

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To: Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 9/14/2016 11:59:40 AM
Subject: RE: BabyNet

Link for the release: <http://governor.sc.gov/ExecutiveOffice/Documents/2016-20%20Designating%20HHS%20as%20Lead%20Agency%20for%20BabyNet.pdf>

From: Adams, Chaney
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 10:05 AM
To: Godfrey, Rob; Glaccum, David; Patel, Swati; Soura, Christian; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

Below is the BabyNet release with Christian's edits. Unless anyone has changes this is what we will send this afternoon.

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).

A copy of the governor's executive order, detailing the transition, is available [here](#).

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 managed 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), which together 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.

"At Easterseals South Carolina we work every day to ensure that the children in South Carolina receive the best early intervention services they can, and we have been deeply troubled that South Carolina's Part C program has the worst track record of complying with federal compliance standards of any state in the union," said Deanna Lewis, President & CEO of Easterseals South Carolina. "With HHS's record of fiscal responsibility and having an established relationship with most BabyNet recipients already, we feel that HHS is the right agency to lead the program back into federal compliance."

"Too many children with developmental delays, disabilities and special health care needs in South Carolina are falling through the cracks and not receiving the critical early intervention services they need. As the parent training and information center for South Carolina, we support steps that will best serve the children of our state and help position them for success in school and life," said Amy Holbert, executive director of Family Connection of South Carolina. "We believe a partnership between SCDHHS and DOE – based on these actions of Governor Haley – can help ensure that the

children throughout our state receive those critical services when needed.”

The work of transitioning BabyNet to SCHHS will begin immediately over the next few months with formal assumption of lead agency responsibilities beginning July 1, 2017. This incorporation period will ensure a smooth transition that includes completion of necessary filings with the U.S. Department of Education, establishing partnerships with other state agencies and ensuring the state budget reflects the change.

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From: Adams, Chaney
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 1:49 PM
To: Godfrey, Rob; Glaccum, David; Patel, Swati; Soura, Christian; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

Can everyone review the following release and let us know if you have any changes?

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.

[Quotes from supportive providers]

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. 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.

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From: Godfrey, Rob
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:02 AM
To: Glaccum, David; Patel, Swati; Soura, Christian; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

Thank you. Everyone.

Rob Godfrey

From: Glaccum, David
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:02 AM
To: Patel, Swati; Soura, Christian; Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

Updated copy with Sawti's suggestions incorporated.

From: Patel, Swati
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 9:19 AM
To: Glaccum, David; Soura, Christian; Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

I have one more suggestion – Under item 2, I think it is important to include a sentence that properly captures this paragraph of the EO:

WHEREAS, for fifteen years, the U.S. Department of Education's annual assessment has continuously found that South Carolina's IDEA Part C program "Needs Assistance", "Needs Intervention", or "Needs Substantial Intervention

From: Patel, Swati
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 9:06 AM
To: Glaccum, David; Soura, Christian; Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

I think we should take out the last sentence in item 5. Otherwise I'm fine with the backgrounder. Please review again for grammar. I saw few errors.

From: Glaccum, David
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 8:08 AM
To: Soura, Christian; Patel, Swati; Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

Attached is an updated draft. It includes all Christians edits/changes, but leaves his final comment regarding legislative support.

Anybody else with updates, please let me know.

DMG

From: Christian L. Soura [<mailto:Christian.Soura@scdhhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 5:16 AM
To: Patel, Swati; Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Glaccum, David; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Smith, Austin
Subject: Re: BabyNet

I've attached a revised draft of the EO that addresses each of the comments from last week that were in my notes. If there were others, we can obviously discuss. This is the version I'll route for internal review today in

the meantime.

Loose ends:

1. I've also attached EO 2009-12, which this one rescinds. I don't see there as being any risk in rescinding that one as of 7/1/17, but one of the lawyers on here should probably agree with that...
2. There should be some kind of contact with Molly today, since they're still pushing to get lead agency status.. Emily Heatwole emailed Josh and me about it again a couple of days ago. We've been clear with them for almost a year now that that wasn't the Governor's proposal, but that seems to have trouble sinking in. With the EO, there would still be some kind of partnership, as was pitched in January with the budget.
3. I'm keynoting first thing Thursday morning at the Children's Trust's annual conference (300+ attendees)...the topic they gave me is "State of the State in Early Childhood: Where Are We and Where Do We Need to Go?" So this being announced on Wednesday afternoon winds up to actually be really convenient timing, since I can then sell it to a big group of interested stakeholders the next morning. Just FYI.
4. I'm looking back at the earlier email about legislative outreach. I haven't talked to any legislators yet, but can hit a couple, if you want. For instance, it would make sense for me to be the one who tells Murrell Smith and Thomas Alexander, if you like.

Thanks.

CLS

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Director
SC Department of Health and Human Services

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From: Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Glaccum, David; Mottel, Haley
Cc: Christian L. Soura; Smith, Austin
Subject: RE: BabyNet

All,

We have briefed the Governor on the draft EO and the plan for rollout. Barring any issues on Christian's end, we are planning to release the EO via a press release on Wed at 1:00pm.

Haley will work with Brian Flynn to get support and quotes from providers.

KV will put together a list legislators that need to be contacted – which will happen on the day of the release.

David – please run point on drafting the backgrounder with details (who, what, why, etc.) and legal authority which can be used for the legislative and press shops. We'll need an explanation of how our plan from last year is different from this one just as it relates to Babynet, ie. the programmatic vs fiscal agent issue.

FYI – David will also be working on legislative changes we would support along with a longer reauthorization of FS.

Please chime in if I'm missing anything.

Swati

Swati S. Patel
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DD 803.734.5095

From: Patel, Swati
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 12:42 PM
To: Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian; Taylor, Richele; Veldran, Katherine; Glaccum, David
Cc: Christian Soura (Christian.Soura@scdhhs.gov); Smith, Austin
Subject: BabyNet

All,

David and I met with Christian and Ken Wingate (First Steps Chair) yesterday to talk through the transition of BabyNet from First Steps to HHS. After we receive the final EO from HHS and the Governor approves it, we need to coordinate on rollout process – timing, how, etc. Ken, Christian and our office will also need to give a heads up to appropriate legislators, certain First Steps staff, and FS Board. We all felt it was appropriate to give the heads up the same day as the rollout.

I expect the press office and leg office will need topline and background to share to include legal and policy justification for this transition.

Rob – let us know when you think we should release the EO. I was thinking sometime next week.
David and Richele – please work with Christian on the topline and backgrounder for press and legislators.
KV – let us know which legislators/staff you plan to contact. Christian – let us know which legislators you were planning to contact.

Let me know if I'm missing anything.

Thanks,
Swati

Swati S. Patel
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