

WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT
MC FAMILY

SPECIAL
POINTS OF IN-
TEREST:

- Branch Integration Conference
- School Liaison Program Review

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HQMC Family Care Branch Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

OCT 2011

The Family Care Branch supports and advocates for Exceptional Family Members, children, youth and teens services and school age family members at the enterprise, operations and supporting component levels. Historic actions completed during the past 5 years were in response to immediate and significant requirements. The programs within the branch are at differing stages of intervention and stabilization. During the next year, stabilization must be primary goal in order to determine concrete steps to the way ahead over the next 3 years, 5 years and 10 years in order to "Keep faith with our Marines and their families." Actions in the way ahead will follow the Division tenets outlined in this plan.

Family Care Branch has a detailed strategic plan that requires on-going engagement at the Headquarters and Installation level. The Family Care Branch has identified key resolutions including targeted focus on mission, on-going program evaluation, world class customer service and branch integration. These key resolutions support Commandant's Planning Guidance (CPG) and Division Tenets.

5 STEPS TO THE WAY AHEAD; IMPROVE FAMILY CARE SERVICES

- ALL PROGRAM CAPABILITIES WILL HAVE CURRENT SUPPORTING POLICY TO ENSURE OPTIMIZATION AND TRANSPARENCY OF ACTION.
- MATCH STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO CHANGE DYNAMICS. OUR PROGRAMS WILL EVOLVE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE WE SERVE.
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- HQMC FAMILY CARE BRANCH WILL MEET STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS WHILE MAINTAINING WORLD CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE
- BRANCH BEHAVIOR WILL ALWAYS ALIGN WITH POLICY, DATA AND EVIDENCE-BASED STANDARDS.
- BROADEN AND BALANCE GEOGRAPHIC CAPABILITIES.
- WORLD CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE.

Marine Corps Families have the support of the Marine Corps!





Family Care Integration Symposium!!!!

24-25 Aug 2011.

What are MC-wide Family Care Programs doing during the height of the vacation season. **We're meeting, planning and learning** to serve YOU!

Marine and Family Programs Division Director provided the opening key-note reaffirming the promise of "Keeping Faith" as directed by our Commandant, General Amos.



During the conference 5 National Speakers joined us to discuss how we can improve services and address gaps. More than 80 participants from all major MC Installations attended. Topics included special education law, positive behavioral supports, mediation, crisis intervention, child safety, program evaluation, federal budget process, futures planning, and much more.

PREPARED With appreciation for our staff and families,
Rhondavena LaPorte, HQMC Family Care

*MANDT Systems
LAW
Safety
Relationships*

*....taking care of
the care provider*

The passion and heart for service to Marine Corps families was evident. In fact, the support for this conference was overwhelming. We opened with music provided by members of the Presidents Own, Marine Corps Band. A Marine Corps Color Guard provided a dramatic formal beginning followed by a blessing by the Deputy Marine Corps Chaplain.

BGen Robert F Hedelund, our



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT FAMILY CARE BRANCH

How do waitlists work?

At this time, each installation maintains wait lists and has their own process for update requirements. Please ensure that you contact your local installations CYTP Resource and Referral Specialist to ensure that you're on the list and up to date.

In a perfect world, there would be no waitlist. Resources would be limitless. We'd love to see this, of course, but understand that the Marine Corps first mission are those who place themselves in harms way.

My daughter has ADHD. She does not take medication but has an IEP. Do I need to enroll her in EFMP?

- **Yes.** Enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program is required if your child requires an IEP. EFMP Assignment Coordinators monitor educational capabilities as well as medical. Although, any school system should be able to provide supports required for a child with ADHD. Technically, public schools are legally required to provide whatever supports a child needs but we understand that it is important for us to monitor failure trends as well. If there is a concern, we will alert you and discuss with you. It may be that you'll want to involve your EFMP Family Case Worker to assist in accessing services.

My wife has a high-risk pregnancy. Do I need to enroll her?

No. Since the condition is temporary, she is not eligible for enrollment.

I like farm living and live 40 miles outside of my duty station. Am I eligible for Subsidy Child Care?

