



"A solution that fits ..."

Independent Contract Services

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Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) Report

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Following the last Administrative Group meeting, I followed up on a request from two partners who do not participate in the time study, but who do serve "eminently" at risk students from Clay County. These partners inquired as to whether or not they could make referrals to Social Services for possible IV-E candidates who would most likely not be identified through Social Services or Corrections. After discussing this question with the IV-E specialists from Clay and Otter Tail counties, it was determined that these agencies could choose to request parental consent to release the information and then complete the referral forms if they so choose. This may help increase the number of IV-E candidates on the list, particularly for those students receiving services for a short amount of time and then returning to their resident districts.

The Quarterly Analysis Report for Collaboratives for invalid Random Moment Summaries was received in mid-April. I am pleased to report that there were zero missed random moments during the first quarter of 2006. This number has continually decreased since the fall trainings with only a few missed random moments occurring since the start of the 2005/06 school year. This certainly shows the increased dedication and commitment from the recorders and staff involved with the time study from the participating partners.

Likewise, we also received the Cluster Review Quarterly Analysis Report which shows the number of clusters that are "reporting an unusually high amount of activity that is not reimbursable through LCTS." This report identified six of the 25 clusters (24%) from two school districts that will need to be reviewed, reevaluated and possibly retrained to ensure that they have a good understanding of the codes. We must also reevaluate the job duties of the staff in question to be sure that they are legitimately performing appropriate activities which would qualify them for the time study.

While this later figure is still somewhat concerning, there has been a significant improvement from one year ago when the number of clusters identified was at 47% (14 of 30 clusters). I will continue to work with the identified schools, clusters and individuals to increase their awareness of the activity codes and to remove any staff that is truly not eligible for participation.

Another factor which is being investigated is the impact that the recent changes to the definition for IV-E candidates have had on the participating staff. Since the pool of children eligible for IV-E candidacy code usage has been greatly reduced, it is natural that participants are also choosing a lower number of "reimbursable" activity codes.

Finally, we should be hearing any day about the first quarter LCTS income which we will hopefully receive sometime in June. I remain optimistic that the projected decreases will be somewhat offset by the continued training and accurate reporting of the time study participants. The largest decrease is expected to be realized with the current quarter and that notification will be received sometime in August.

