



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

**FEB 27 2012**

Honorable Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.  
Commissioner  
Department of Developmental Services  
DMR Central  
460 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1630

Dear Commissioner Macy:

This letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) Continuous Improvement Visit (CIV) to the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) during the week of November 7, 2011. As indicated in our letter to you dated March 29, 2011, the visit consisted of two components: (1) the verification of State systems for implementing key requirements of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and (2) a collaborative focus on improving results.<sup>1</sup> The CIV is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Part C of the IDEA, consistent with sections 616 and 642 of the IDEA.

The purpose of the verification visit is to review the State's systems for general supervision and fiscal management. OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of DDS's general supervision (including data) and fiscal systems. The Enclosure to this letter describes the scope of OSEP's review of the State's systems and briefly outlines relevant statutory and regulatory requirements for each critical element.

OSEP is currently in the process of conducting a comprehensive review of States' systems for implementing the fiscal requirements of the IDEA and related statutes and regulations, through the CIVs and other mechanisms, including the desk audits that OSEP's Recovery Act Facilitators are conducting with all States. In order to provide each State with a comprehensive, integrated response based on its review of States' fiscal systems, OSEP will be sending the State a separate letter addressing any fiscal issues, and has not included a fiscal section in the Enclosure.

In the enclosure, OSEP notes that, through the IDEA Part C grant application process, OSEP will review, and respond to, any methods the State is required to submit as part of the FFY 2012 application under IDEA sections 637(a)(2) and 640 to ensure financial responsibility for the provision of Part C services.

Generally, the Enclosure to this letter does not include descriptions of the State's systems because this information is available on the State's Web site in its State Performance Plan. OSEP's analysis of each critical element and any required actions, if noncompliance was identified during the visit, are provided in the Enclosure to this letter.

During the CIV, Connecticut also focused on improving early intervention results and functional outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Prior to the visit, Connecticut participated in

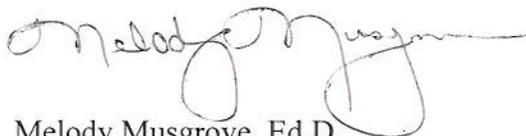
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<sup>1</sup> During the week of November 7, 2011, OSEP also conducted its Part B CIV to the Connecticut Department of Education.

a process with OSEP to concentrate its efforts on Indicator 5, the percent of infants and toddlers birth to one with IFSPs. With OSEP's participation, the Connecticut Birth to Three Program and stakeholders, which included participants from University of Connecticut, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, Department of Education, Department of Public Health, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), Parent and Former Birth to Three providers, engaged in a facilitated process to examine the data, as well as current and past efforts to improve results in the Child Find area, and formulate strategies that Connecticut will employ to improve results for children with disabilities in its selected area. Connecticut has developed a plan that includes specific benchmarks for improvement, as well as timelines, resources, and measurements for the Department of Developmental Services to improve results. The DDS will publish this plan with updates on the State lead agency's Web site at [www.birth23.org](http://www.birth23.org).

OSEP appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by your State staff and others, including staff from the Parent Advocacy Center and parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities in providing feedback and input on the State's systems for providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders and actively working with the State to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call your OSEP State Contact, Tammy Proctor, at (202) 245-7333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melody Musgrove", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.  
Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Linda Goodman  
Part C Coordinator