

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

STATE OF HAWAII

2008

PURSUANT TO ACT 289, H.B. 531, H.D.3, S.D.2, C.D.1
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE, 2007
RELATING TO CHILDREN

PREPARED BY:
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS BRANCH

DECEMBER 2007

Executive Summary

Act 289 (H.B. 531, H.D.3, S.D.2, C.D.1) of the Hawaii State Legislature, 2007, established the Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force to study the feasibility of expanding Hawaii's Early Intervention Section to continue services for children ages 3-5 years.

The Department of Health (DOH) developed an agreement with the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies (CDS) for \$15,000 to support the work of the Task Force and to begin performing the tasks as outlined in Act 289, while awaiting the release of the \$120,000 funds appropriated by Act 289.

DOH convened the first Task Force meeting on August 23, 2007. A consensus of the Task Force was that within the available resources of \$15,000, the priority was to address Section 2, (7) of Act 289 "Conduct a needs assessment of families, focusing on their experiences transitioning out of Part C programs, as well as transitioning into Part B programs."

A transition survey was developed to identify strengths and barriers in the transition of all young children into the Department of Education (DOE) 619 preschool special education programs from home and previous programs. Survey packets were mailed to DOE preschool special education classroom teachers for distribution to families in October 2007. The Task Force will review the survey results and develop recommendations in January 2008, as funds and time permit.

Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force

Act 289

Act 289 (H.B. 531, H.D.3, S.D.2, C.D.1) of the Hawaii State Legislature, 2007, established the Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force to study the feasibility of expanding Hawaii's Early Intervention Section to continue services for children ages 3-5 years.

Task Force members specified by Act 289 include representation from the neighbor islands, rural Oahu, and underserved populations, at least two parents of children who may require these services, and representatives from:

- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Office of the Governor
- Board of Education
- Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council
- Special Education Advisory Council
- Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Education's Section 619 state and district coordinator
- Good Beginnings Alliance
- Early intervention service providers
- Head Start providers
- American Academy of Pediatrics - Hawaii Chapter
- University of Hawaii, College of Education – personnel preparation faculty
- Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children
- Kia'i ka 'Ike
- Early childhood special education professional development programs
- Hawaii State Legislature – Representative appointed by the Speaker of the House
- Hawaii State Legislature – Senator appointed by the President of the Senate

For the feasibility study, the Task Force was asked to:

- Identify the potential annual number of children who exit Part C programs, are eligible for programs under Part B Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but may benefit from a longer transition period and continued Part C program services in the child's natural environment or community-based settings.
- Identify the potential annual number of children who exit Part C programs, are not eligible for services under Part B of Section 619 of IDEA, but have developmental delays and may benefit from intervention services between ages 3 to 5 years.
- Identify the potential annual number of children who have not received services through Part C programs, but are identified as having developmental delays and who may benefit from intervention services between ages 3 to 5 years.
- Research evidence-based practices in order to define service models to meet the needs of children age 3-5 years.
- Define the array of services required for children age 3-5 years with developmental delays.

- Based upon the potential number of children to be served, derive resource and cost projections to implement services.
- Conduct a needs assessment of families focusing on their experiences transitioning out of Part C programs, as well as transitioning into Part B programs.
- Project the length of time required to develop the necessary resource pool to serve the targeted population.
- Develop indicators for evaluation to assess the outcomes of the early intervention system providing services to children age 3-5 years with developmental delays.

The Task Force was required to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2008 regular session, to include:

- Recommendations regarding the feasibility of expanding Hawaii's early intervention section to serve children age 3-5 years with developmental delays.
- If deemed feasible, recommendations as to eligibility and service models for the expansion of early intervention services, taking into consideration the identified needs, recommended best practices, resources and cost projections, service payment, and procedural safeguards without adversely affecting the implementation of Part C program services.
- If recommended, additional information, including eligibility criteria and programmatic, financing, and evaluation requirements to implement an array of appropriate service models for children age 3-5 years with developmental delays in natural and least restrictive environments.
- An implementation plan.
- A timeline to begin services.

Act 289 appropriated \$120,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Department of Health (DOH) for purposes of the Act, and specified that the University of Hawaii (UH) Center on Disability Studies (CDS) will serve as Task Force facilitator, provide the necessary research, and conduct the needs assessment for the feasibility study.

