



## Part C Coordinator's Report October 8, 2020

### Service Statistics

FY21	7/01/2020-09/30/2020	10/01/2020-12/31/2020	01/01/2021-03/31/2021	04/01/2021-06/30/2021
Screened (children with suspected delay)	1250			
Number of Referrals*	2560			
Number Eligible (includes Established Risk, Developmental Delay and Informed Clinical Judgment)	1363			
Cumulative Count of Children receiving at least one IFSP service (excludes children referred and not eligible for Part C)	5973			

*\*Note: Referrals are significantly down since April due to the state of emergency.*

### Federal Program Requirements

**ICC Membership:** Sally Shepherd, Head Start representative, has resigned from the ICC. She has accepted a new position not associated with Head Start. A Head Start representative is one of the required appointments for the ICC.

**Federal DMS Monitoring:** The Office of Special Education Programs has revised the Differentiated Monitoring System (DMS 2.0) used to assess both compliance to law and results for infants and toddlers and their families. Kentucky is in the first cohort that began October 1. The revised system will span three years of activities. The first year includes the unveiling of the requirements for each section of the system, provision of technical assistance, and submission of evidence by the state. The state team will participate in the first monthly webinar on October 13 to review the protocols, share topical tips and provide opportunity for cross-state sharing. This first webinar is focused on fiscal monitoring.

**SSIP:** The State Lead Agency received verbal feedback on Indicator 11, the State Systemic Improvement Plan. The plan was highly praised for the following: SSIP activities clearly stream from the Theory of Action, data easy to understand and depicts positive change, and strong analysis of data. Stakeholder involvement was also noted. The OSEP team that reviewed the SSIP could clearly see the desired improvements to the system and commended the state for the implementation efforts.

**SPP/APR FFY19:** OSEP set the date for submission of both the APR and the SSIP for February 1, 2021. To date, no guidance has been issued regarding how to report the impact of COVID-19 on the early intervention system.

**618 Data:** Exit and Dispute Resolution data are due November 1, 2020. (See the Exit data on page 5.) Dispute resolution data includes written formal complaints and requests for mediation or due process. There was one written complaint during FFY19 and no mediations or due process hearings.

**Federal TA:** Kentucky applied and was chosen to participate in the *Effective Strategies for Correcting Longstanding Noncompliance Working Series* technical assistance. As a result of participating in the working series, the Kentucky team will develop knowledge and skills, learn from peers, and apply effective strategies for correcting longstanding noncompliance, including using data to verify correction. The first session is next week.

## First Steps Operations

**State Lead Agency (SLA) Staff:** Welcome to Kathy Long, an Administrative Specialist III. Kathy will be working primarily with record requests and other compliance tasks. Two vacancies remain, an Administrative Specialist III (provider enrollment) and a Health Program Administrator (technical assistance).

The SLA will be moving sometime in the next month as the current office building will be renovated. Staff have already begun cleaning out offices but much work still needs to occur. All care will be taken to create minimal disruption to operations.

### **Provider Enrollment: Virtual Face-to-Face Orientation**

The New Provider Orientation has been modified into a virtual format. We have divided what was once an all-day in-person training into three (3), two-hour sessions accompanied by two assignments. Participants are expected to complete all three sessions in order to finalize the New Provider Orientation component of enrollment. The sessions will be offered starting the week of October 12. We have four (4) groups/cohorts scheduled for October to try to include all the individuals who are paused in the enrollment process due to COVID-19 (providers who were previously scheduled for Face-to-Face when the state of emergency started or providers who were in the process of completing the New Provider Modules and unable to proceed with orientation). We have also scheduled three groups/cohorts for November. Once the group of providers who have been on the waiting list have completed the New Provider Orientation, we will then gradually open provider enrollment for new people interested in providing early intervention services in Kentucky.

### **Compliance Monitoring:**

- Formal complaints – One formal complaint regarding in-person services was received. The parent was attempting to address the Governor and Secretary. He alleged that we were violating IDEA by not offering services. There was no violation as services were offered and no need for further investigation.
- Billing audits – None this period for providers. We are in the process of developing a method for quarterly random billing audits. The first sample will be reviewed this month. The SLA has begun reviewing POE billing to ensure full reimbursement from Medicaid. Supports to the POEs include new reports and training to assist with this process.

**Mandatory Training Requirements:** The FY20-22 Service Provider Agreement listed two mandatory trainings due on September 30, 2020. Both trainings were launched on July 15th, giving providers, POE staff and State Lead Agency staff 78 days to complete the trainings. Active providers, whether or not they are currently providing services, MUST complete the required trainings. The trainings are not placed on hold because they are choosing not to do tele-intervention. Many different forms of communication have been sent statewide since the launch of the trainings on July 15th.

