MONTANA DPHHS
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.
Department of Public Health & Human Services

Department of Public Health and Human Services

Developmental Services Division ♦ Developmental Disabilities Program ♦ 111 N. Sanders Rm 305

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

July 15, 2014

Sylvia Danforth, Director
DEAP
2200 Box Elder
Miles City, MT 59301

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you and your staff for providing CDC's Part C program data for the reporting period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 including:

- Child Counts by age, gender, and ethnicities
- Exit information
- Outcomes information
- Compliance indicator information
- Family survey information

Your timely responses aid Montana's Part C Program to provide the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) with the necessary data for the Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan (SPP). The U.S. Department of Education has determined Montana meets the requirements of Part C of the IDEA. This determination is based on the totality of the State's data and information, including the State's FFY 2012 APR and revised State Performance Plan, other state-reported data, and other publicly available information. Please see the attached data document along with suggestions for improvement.

As you know, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is implementing a revised accountability framework designed to more directly support States in improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities, and their families. Sections 616(a)(2) and 642 of the IDEA require the primary focus of IDEA monitoring be on improving early intervention results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities, and ensuring that States meet the IDEA program requirements. OSEP's new accountability framework, called Results Driven Accountability (RDA), brings into focus the early intervention results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities while balancing those results with the compliance requirements of IDEA. Protecting the rights of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families is a key responsibility of State lead agencies and local intervention services programs and providers, but it is not sufficient if infants and toddlers are not meeting the developmental goals that maximize their capacity to live independently in society.

The revised SPP/APR significantly reduces data collection and reporting burden by States and shifts the focus to improving early intervention results and functional outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities by requiring each State to develop and implement a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The SSIP is designed to improve results for all children, including

children with disabilities. OSEP is implementing a system of differentiated monitoring and support, using data on performance (i.e., results data) and other information about a State to determine the appropriate intensity, focus, and nature of the oversight and support that each State will receive as part of RDA. OSEP's technical assistance network will be a key component of differentiated support to States and, through States, to local early intervention programs and providers. Through this, we will positively affect the early childhood, school, and life trajectories of infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities.

In the 2013 determination letters, OSEP informed States that they would use results data when making its determinations in 2014. OSEP reviewed public comments and plans to use results data as part of its determination process for IDEA Part C in 2015. For the 2014 IDEA Part C determinations, the Department is continuing to use the compliance matrix to consider the totality of a State's compliance data.

Please review the enclosed document carefully making note of targets not met especially Indicator 3, Child Outcomes. As we move forward writing our State Systemic Improvement Plan, undoubtedly reflection of Outcomes data and methods/methodology to improve Outcomes will be at the forefront. Given RDA, closer perusal of Outcomes data by your agency will be in order and we will work together to determine how best to implement closer evaluation.

Montana's Part C Program is committed to supporting DEAP's efforts to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

Wendy Studt, Part C Coordinator
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Enclosure: DEAP Annual Performance Report FFY 2012
Data sheet