The Task Force ceases to exist upon the adjournment sine die of the 2008 regular session.

DOH Agreement with UH Center on Disability Studies

The Department of Health developed an agreement with CDS for \$15,000 to support the work of the Task Force and to begin performing the tasks as outlined in Act 289.

First Task Force meeting

The DOH convened the first Task Force meeting on August 23, 2007. Task Force members are listed in Attachment 1. Meeting minutes are in Attachment 2. Dr. Jean Johnson (CDS) provided a PowerPoint presentation identifying Task Force responsibilities and some issues presented by Act 289. A consensus of the Task Force was that within the available resources of \$15,000, the priority was to address Section 2, (7) of Act 289 "Conduct a needs assessment of families, focusing on their experiences transitioning out of Part C programs, as well as transitioning into Part B programs." A Committee was established to develop a transition needs assessment survey.

CDS established a website for all materials, references, and other documents related to the Task Force: www.cds.hawaii.edu/3to5/.

Task Force Transition Survey

A Survey Committee meeting was held on September 13 to review past preschool surveys and outline in general what should be covered in each of two surveys: 1) a survey of families with children about to exit from Part C (pre-transition survey), and 2) a survey of families with children in DOE Special Education (619) preschools (transition survey). A subcommittee was delegated to design the survey instruments. This subcommittee used electronic review of their work to develop the survey.

The subcommittee developed a pre-transition survey for distribution to Part C families was created. However, because the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Family Outcomes survey had just been distributed and because resources were insufficient for data entry and analysis, the decision was made not to distribute this survey.

The subcommittee developed a transition survey to identify strengths and barriers in the transition of all young children into the Department of Education (DOE) 619 preschool special education programs from home and previous programs. UH Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval was obtained for utilization of the survey instrument. Review of the instrument was expanded to include members of the Sequenced Transition to Education in the Public Schools (STEPS) team that has been involved in improving transition services for children from Part C to Part B and which had completed three previous preschool transition surveys. The final draft of the survey was submitted to the full Task Force for approval on October 15 with approval received on October 19. The final survey is in Attachment 3.

The process for distribution of the survey was developed. DOH staff assisted in assembly of over 2,600 survey packets for statewide distribution. The surveys were mailed on October 24 to DOE preschool special education classroom teachers. DOH also provided assistance with the postage for completed surveys.

CDS created a data system for data entry and analysis. It is anticipated that data entry will be completed by late November, and data analysis will be completed by mid-December.

Next Task Force meeting

A meeting of the Task Force is planned for early January 2008 to review the survey analysis and complete the recommendations to the Legislature.

Attachment 1

HAWAII 3-5 TRANSITION TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

Name	Address
Parents of children who may require these services	
Matthew Gentry	matt_gentry@hotmail.com
Noelani Dela Vega	ndelavega@ldahawaii.org
Tiffany Vara	varafamily@gmail.com
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	
Mari Uehara, M.D.	Kapiolani Medical Center 1319 Punahou Street, 7 th Floor Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
Board of Education	
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Board of Education P. O. Box 2360 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Department of Education	
Paul Ban, Director	Special Education Services Branch 637 18 th Avenue, Bldg. C., Room 102 Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Debra Farmer, Education Specialist III	Special Education Services Branch Special Education Section 637 18 th Avenue, Bldg. C., Room 102 Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Department of Education's Section 619	
Michael Fahey, State Coordinator	State of Hawaii Department of Education-Section 619 95-1038 Puneki Street Mililani, Hawaii 96789
Gayla Coloma, District Coordinator	State of Hawaii Department of Education-Section 619 480 Waianuenu Avenue, Bldg. B Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Department of Health	
Morgan Barrett, M.D., Deputy Director	State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health Health Resources Administration P. O. Box 3378 Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.S.W., Chief	State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health Family Health Services Division P. O. Box 3378 Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Department of Human Services	
Julie Morita, Program Specialist	Department of Human Services Benefits, Employment and Support Services Division 820 Mililani Street, Suite 606 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Early Childhood Special Education Professional Development Programs	
Patricia Sheehey, Ph.D., Asst. Professor	University of Hawaii College of Education Department of Special Education 1776 University Avenue, Wist 117 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Early Intervention Service Providers	
Norman Kawakami, Sr. VP, Operations	Easter Seals Hawaii 710 Green Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Karen Jayne, Executive Director	Imua Family Services 95 Mahalani Street, Suite 19A Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Good Beginnings Alliance	
Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director	Good Beginnings Alliance 33 South King Street, Suite 200 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children	
Katherine Murphy, Executive Director	Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children 1806 South King Street, Suite 30 Honolulu, Hawaii 9682
Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council	
Leolinda Parlin	leolinda@resqconsultants.com
Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities	
Waynette K. Y. Cabral, M.S.W., Executive Administrator	Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, #113 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Head Start Providers	
Chris Jackson	Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) 33 South King Street, #300 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
House of Representatives – State Legislature	
Rep. John Mizuno	State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Room 436 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Kia‘i ka ‘Ike	
Gwyn Toilolo, Chair	Kia‘i ka ‘Ike 638 North Kuakini Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Office of the Governor	
Nani Medeiros, Senior Policy Analyst	State Capitol 415 South Beretania, Room 417 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Senate – State Legislature	
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland	State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Room 228 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Special Education Advisory Council	
Ivalee Sinclair	ivaleesn@aol.com ivalee_sinclair@notes.k12.hi.us

