• Aims to improve the state Developmental Screening (DS) and Early Intervention (EI) systems of care for Louisiana children.

National Performance Measure Goals:
• Increase by 10% the number of primary care physicians that implement the Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines biennially.
• Develop a development screening and early intervention monitoring mechanism framework by September 2018.
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Networks (CoIINs):

- Enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based children’s developmental health and family well-being indicators.
- The CoIIN goal: within 60 months, participating communities will show a 25 percent increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills among their community’s children birth through age 3.
- Collaborating with the Vermilion Parish School Board clinic and a local pediatrician to track referrals and identify how many children with a positive screen are eligible for school services.
- Partnered with the Morehouse Community Medical Center Pediatric Clinic and local child care centers to increase referrals and the number of children receiving a developmental screen.
Project LAUNCH promotes the wellness of young children ages birth to 8 by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development.

Project LAUNCH- Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health:

- Develop an early childhood coordinated service system focused on well-being across all developmental domains targeting children from birth to 8 years.
- Increase awareness and skills of parents and caregivers to support healthy development and well-being of young children.
- Currently collaborating with 10 pediatric providers in Acadia, Vermilion and Lafayette parishes.
- Provides onsite behavioral health consultations.
- Developed and published an interactive information website for providers and families in Region 4 [http://louisianalaunch.org/](http://louisianalaunch.org/)
Updates from the Department
CLASS Special Learners Pilot and Developmental Screening Guidebook

**Through the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA) and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) the Department has promoted initiatives to increase access to resources for children with special needs.**

**CLASS Special Learners Pilot:**
- Provided research-based classroom interventions and supports to help programs improve the kindergarten readiness of children with disabilities through improving teacher-child interactions.
- Pilot ran from October 2016-May 2017.
- Included three targeted professional development programs, which trained 76 coaches and impacted over 800 teachers.

**Developmental Screening Guidebook:**
- Provide consumer resources to early childcare providers to support the families they serve identify the most appropriate developmental screening resource.

**Increase in Rate(s) and Flexibility for CCAP Families with Children with Special Needs:**
- Increased the daily rate for children with disabilities that are a part of the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Increased flexibility for families in meeting work and school requirements.
Louisiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (LSU-HSC)

Louisiana University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities provides leadership and innovation in education, community service, research, and dissemination of information that strengthens the capacity of local communities to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Early Head Start Child Care Partnership**
- Incorporated developmental screening guidelines (ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, MCHAT, SEEK) into Early Head Start program
- Trained over 80 child care providers and administrators on importance of developmental surveillance, screening, and communicating with parents regarding child development
- Provided technical assistance to four child care centers in developing screening program

**Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND)**
- Provided year long training to nine graduate students on screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention
- Provided training on DSS to 84 health care providers
- Provided interdisciplinary autism evaluation for 12 families of young children
EarlySteps provides services to families with infants and toddlers aged birth to three years (36 months) who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays.

EarlySteps:

- Identify approximately 2.1% of children in Louisiana between the ages of birth and 3 years who meet the EarlySteps Criteria.
- In 2015-16, EarlySteps received almost 13,000 referrals and conducted developmental screening on approximately 6,000 of the children referred for developmental delay.

To improve child outcomes resulting from early intervention, EarlySteps has aligned improvement activities with the LDOE:

1. Regional staff participate in local network activities to increase awareness of early intervention services;
2. Improving the number of referrals from Early Care and Education settings through outreach and network activities; and
3. Improving early intervention supports provided in child care settings through a focus on caregiver priorities for meeting child needs.
There are various opportunities for collaboration across the many programs that provide services to families and young children with developmental disabilities.

**Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Workforce Development Technical Assistance Project:**
- Engaged an interagency team focused on strengthening and coordinating developmental screening service systems.
- Identified a pilot site to test systems level changes; overlapping work with Project LAUNCH and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems CoIIIN.
- Working to build provider capacity around expanded screening services and early intervention referrals.

**Child Care and Development Block Grant:**
- Department of Education and Bureau of Family Health collaborated on a strategic plan to accomplish the Development Block Grant consumer education requisites.
- Opportunities for potential expanded collaboration across agencies and programs with the initiation of the next state plan.
- Agencies will be able to work together to interpret new federal requirements, assess statewide needs, and develop an appropriate plan for the future CCDF grant.
There are various opportunities for collaboration across the many programs that provide services to families and young children with developmental disabilities.

**Young Child Wellness Collaborative:**

- Cross-sector action learning collaborative convened by the Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Public Health that is building an agenda to support the health, development, and wellness of young children.
- Assembled a multi-disciplinary developmental screening workgroup to provide guidance around early childhood screening.
- The workgroup established an operationalized definition for developmental screening and presented recommendations for expanded screening services in the state (Louisiana Developmental Screening Guidelines).
Quarterly Report – Quarter 3 2017
Early Childhood Community Networks

Key Activities in Quarter 3

The Department and Community Networks have continued to support local sites to implement the early childhood accountability system.

