

BabyNet Updates

Jennifer Buster

BabyNet Director, South Carolina Department of Health & Human
Services (SCDHHS)

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Learning Objectives

- Increase knowledge and awareness of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C services
- Learn how these services help children and families in South Carolina
- Learn how data is driving improvements and decision-making within the program



IDEA Part C

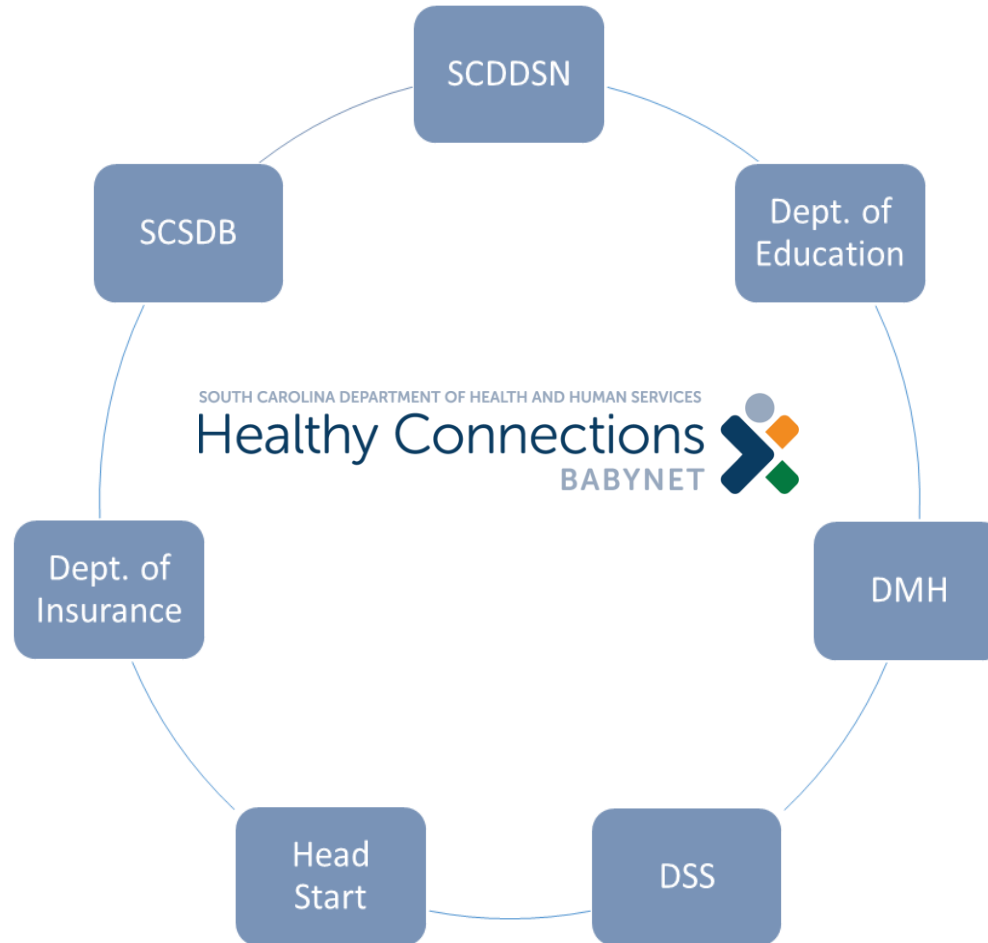
- IDEA is a federal law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation
- The IDEA Part C program (commonly referred to as “BabyNet” in South Carolina) serves infants and toddlers under three years of age
- BabyNet is not a Healthy Connections Medicaid program. Many BabyNet-eligible children are not Medicaid-eligible



Program Oversight

- The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) assumed lead agency responsibilities for the BabyNet program effective July 1, 2017
- At the federal level, the program is governed by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) within the U.S. Department of Education
- OSEP administers IDEA, which authorizes grants to lead agencies for the program under Part C
- Required federal reporting
- Monitoring is based on 11 Part C indicators
- Upon transfer, SCDHHS began making major changes to the program

BabyNet Partners



Former and Current Lead Agencies

- *Dept. of Health & Environmental Control*
- *SC First Steps to School Readiness*
- SCDHHS

Roles and Responsibilities

Lead Agency - SCDHHS

□ BabyNet State Office Staff

- General Supervision
- Monitoring, Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Timely Identification and Correction of Non-compliance
- Federal and State Reporting
- Regional Part C Coordinators
- Payment to Providers (select services)

□ System Point of Entry/BN Eligibility

- Initial/Intake Service Coordinator for BabyNet Eligibility Determination

Partnering Agencies/Providers

□ South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)

- Service Coordination
- Special Instruction/Family Training
- Early Interventionist (EI), Early Intervention Specialist (EIS)

□ South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB)

- Service Coordination
- Special Instruction/Family Training

□ Private Service Providers


- Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech Therapy (ST), Audiology, etc.

