

Memorandum

To: Home Visiting and Early Intervention Stakeholders

From: Director John Martin, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and Interim Director Lance Himes, Ohio Department of Health

Date: June 22, 2017

On February 27, 2017, we sent a memo to the field indicating Central Coordination would continue to serve both Home Visiting and Early Intervention, but would no longer be called Help Me Grow. Help Me Grow was to be reserved for Home Visiting.

Since that time, we have heard from people across the state expressing concerns with that change. Many of you shared how long and hard you have worked to brand Help Me Grow. That families, primary referral sources and the community at large recognize Help Me Grow, and you did not want to lose that. As a result, we have decided that Central Coordination will continue to operate as Help Me Grow. We will not be rebranding Central Coordination.

We are also happy to announce that Cleveland Sight Center has been chosen to operate Ohio's Central Intake & Referral system for Home Visiting & Early Intervention. Many strong proposals were received, and we want to thank those of you that took the time to reply. To ensure a smooth transition, we will be extending the current Central Coordination agreements through July 31, 2017.

Cleveland Sight Center will be the central site for intake and referral. They will build on their existing call center, which they have operated successfully for many years. Their staff will be trained in accordance with current requirements. They have established quality measures, and will be reporting on those to both the Home Visiting Consortium and the Early Intervention Advisory Council quarterly. They will continue to operate 1-800-755-GROW, as well as phone numbers reflecting prefixes from across the state. Additionally, they will run a statewide marketing campaign for Help Me Grow.

Many of you expressed that local outreach and relationships have been essential to your success in finding families and children who would benefit from Home Visiting or Early Intervention. The competitive RFP process produced savings for the central intake and referral system, of which the State will be reinvesting into local outreach efforts. In addition to extending current Central Coordination agreements, DODD and ODH will be working collaboratively to distribute available funds to support local level efforts.

We appreciate your on-going commitment and partnership, and look forward to working with you to strengthen our system to ensure the best outcomes for kids and families.