

RESOLUTION NO. 162

ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR EARLY INTERVENTION PROVIDER REFERRALS

Introduced: 4/9/07

By Messrs. Nichols, Aidala, Domalewicz and Morse:

WHEREAS, The Early Intervention Program created by Congress and administered by local social services districts is an evidence-based program designed to prevent long term disabilities by identifying and treating physical and cognitive deficiencies in children under three, and

WHEREAS, Albany County is dedicated to providing the best quality of care for Early Intervention and has committed millions of dollars to fund high quality services for Early Intervention in an effort to maximize treatment to early childhood, and

WHEREAS, Many providers of help treat children in need of Early Intervention Program services by providing therapy services including Special Education, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Music Therapy, Play Therapy, Assisted Technology and Social Work services, and

WHEREAS, Early Intervention is a parent and child-driven program in which providers and county service coordinators guide care and treatment plans in the child's natural and least restrictive environment, usually the home, and

WHEREAS, All providers of Early Intervention Services should have equal opportunities to offer services to children in Albany County based on the decision of the parent or legal guardian not on the recommendation or referral of a county employee, and

WHEREAS, County employees should not be empowered to direct business to one provider or provider agency over another or have the power to retaliate against certain providers or agencies for any reason, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Department for Children, Youth and Families shall develop a complete directory of all providers under contract with Albany County for Early Intervention Services, delineated alphabetically by last name and arranged according to professional service provided and shall include the business address, telephone number(s), email address, and a brief description of their experience, qualifications and specialty areas similar to what is currently provided to parents of preschool aged children in the CPSE program and similar to physician directories provided by health care plans, and, be it further

RESOLVED, Such directories shall be provided to every parent or legal guardian of any child upon being found eligible for Early Intervention services in Albany County and such directory shall include an “Early Intervention Bill of Rights” in the front section of the directory that shall include but not be limited to established rights of children and families receiving Early Intervention Services, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any county employee whose employment is connected in any way to the Early Intervention Program shall not be permitted to recommend or refer a parent or legal guardian of a child eligible for or receiving Early Intervention Services to any provider or any provider agency under contract with Albany County for Early Intervention Program services and shall be required to sign an affidavit stating that no such referral or recommendation was made to any parent or legal guardian of any child eligible for or receiving Early Intervention Services, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this new policy shall take effect within 60 days of passage of this resolution and that all providers under contract with the County shall be notified of this new policy immediately upon enactment of this resolution and shall be given ten business days upon receiving such notice to provide the Department for Children, Youth and Families with the necessary information needed to publish the Directory, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate State and County Officials.

Referred to Social Services Committee. 4/9/07