NOTE: Home addresses of family members are not included.

Attachment 2

Hawaii 3-5 Transition Task Force

August 23, 2007, 1:30-3:00 PM

State Office Tower, Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Bldg., Room 204

MINUTES

Present: Ban, Barrett, Chun, Coloma, Fahey, Fuddy, Gentry, Jayne, Kawakami, Medeiros, Miyasaka-Gushiken (for Cabral), Morita, Murphy, Sheehey, Uehara
Absent: Ancheta (invited), Chun-Oakland, Farmer, Kaahanui (invited), Knudsen, Jackson, Mizuno, O'Dell, Parlin, Simmons (invited), Sinclair
Facilitator: Jean Johnson
Staff: Heu, Takemoto
Visitors: Linda Elento, Lily Matsubara

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION
Welcome	Barrett convened the meeting. Asked members to introduce themselves. Turned the meeting over to the Facilitator.	
Background	Johnson presented PowerPoint presentation outlining the background and the issues. References made to the Felix Court Monitor Preschool Report dated 2000. (copies available on request and on the web site). Handouts included copies of the PowerPoint, the Governor's message dated July 11, 2007, and the Black article. (copies available request and on the web site)	
Issues Raised	<u>Issue of Release of Funds.</u> Fuddy explained that the DOH wrote to Budget and Finance in mid-August requesting the release of the \$120,000 appropriated for the Task Force. <u>Authority to Release Funds.</u> In response to a question from Gentry, Medeiros stated that although the Legislature appropriates funds, the State Constitution gives to the Governor the authority on whether or not to release the funds. <u>Data Issues.</u> Some of the difficulties in examining data between Part C and Part B were raised. <u>Comparison with Massachusetts.</u> Discussion of why these two states were being compared. <u>Funding of Part C.</u> Considerable discussion on the chronic underfunding of Part C services.	.
Committee	Volunteers requested to serve on the Survey Committee to review the survey and determine to whom and how to administer the survey. Volunteers included Gentry, Fahey, Heu, Kawakami, Jayne, Murphy, and Uehara. Johnson will facilitate the committee.	Johnson will schedule a meeting of the committee as soon as possible.
Future Meetings	The next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled to review the results of the survey when it is completed.	
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM	

Attachment 3
Family Transition Survey

*We would like to know about the services your child and family had before and after your child's third birthday. The answers you give may improve the services provided to children like yours and their families. When you are finished, place the survey in the envelope provided. You do not need a postage stamp. **PLEASE MAIL BY***

1. In what year was your child born? _____

2. Did your child receive services from any early intervention program?

_____ **No** → *If you answered "no," go on to question 10 below.*

_____ **Yes** → *Please check √ the Early Intervention programs that served your child.*

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Early Intervention Section _____ | Healthy Start _____ |
| Kailua Easter Seals _____ | Kapolei Easter Seals _____ |
| Sultan Easter Seals _____ | Waipahu Easter Seals _____ |
| KMC Early Intervention Services Program _____ | KMC Central _____ |
| Lanakila Early Childhood Services Program (ECSP) _____ | Leeward ECSP _____ |
| Windward ECSP _____ | Wahiawa ECSP _____ |
| Salvation Army Therapeutic Nursery _____ | Public Health Nursing (PHN) _____ |
| Waianae Parent Child Development Center _____ | United Cerebral Palsy _____ |
| Other Early Intervention Program _____ | → Program Name _____ |