Beginning the 2017-2018 School year with a Strong Start:

- Lead agencies worked with sites and observers to begin scheduling and completing fall CLASS™ observations for the fall.
- Community networks reviewed new guidance for third party protocols and prepared their local observation protocols for the year.
- Sites began setting up classrooms in the Teaching Strategies GOLD® system.

Collaboration Between Lead Agencies and and Sites:

- Sites worked with lead agencies to complete data certification, verifying the completeness and accuracy of the information that will be included in the 2017 Performance Profiles.
- Community networks completed the Coordinated Enrollment Self-Assessment to evaluate the success of their enrollment work in 2016-2017.

Preparing for Roll-Out 2017 Performance Profiles:

- Lead agencies attended the fall supervisor collaboratives and weekly office hours.
- Lead agencies reviewed preliminary results based on the CLASS™ observations from 2016-2017, celebrating progress while also reflecting on areas for additional support.
Lead Agencies must have a plan to engage their partners through each phase of delivery to ensure that the Performance Profile release via new statewide website is successful in their community.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/3/17</td>
<td>Data Certification began, informational metric files placed in FTP folders and available in the online certification tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/25/17</td>
<td>Final CLASS scores placed in FTP folders</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/8/17</td>
<td>Data Certification completed, final CLASS™ appeals complete</td>
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<td>Fall 2017</td>
<td>2016-2017 Performance Profiles will be provided to Lead Agencies and sites via the Site Finder staging site and FTP folders</td>
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<td>The Department will conduct calls with each Lead Agency in October</td>
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<td>2016-2017 Performance Profiles will be available publicly via the Site Finder</td>
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<td>Star Ratings for 2018 will be available publicly via the Site Finder</td>
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New for 2017-2018
Early Childhood and K-12 Site Finder

Louisiana will launch a new site finder that enables families to search by geography and preferences for early childhood and K-12 options.

Louisiana is currently testing the school/site finder and will launch in the fall.
Supporting Teachers to be Successful
Key Activities in Quarter 3

The Department has increased access to instructional supports for child care teachers.

Promoting Alignment Across Grade Levels:
• The Department designed and released the Louisiana Pre-K through Third Grade Guidebook.
• The guidebook provides site and system leaders with information and guidance on creating strong plans for schools and sites that ensure quality and continuity across pre-K through third grade.
• The Department has shared the guidebook through statewide collaborative meetings and newsletters, and will continue offering expanded training to additional audience this year.

Streamlining Child Assessment for Teachers:
• Nearly 1,000 sites opted into the Abbreviated GOLD Pilot.
• This pilot still provides sites the ability to finalize checkpoints, track progress, and run reports but provides few indicators and objectives for teachers to collect evidence for.

Supporting Teachers through Training and Materials:
• The Department announced the plan to continue supporting the Child Care Curriculum Initiative for the 2017-2018 school year. Sites can receive financial assistance in purchasing Tier I infant/toddler and pre-K curriculum kits.
• Believe and Prepare: Early Childhood Cohort 3 launched, working with 11 additional teacher preparation programs that will design Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Programs this fall.
The Department has supported child care centers through sharing information about licensed center requirements and the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Licensed Center Updates:
- **Child Care Criminal Background Check (CCCBC) Updates:** The Department began a series of field meetings across the state and routine webinars to provide information the forthcoming requirements and timeline for the new criminal background check process.
- **Market Rate Survey:** The Market Rate Survey was shared with all licensed centers and family homes.
  - The Market Rate Survey allows care providers to share valuable input regarding cost of care and features of their program that will be reflected in a report released later this year.

Child Care Assistance Program Updates:
- **Establishment of the CCAP Waitlist:** Due to increased demand for the Child Care Assistance Program, the Department began preparing for a CCAP Wait List, which went into effect July 1.
  - Applications are screened for eligibility and, if eligible, placed on the wait list until funds are available.
  - Families currently receiving CCAP are not be placed on the wait list when it is time to re-certify their eligibility. They will continue to receive services if eligible.
The Department has revised the work requirements for CCAP to provide more access for families that are in need of assistance.

Preparation for the CCAP Wait List:
• Due to increased demand for the Child Care Assistance Program, the Department began preparing for a CCAP Wait List, which went into effect July 1, 2017.
• Since 2015, the State Board, in collaboration with their Early Childhood Advisory Council, has increased payment rates, reduced co-pays and adopted more flexible eligibility criteria in order to serve more working families.
• CCAP currently serves over 19,000 Louisiana children whose parents are working or are in school.

Implementation of the CCAP Wait List:
• Applications are screened for eligibility and placed on the wait list until funds are available.
• Families currently receiving CCAP will not be placed on the wait list when it is time to re-certify their eligibility. They will continue to receive services if eligible.
• Children who are experiencing homelessness, children of families participating in STEP or Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, children in foster care and special needs children, if eligible, will not be placed on the wait list.
• As of August 2017, there were 699 children on the wait list.
• Information about the number of families on the CCAP Wait List will posted online monthly.
There has been an increase in Quality Start enrollment for Quarter 3.

The change in August 2017 reflects the completed extension of current star awards, as well as some new centers that have joined the system.
Publicly-Funded Licensed Early Learning Centers
Monitoring Change Over Time

There has been little change in the number early learning centers.

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*As of 9/22/2017