

Questions Regarding Lead Agency Designation to Consider as Part of the Part C System Evaluation

Effect on Families

Will a change improve the quality of services that families receive? How?

Will a change result in higher costs to families (or lower, or no change)?

What other changes will occur for families if the lead agency is changed?

If a new lead agency is chosen, what are the possible negative beliefs associated with the new agency and how would that effect families and the program? (For example, in one locality, only families at the low end of the socioeconomic scale access services at the Health Department; and many of those families seek private services instead of Health Department services).

What effect would a change in lead agency have on the fees and ability to pay scales?

Effect on Program

How would service delivery be affected? Would any services be lost?

Would a change in lead agency to the Health Department lead to a medical model for intervention? What information and education would be needed for the administrators of the potential new lead agency to assure that the model remains a non-medical transdisciplinary developmental model?

How would we assure that the model of intervention remains family-centered and does not change to child-centered if the lead agency is changed? (Especially if it is changed to the Department of Education)

What policy changes would have to occur?

What effect will a change have on referral sources?

How would a change affect public awareness of early intervention?

What educational issues would need to be addressed?

Would the ability to access EPDST or SPO case management be adversely affected?

Effect on Local Structure

If the Lead agency is changed, how will that affect the local councils whose buildings, utilities, salaries and travel expenses are provided and paid for by the CSBs? If the CSBs no longer serve as the "home base" for the local council, who will and who will pick up the above expenses? And who will provide space for the programs? How will "maintenance of effort" play into this?

What will happen to the local council structure if a change is made? Will new boundaries be drawn to conform to structure of a new lead agency?

How would the degree of local control be affected with a change in lead agency?

How could local fiscal control be maintained?

Staff Questions

Who would council coordinators be responsible to?

Would staff educational requirements change - if under Department of Education, would degree be required for Council Coordinator or if under Department of Health, would the Service Coordinator need to be a LCSW, etc.?

Would personnel in the new lead agency be expected to become service coordinators for families in the early intervention system? If so, what steps would be taken to assure adequate time and to provide adequate training for these people?

Financial Considerations

How would money flow from the state to the local councils?

Would the way finances would have to be handled affect the timely delivery of services?

If the lead agency were changed to the Department of Education, would fees for services be allowed or would all services need to be provided free of charge to families. If services were provided without charge, how would infant programs replace the revenue that had been collected from third party payors?

Would financial and in-kind contribution be lost? What would be the impact of that loss?

How would non-supplanting be assured?

Would a change result in loss of local funding?

Would there be changes regarding "order for payment"?

Will reimbursements be quicker or later?

How accessible and timely could we reimburse families and providers? (Currently this CSB operates within a one-week maximum time frame and feels two-four weeks is not family-friendly).

Who would serve as the fiscal agents if the lead agency were changed?

General Questions

What are the expected gains from a change?

Who will benefit from a change?

The system does not seem to be broken (from a local council perspective), so what is the rationale for changing?