Non-compliance emails were sent on 10-2-20 to agencies that had providers or staff that failed to complete the federally-required Record Keeping and Confidentiality training. If the non-compliance is not resolved by October 16th, those agencies will be placed on hold for new referrals. If the non-compliance continues, the SLA may terminate contracts.

Non-compliance reports for the ECE: 151 *Importance of KY's Early Childhood Standards and First Steps Assessment Data* module. Findings of non-compliance will soon be sent. Audiologists, NICU specialists, AT only providers and administrative staff were exempt from completing this training.

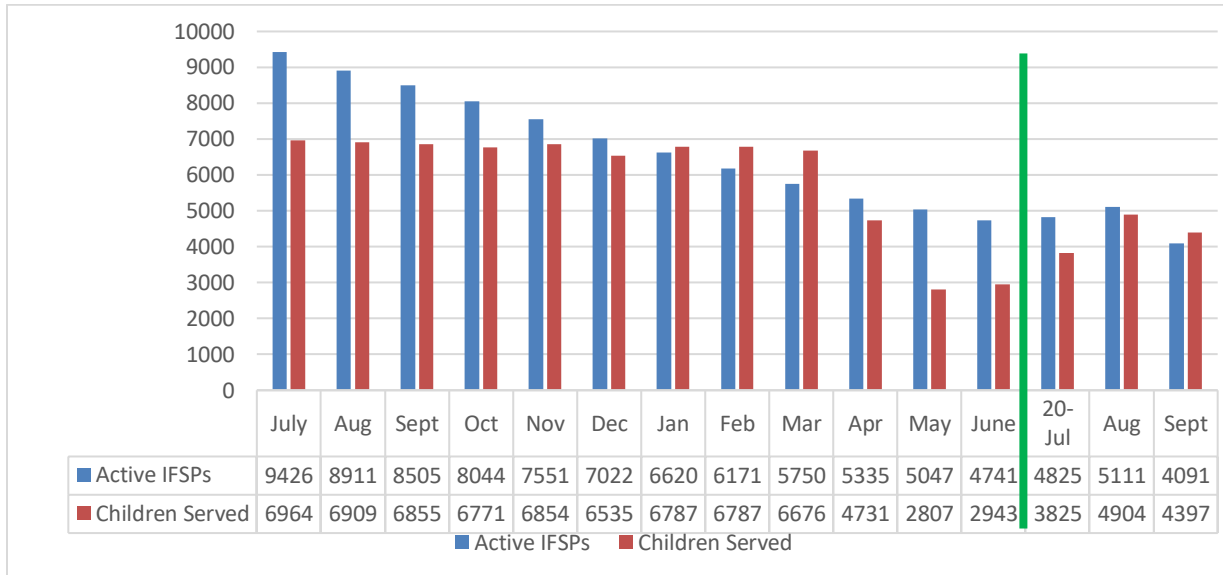
**Medicaid:** The FY20 Medicaid Monitoring and Cost Settlement Reports were submitted to Medicaid. The first FY21 quarterly report is due October 15, 2020.

**Family Share:** Beginning January 1, 2021, Family Share invoicing resumes. Due to the extreme low numbers of families participating in tele-intervention, the SLA staff agreed it was justified in activating the financial hardship clause found in the state regulations. In January 2021, it will be a fresh year, possibly triggering income changes and insurance updates for families. This will be a great time for Service Coordinators to review the status of the components for Family Share

participation vs. insurance usage. Additionally, if families wish to have their financial worksheet reviewed by the Family Share Administrator, that option remains available.

