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Subject:

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Gov. Nikki Haley Announces BabyNet Transition to SCDHHS

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley today announced the transition of BabyNet, currently managed by First Steps, to the Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS).

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), known as “BabyNet” in South Carolina, provides for early intervention services for children with disabilities from birth to their third birthday. Services are designed to identify and meet a child’s needs in five developmental areas, including physical and cognitive development.

SCDHHS is uniquely positioned to bring Medicaid care organizations and BabyNet providers together to more efficiently and effectively process their Medicaid care plans and Individualized Family Support Plans under BabyNet. The agency administers Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), both of which serve a majority of BabyNet recipients. Medicaid pays for a majority of births in South Carolina, so HHS has a relationship with most BabyNet recipients and their families from the very beginning of their lives.

SCDHHS will assume lead agency responsibilities for BabyNet on July 1, 2017. This transition period will ensure a smooth transition that includes completion of necessary filings with the U.S. Department of Education, establishing the partnerships with other state agencies and ensuring the state budget reflects the change.

[Quotes from supportive agencies]

A copy of Executive Order XXX can be found on the governor’s website.

Designation of HHS as lead agency will take place immediately, with transition of responsibility taking place over the next few months and formal assumption of lead agency responsibilities beginning July 1, 2017.

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