

WHAT IS CARE COORDINATION FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?

Care coordination is defined as an ongoing process of shared responsibility between families and professionals that identifies the families' strengths and needs and assists families in obtaining appropriate, coordinated services and resources. Several different activities are included in care coordination:

- ◆ Establish a relationship with the family through the "talk story" approach with respect and sensitivity.
- ◆ Inform the family about early intervention services, their rights, and advocacy services.
- ◆ Facilitate and participate in the development of the Individualized Family Support/Service Plan (IFSP).
 - Coordinate evaluations and assessments and support the family through this process.
 - Assist the family in identifying strengths and resources they have within their family.
 - Assist the family in identifying concerns/needs they have about their child and themselves.
 - Collaborate with the family to determine the members of a multidisciplinary team that will work together to support the child and family. The parent(s) is considered a professional member of this team, and this team ideally includes the primary care provider.
 - Support the family in being active participants through the IFSP process.
 - Maintain communication with all team members, particularly in obtaining input and evaluative information for IFSPs.
 - Review and evaluate the IFSP with families and other service providers in compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, etc.
- ◆ Assist families in the identification of and linkage to culturally competent support, services, and resources, as desired by the family to help meet their child's and family's needs.
 - Assist the family in identifying available service providers.
 - Coordinate with medical and health providers.
 - Make necessary referrals for additional services through other pertinent agencies.
 - Assist families and agencies in arranging and paying for assessment or early intervention services not available in early intervention programs.
- ◆ Facilitate and participate in the development of the transition plan and the transition conference, beginning at least when the child is 30 months of age, for children to move into a Department of Education preschool, community preschool, or other option as deemed appropriate

WHO PROVIDES CARE COORDINATION FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?

The family together with staff of their early intervention program(s) chooses one professional staff person to be the family's care coordinator. Normally, an Early Intervention social worker at an Infant/Toddler Development Program (ITDP), or a Public Health Nurse is selected as the care coordinator. In some cases, a qualified therapist (e.g. OT, PT, Speech Pathologist) at the ITDP is selected. Families served by the Healthy Start program (e.g. Maui Family Support Services Healthy Start) often choose their paraprofessional Healthy Start Family Support Worker (FSW) to be their care coordinator because FSWs visit the home frequently and develop especially close relationships with parents. A family member may choose to be a co-coordinator, but this is not typical.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE, AND ABILITIES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SOCIAL WORKERS

QUALIFICATION

A Master's in social work (MSW) from an accredited university*

KNOWLEDGE

Social work concepts, theories, and techniques.
Emotional factors influencing the behavior and attitudes of individuals.
The nature of normal and abnormal behavior.
The causes and consequences of deprivation.
Factors in social interaction which undermine, stabilize, and strengthen relationships.
Cultural and psychological implications of family disunity, unemployment, illness, delinquency, functional illiteracy, etc.
Community resources and their effective utilization to help individuals and/or families.
The principles and practices of interviewing.
Socio-economic problems of the community as they relate to social work services.
Legislation pertaining to the agency's programs.

ABILITIES

Collecting, evaluating, and interpreting facts.
Diagnosing problems and making sound decisions.
Presenting ideas and information clearly and concisely orally or in writing.
Analyzing situations and people accurately to adopt an effective course of action.
Dealing with people in a manner which will gain their confidence and cooperation.
Maintaining an objective and emotionally stable attitude in meeting distressing situations presented by individuals and/or families.

*A state license is required in for some programs.

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