How to Refer a Child to BabyNet

Anyone may refer a child to BabyNet by:

- Phone: (866) 512-8881
- Online portal: www.babynet.scdhhs.gov/prebabynet/

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Healthy Connections 
BABYNET

BabyNet

Thank you for your interest in the South Carolina's IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program. We provide services to infants and toddlers (birth to age three) with delays and/or disabilities, and their families.

You have entered the online referral site. Anyone with concerns about a young child's development may make a referral to the South Carolina Early Intervention Program. The information you provide will be kept confidential. Upon submission of the referral, you will receive a confirmation email and someone from our office will contact you.

If you have questions about our online referral process, please feel free to contact us toll-free at **1-866-512-8881**.

To begin your online referral, please follow the instructions below.

Please review our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Notice of Privacy Practices](#), which governs your visit to our website, to understand our practices.

By selecting "ACCEPT", you agree that you have reviewed our privacy policies and you are providing this referral information truthfully and to the best of your knowledge and that your intent is not malicious or to cause harm.

Eligibility Criteria

Established Risk Condition

- **Has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that:**
 - Has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay; and,
 - Includes conditions such as chromosomal abnormalities, genetic disorders, sensory impairments, and congenital disorders

Developmental Delay

- **Is experiencing a developmental delay, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more areas:**
 - Cognitive development, physical development (including vision and hearing), communication, social or emotional development or adaptive development



South Carolina Specific Criteria

- 2 standard deviations (approximately 40%) below in one area of development
- 1.5 standard deviations (approximately 25%) below in two areas of development



BabyNet Services

Assistive Technology

Physical Therapy Services

Audiology or Hearing Services

Psychological Services

Family Training, Counseling & Home Visits

Service Coordination

Health Services

Social Work

Medical Services

Special Instruction

Nursing Services

Speech-Language Pathology Services

Nutrition Services

Transportation

Occupational Therapy Services

Vision Services

Data & Systems Change

Referrals to BabyNet

- Top Referral Sources

- Physicians 2874
- CAPTA* 2375
- Parent 1478

7/1/17- 6/30/18	7/1/18- 6/30/19	7/1/19- 6/30/20	7/1/20- 6/30/21	7/1/21- 1/4/22
12,461	14,156	15,059	18,018	9722

**Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act*

Timely Services to Children

- Integrated provider enrollment
- Increased number of BabyNet-enrolled providers

	July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019	July 1, 2019- March 31, 2020	July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020	July 1, 2020- March 31, 2021	July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021	Overall Rate of Change
Progress Report Due Date	Oct. 1, 2019	May 1, 2020	Nov. 1, 2020	May 2021	Nov. 1, 2021	
Timely	64.1%	70.0%	73.0%	73.2%	76.94%	+12.84%
Untimely	35.9%	30.0%	27.0%	26.8%	23.06%	-12.84%

Timely Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP)

7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019	
Timely IFSPs	Untimely IFSPs
67.9%	32.1%

7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020	
Timely IFSPs	Untimely IFSPs
79.23%	24.3%

7/1/2020 - 3/31/2021	
Timely IFSPs	Untimely IFSPs
96.9%	3.1%

COVID-19

- SCDHHS issued guidance to the BabyNet provider community in March and April 2020 to add new service delivery flexibilities to ensure ongoing access to care
- Issued additional COVID-19 related guidance through FAQs posted on SCDHHS' dedicated COVID-19 website
- BabyNet providers have been delivering services to children and families via telehealth or using modified methods of delivery during the pandemic
- SCDHHS modified BabyNet eligibility process to ensure safety
- Participated in national calls regarding COVID-19 and Part C programs
- The number of children referred decreased for approximately 2 weeks, then referral numbers started climbing
 - Dec. 1, 2019 - 6,318 children
 - Dec. 1, 2020 - 6,703 children (+385)
 - Data for the timeliness of the initial plan increased from approximately 75.7% to 97.6%

Program Accomplishments

- Federally-approved BabyNet Policy and Procedure Manual
- Integration of the BabyNet case management platform with the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) for improved payment coordination and reporting
- Established monitoring measures for the first time in the program's history and issued findings to providers
- Began training service coordinators on the Routines-Based Interview (RBI) protocol in order to meet requirements spelled out in 34 CFR 303.321 for family assessment

Questions?