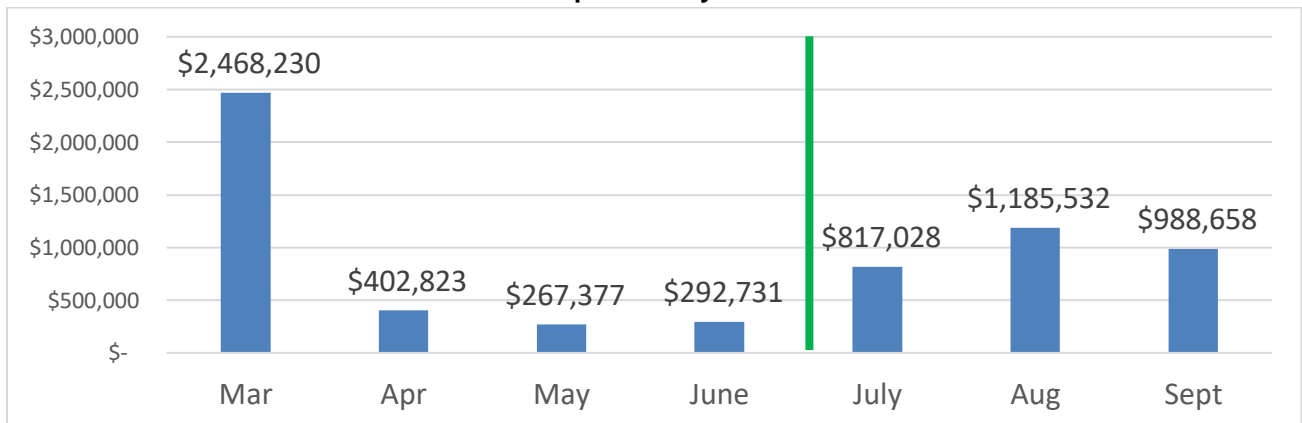
**Impact of COVID-19 State of Emergency:**

**FY20 Active IFSPs and Unduplicated Number of Children Served per Month**



- Active IFSPs count are children with an active IFSP during the month.
- Children Serve Count is based on claims paid during the month, including evaluations. POE payments are not included.

**FY21 First Steps Monthly Claims Paid**



- Monthly Claims paid do not include POE payments.

**Referrals:** Statewide referrals are lower this fall than last fall. Currently, the aggregate number of referrals is 2418. That puts First Steps on track for 9672 referrals if the rate holds. This is significantly lower than the past two years. In FY20 (July 1 2020 to June 30 2020), statewide referrals were 10,443, 896 less than FY19. FY19 was the highest number of referrals that First Steps had for several years (FY19 11,339). Prior to the state of emergency, FY20 was on track to surpass FY19.

**Family and Provider Forums:** Two forums, one for providers and one for families, were held recently. Both forums provided information about the successes and challenges of tele-intervention. The Master Coaches and active providers

currently using tele-intervention spoke. A question and response session was included in both forums. The Provider Forum had 174 participants registered (not including speakers), but due to a Zoom glitch, only 100 were able to attend the forum. Because of the glitch, some providers were not able to attend and were turned away. This was very unfortunate. Over forty parents registered for the Parent Forum but only four attended. The family session was scheduled at 7:00 pm in hopes of accommodating parents' busy schedules. Both forums were recorded and posted.

**Record Review:** See handout

**Provider Payments FY21**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Qtr</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Qtr</b>
Total \$ Amount billed to Medicaid	\$1,396,664.97			
Total \$ Amount paid by Medicaid	\$1,306,785.59			
Medicaid Denial	\$89,879.38 (6.44%)			
Total \$ Amount paid by Insurance	\$188,167.83			
Total \$ Amount paid by KEIS	\$2,200,484.67			
<b>Total Paid All payor sources:</b>	\$3,695,438.09			
Family Share Payments Received	\$0			
<i>Note 1: Data Source is TOTS. Quarterly data changes as data updated. Excludes POE payments.</i>				

## Exit Data

Total number of children exited as of 6/30/20 was 4747.

- FFY 18 had 5164 exiting children
- Significant differences in categories from previous year are parent withdraw and Part B eligibility unknown. This may be due to the state of emergency.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS EXITING BY RACE/ETHNICITY (ROWS 1-10)	TOTAL	HISPANIC/LATINO	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	TWO OR MORE RACES
1. NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR PART C	652	43	1	7	31	0	538	32
2. PART B ELIGIBLE, EXITING PART C	2302	168	1	35	180	7	1770	141
3. PART B ELIGIBLE, CONTINUING IN PART C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PART B, EXIT WITH REFERRALS TO OTHER PROGRAMS	411	25	1	9	33	0	322	21
5. NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PART B, EXIT WITH NO REFERRALS	311	24	1	6	39	0	227	14
6. PART B ELIGIBILITY NOT DETERMINED	255	19	0	3	23	0	202	8
7. DECEASED	9	0	0	0	1	0	8	0
8. MOVED OUT OF STATE	218	29	0	11	18	0	152	8
9. WITHDRAWAL BY PARENT (OR GUARDIAN)	213	24	0	3	14	1	159	12
10. ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT UNSUCCESSFUL	376	36	1	5	40	0	269	25
TOTAL NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS EXITING	4747	368	5	79	379	8	3647	261