



# Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities

*To inspire, empower, and support people to achieve their full potential.*

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Early Intervention Core Team Primary Service Provider Approach

### What is changing in DCBDD's Early Intervention program?

- DCBDD has been providing Early Intervention (EI) services to children and their families through a direct therapy model for many years. In 2008, DCBDD began researching the benefits of the team-based Primary Service Provider (PSP) approach to EI services. The PSP approach is supported by EI professionals nationally as an effective way to work with children (birth through age 2) and their families, and partners professionals with families to improve the child's ability to develop and learn by incorporating therapy into the family's daily routine.

### How is the team-based Primary Service Provider approach different from the current delivery of services in Early Intervention?

#### PSP Approach:

- In the team-based PSP approach, eligible children are assigned to a team of professionals consisting of a speech therapist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, developmental specialist, and service coordinator. These professionals are referred to as a core team.
- Families will have one professional, supported by this core team, to work with them and their child to achieve the goals identified in his or her individualized family service plan (IFSP). The 'primary service provider' (PSP) will be the person with the most expertise in the area of their child's greatest need and the parent's highest concern.
- Depending on the needs of the child, other professionals may be brought in to work together with the 'primary service provider' during joint visits.

#### Current delivery of services:

- Eligible children are seen by one or more professionals depending on the assessed developmental needs of the child. For example a child may be seen by a speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or developmental specialist depending on the goals for the child and family.
- Families have the opportunity to choose which professionals they want to work with from a list of over 70 contracted providers or through a request for provider (RFP) process.
- Families have individual visits with different professionals as opposed to joint visits.

### Why is DCBDD changing the Early Intervention program delivery of service?

- In 2015, The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) began requiring all county boards providing EI services to move to this PSP approach. In order for DCBDD to continue offering EI services to children and their families here in Delaware County, we must implement this change.
- Our decision to offer to the PSP approach to families is not just because it is required; we wholeheartedly believe this method will enhance the quality of our current program by reducing wait times for services, and ensuring that every child and his or her family has access to services they need to achieve the outcomes in their individualized family service plans (IFSPs).

### When will the Early Intervention Core Team Primary Service Provider approach begin in Delaware County?

- Effective September 1, 2017, every *new* child entering EI will be assigned to a Service Coordinator and a Core Team, which includes a physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, and a developmental specialist.



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- Children currently enrolled in our EI program will be able to switch to the PSP approach if his or her family is interested in trying the new approach or continue with their current services until they exit from EI. (Exiting occurs when a child meets the outcomes in the IFSP, when exiting is considered age-appropriate, or when the child is 3 years old.)

## **My child currently receives Early Intervention services from DCBDD. Will we have to change from our current therapists to a Core Team Primary Service Provider on September 1, 2017?**

- No. The new model is only mandatory for children who enroll in EI *on or after* September 1, 2017.
- Children enrolled in EI who are currently in the transition process (between 2 ½ and 3 years old) will continue to receive services as authorized in their IFSP.
- Families of children, younger than 2 ½ years old will have the *option* of receiving services through the PSP approach or continuing with their current services until the child exits from EI.

## **Will parents still have input into their child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) under the new approach?**

- Yes. Under the new approach, parents are fundamental part of the Core Team. Outcomes listed in the IFSP are developed based on the assessed needs of the child and parent concerns. Parents are encouraged to participate in Core Team meetings in person, by phone, through video, or in writing, at least every three (3) months.

## **Will children receiving Early Intervention services using a Core Team Primary Service Provider model receive therapy?**

- Yes. The PSP approach to EI services provides children with a team of licensed therapists. In addition to providing therapy, therapists also develop strategies and suggest activities for families to practice throughout the day, which may lead to more learning opportunities for infants and toddlers and result in increased participation in everyday life.

## **Can parents change their Primary Service Provider (PSP) if they are unhappy?**

- Yes. The Primary Service Provider (PSP) is chosen by the parent and core team members based on who is able to best meet the child's needs. If a parent is unhappy with their PSP, every effort will be made to ensure that families are satisfied with their child's services and team.

## **Will I have access to other resources in the community if my child needs additional services that cannot be provided by the Primary Service Provider (PSP)?**

- Families will have access to funding for additional services such as community classes, massage therapy, equipment, etc.

## **Where can I get more information about the PSP approach?**

- DODD's Early Intervention website: <http://ohioearlyintervention.org>
- DODD's Evidenced Based Early Intervention video located on the home page of DODD's Early Intervention website <http://ohioearlyintervention.org>
- Peggy Kroon Van Diest, Director of Early Intervention, 740-201-3561 or [Peggy.KroonVanDiest@dcbdd.org](mailto:Peggy.KroonVanDiest@dcbdd.org)