No. We support your choice of living location but all Marines assigned to Marine Corps installations with Child Care capabilities access child care supports at the installation. It is possible that your installation can offer an Off Installation Family Child Care Home that may be closer to you. The Subsidy Child Care Program is designed to serve those who are geographically dispersed and MUST live in a location without military child care capabilities.

I can't find my School Liaison, what do I do?

Please contact your any Family Care Program and we can help you locate your School Liaison. Or you can use HQMC's website with this information at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/school/pocs.cfm?sid=fl&smid=2>

I am the active duty Marine. If my wife and I are divorced and our son who has autism doesn't live with me, is he eligible for the EFMP?

No. Per the SECNAVINST 1754.5B only Authorized Family Members who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and who reside with the service member are eligible for enrollment. Exceptions are those living in residence in an educational program, in treatment facilities, or if the service member

is a geographic bachelor.

I've been in the Marine Corps for 14 years. I have been married to my wife, who has type 1 diabetes, for 10 years but haven't enrolled in the EFMP. She only has to see an endocrinologist 4 times a year. Is it really necessary?

Yes. Per MCO 1754.4a enrollment in the EFMP is mandatory if you have a family member who resides with you and has special medical and/or educational needs. Since your wife's diagnosis of diabetes is a current and chronic condition which requires follow-up support by a specialist, you are required to enroll her.

My son has a 504 Plan at school. Do I need to enroll him?

No. Enrollment is not required solely based on having a 504 Plan. Only those children who have or require an IFSP (Individual Family Service Program) or IEP (Individual Educational Program) are required to enroll.

I am completing my registration forms for service in the CDC and the form is very different and long. Can you help?

Yes. CYTP is working now to standardize forms and develop an easier transfer process. Enrollment should be easier and faster. This is a COMING SOON and we're excited about it.



The Vice President Visits!



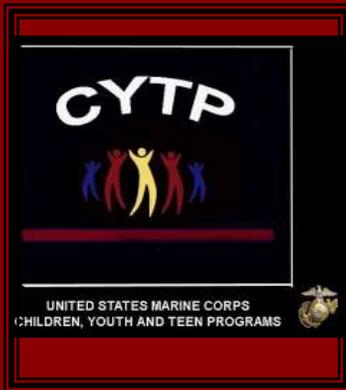
The MCCS School Age Care Program received a surprise visitor today when Vice President Joe Biden stopped his motorcade in front of the Youth Center, Building 6753, and talked to the children. Vice President Biden talked to the chil-

dren for approximately five minutes and then gave each SAC child a special commemorative Vice Presidential coin. He discussed the fact that his wife was a teacher and asked the children their ages and what grade they were in.

All the children met the Vice President and a group photo was taken. The children and staff had gathered in front of the building hoping to get a glimpse of the Vice President as he left the golf course. They ended up with much more than that.

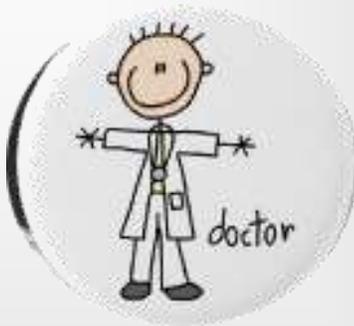
SAC

Hawaii Youth Center gets a surprise visit from the Vice President.



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES
EXCEPTIONAL CARE

Continuum of Care?



How Important is the DD-2792?

The DD-2792 is the document utilized to enroll in the Exceptional Family Member Program. It is critical that it is 100% accurate. This is the information utilized by HQMC EFMP Assignment Coordinators to determine if the continuum of care can be accessed at a tentative location. Medical and Education considerations are reviewed for both CONUS and OCONUS locations. If the information is old or invalid, then assignments can be impacted. Assignment Coordinators work hard to ensure that each families continuum of care is safeguarded. If we're unsure, we call you. YOU should be, involved in this process. IF you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our HQMC Assignment Coordinators for assistance. They can be reached at 703-784-0298. Or you can email our Manpower Liaison at Mark.Vanous@usmc.mil.



What about that IEP at the Start of the School Year?

Planning for IEP implementation prior to the start of school is important and required. There can be confusion at the start of the school year and, without advance preparation, IEP errors will occur and legal exposure may ensue. Without an agreed upon IEP, it is very likely that schools and parents may have different views of what is going to happen. Parents have the right to an agreed upon IEP in place on the first day of school with all services provided



So

you're moving to MCB*****?