3. Write the age when your child first received service from an early intervention program?

Years _____ Months _____

4. Which of the following best describes your child's needs before he or she was three years old? Check √ one

Speech-language problems _____

Health or medical problems _____

Developmental delays _____

Autism _____

Other _____ (describe) _____

5. Below is a list of some ways Early Intervention programs may help children and families.

Check √ how you felt about getting each kind of help:

	<u>liked</u>	<u>didn't like</u>	<u>didn't have</u>
Services provided in our home or in the home of a baby-sitter or care-provider.....	_____	_____	_____
Services provided at a center with other children with disabilities	_____	_____	_____
Therapists worked with my child and family....	_____	_____	_____
Having a care coordinator to talk with	_____	_____	_____
Learning about my child's disability	_____	_____	_____
Finding out how I can help my child	_____	_____	_____
Information on services my family needs (such as food stamps, Quest, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
Meeting families of children with disabilities ...	_____	_____	_____
Meeting families of children without disabilities ..	_____	_____	_____
Amount of services my child received	_____	_____	_____

PLEASE GO TO PAGE 2 for more questions.

6. **How did you feel when you learned your child could not have early intervention services after your child's third birthday?**

7. **When your child turned three years old, did you want your child to stay in early intervention longer instead of starting DOE preschool?** Yes _____ No _____

Why? _____

8. **Now, after your experiences, would you have wanted your child to stay in early intervention longer instead of starting preschool?** Yes _____ No _____

Why? _____

9. **Please tell us about the Part C Transition Conference** (*A transition conference is a meeting with your Care Coordinator and someone from the DOE and/or people from other preschools.*)
(Check one answer)

I did not go to a Part C Transition Conference meeting. _____

I went to a Part C Transition Conference meeting and
it helped me think about services for my child. _____

I went to a Part C Transition Conference meeting and it was not helpful. _____

10. **Before you enrolled your child in a DOE special education preschool, did you visit the preschool?**

Yes, I went to visit. _____

I did not know I could visit a preschool class. _____

I knew I could visit a preschool class, but I did not go. _____

11. **Were the DOE evaluation reports explained in a way that helped you?**

No-one explained the evaluation reports to me. _____

Yes, the explanation was helpful. _____

No, the explanation was not helpful. _____

12. **Please tell us about the IEP (Individualized Education Program) meeting for your child.**

I went to the meeting and people listened to my ideas. _____

I went to the meeting but people did not listen to my ideas. _____

I did not go to the IEP meeting. _____

Comment? _____

PLEASE GO TO PAGE 3 for more questions.

13. Did you feel welcomed by DOE staff? Yes _____ No _____

Comment? _____

14. How long has your child been in a DOE preschool? Years _____ Months _____

15. Where is your child getting DOE Preschool services now?

Please check the one place where your child is getting most of his or her services.

A DOE classroom for children with disabilities. _____

A Head Start or community preschool class. _____

Other (where?) _____

16. Below is a list of some ways DOE Preschool may help children and families.

Check how you feel about each kind of help.

	<u>like</u>	<u>don't like</u>	<u>do not have</u>
Being at a public school	_____	_____	_____
Being in a classroom with children with disabilities	_____	_____	_____
Being at a Head Start or community preschool ...	_____	_____	_____
Being around other children without disabilities	_____	_____	_____
Meeting families of children with disabilities	_____	_____	_____
Meeting families of children without disabilities	_____	_____	_____
Teachers and therapists providing services to the Child	_____	_____	_____
Having someone at school to talk with about needs	_____	_____	_____
Amount of services my child receives	_____	_____	_____

Comment? _____

17. Compared with your feelings when your child started DOE preschool, how do you feel now?

I am more satisfied. _____

I am less satisfied. _____

My feelings are unchanged. _____

Comment? _____

18. Is there anything else you want to share?

Please return this survey in the attached envelope by (date). Thank you.

*If you would like to talk to us about your experiences,
please call Jean Johnson at 956-2653.*