What is Birth to Three?

- Provides children with developmental delays services as early in their lives as possible to ensure optimal learning and healthy lives.

- Also called “Part C”
Part C Organization Structure

- **Lead Agency** – Department of Education
- **State office has 6 employees**
  - Director, 3 Program Specialists, Data Analyst/Billing Specialist, Secretary
- **8 Regional Agencies**
  - 22 Service Coordinators
  - Together they cover 66 counties
B-3 Regional Programs

1. Black Hills Special Service Coop.
2. Northwest Area School Ed. Coop
3. Southeast Area Coop.
4. Three Rivers Special Coop.
5. Hub Area, NE Mental Health Center
6. Heartland Hands, Redfield Public Schools
7. USD, Center for Disabilities
8. River Birth to 3, Mid Central Ed. Coop
Service Coordinator Role

- Receives intake/referrals
- Makes initial home visit with family to explain program
- Conducts developmental screening (not mandatory)
- Coordinates the performance of evaluations for eligibility determination
Facilitates & participates in the development of the IFSP

Informs families of their rights

Continuously seeks services & resources to benefit the development of each child & family
Process

- Referral provided to local B-3 coordinator
- Family contacted, developmental screening in 5 areas
- Evaluation (conducted by school)
- IFSP
- Transition
First Contact

- **Intake**
- **Screenings**
  - Denver, Ages & Stages, OAE
  - Results shared with family w/in 5 days
- 45 days timeline
  - Waiver
- **Interim IFSP, if necessary**
- **Referral to district for evaluation**
Preparing to Evaluate

- Signed consent
- Native language
- Areas of concern
- More than one tool
Conducting Evaluation

- Evaluate in all 5 developmental areas
- Convenient for family
- Evaluation may need to occur over a couple sessions (within reason)
Scoring Evaluation

- Evaluators decide which tool best reflects child’s ability
- 2 tools still might not capture the child’s true ability/ inability
- Results from 2 tools may not match
After Evaluation

- What can I tell parents?
- Load scores into BDI Data Manager
  - Part C entry BDI-2 scores
- Send scores to local B-3 Service Coordinator ASAP
  - Scores determine prolonged assistance
  - Determines meeting invitations
Eligibility Meeting

- Usually also Initial IFSP meeting
  - If not, still must comply with 45 day timeline

- Evaluators bring scores, report

- Evaluator & School Rep must attend
  - representative can serve multiple roles (evaluator, school rep, therapist)
Determining Eligibility

- Born at 28 weeks or less
- 1.5 standard deviation below the mean
- Medical Diagnosis
- Informed Clinical Opinion
Determining Eligibility

- 1.5 deviation in any one of the following

1. Cognition
2. Communication: rec. or exp., or both
3. Social/Emotional
4. Adaptive
5. Physical: fine or gross, or both, incl. vision & hearing
Determining Eligibility

- Medical Diagnosis
  - Dr. note
  - Condition likely to result in develop. delay

- Informed Clinical Opinion
  - Explain why test didn’t capture concern
  - NOT the same as Part B override
Medical Diagnosis?

What if? 10 month old found not eligible through evaluation scores. However, child is eligible under medical diagnosis. What goals would the team write? Services?
Prolonged Assistance

- Birth - 21 Child Find
- Standard deviation of -2.0 in two or more areas
- School is financially responsible
- Child is still a Birth to 3 client
Services

- Occupational & Physical Therapy
- Special Instruction
- Vision Services
- Assistive Technology
- Audiological Services
Services cont.

- Psychological Services
- Social Work Services
- Family Training & Counseling
- Speech/Language Therapy including sign and cued language
Even more services...

- Transportation
- Medical Diagnostic Services
- Nutrition Services
- Health Services
Developing the IFSP

- Team decision
  - Type of service
  - Frequency, intensity
- Parent can consent to any, all, or none
- Services must start w/in 30 days
- Natural environment
IFSP in Place, Now What

- 30 days to start services
- Service coordinator periodic checks
- Meeting every 6 months, at minimum
What If??

- Parent disagrees with eval results
- Parent disagrees with IFSP services
- Parent wants to change providers
- Family no show for services
- Unsafe home environment
What If??

- Team wants to graduate child, parent doesn’t
- Miss a therapy session
- Child in hospital for extended time
- Child resides with non-custodial relative or foster parent
Transition

- Transition conference must be held 90 days to 9 months prior to 3rd birthday

- Transition conference must include school district representative
Transition

- B-3 notifies schools of all children who are potentially eligible for services

- Notification: Written referral at transition time by service coordinator as well as a Dept. of Education email to the school
State Monitoring

- Review every IFSP and review mtg
- Spot checks, parent surveys
- Yearly monitoring
- 3 year in-depth monitoring
- Anytime a concern arises
Who Can be a Birth to Three Provider?

- Licensed to practice within discipline
- Must become a Medicaid Provider, if applicable
- Clear background check and references
- Signed Provider Agreement
- Part time/full time
SD Department of Education
Birth to Three

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