And you want to know about the schools? Call a MC School Liaison? School Liaisons specialize in knowing all the ins and outs of schools that surround installations. To find your School Liaison look on your new installations website! They're waiting for your call.

(contact lists)

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/school/pocs.cfm?sid=fl&smid=2>



What does an IEP meeting look like?

IEP meetings look like meetings. IEP meetings are not phone calls between and staff person and a parent. IEP meetings are not meetings with ALL teachers and staff. IEP participants are spelled out in statute and must include certain participants, at minimum? Do you know who should be at your child's IEP?

- Parent
- Administrator or Administrator Designee
- Special Education Teacher
- General Education Teacher (can be excused if appropriate with parental agreement)
- Related Services Staff if student does not receive or require related services (can be excused if appropriate with parental agreement or)
- Anyone that the parent wants to invite. (Example, EFMP Family Case Worker)



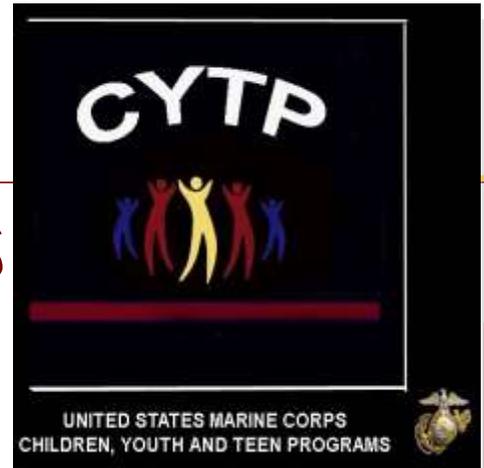
CYTP Policy MCO

Final Stages

In August 2011, the long process to develop new CYTP Policy is nearly complete. The process began in 2008 but when we were nearly ready to go, DOD announced that a new instruction was on the way. Our draft policy reflects the structures of the new DOD policy but maintains our Marine Corps flavor. Successful movement through the review process can be a long and daunting

process. Revising policy for an evolving program, can be even more challenging.

A special thanks to all staff who contributed, reviewed, commented and edited. This policy will shortly be submitted for formal review by the field and we look forward to the upcoming steps.



*Headquarters Marine Corps
Child, Youth & Teen Program Logo*

Goals and Progress

June 11—MARADMIN Subsidy Child Care (Fee Assistance)

Aug-Sept 11—CYTP Draft Policy in review at HQMC

Oct 11—Formal Review begins

November 11—Input from field reviewed

Jan 11 - Compliance Review

Feb 10—SIGNED and Published

*Policy
Development...
a long road...
a moving target....
A critical
component of
change!*

**Families
Matter!**

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

FOR MOST OF OUR FAMILIES, ACCESS TO EDUCATION ISSUES ARE ABOUT ACCESS TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Even though there are specific requirements in law regarding the transfer of special education services, our families report critical and high-level concerns in this area. While the law guarantees comparable services, families report long delays before services begin. And, many, many families report that long-fought for services and supports are often dropped by the receiving school.

This issue, long identified as an area of need, as emerged as a the top challenge for families.

EFMP can help both through Family Case Worker support and legal support.

Don't accept less than your child deserves. Let us help!

ACCESS TO EDUCATION IS IDENTIFIED IN STUDY AFTER STUDY AS A NUMBER ONE AREA OF CONCERN FOR MC FAMILIES!



Access to Education FACTS

- ⇒ **A formal IEP meeting, “the transfer IEP” should be held immediately to consider the needs of the incoming student to determine comparable services.**
- ⇒ Comparative does not mean duplicate services, but it also does not mean drastic decrease in services!!!
- ⇒ If a district recommends changes, they must detail what was considered and the rationale for recommendations and final decisions on the PWN; the Prior Written Notice.
- ⇒ Parents do not have to sign the transfer IEP if they do not agree.
- ⇒ Parents have the right to sign consent for some services while declining others.
- ⇒ Parents have the right to sign consent for services while notating concerns or disagreement or their intention to pursue additional services.
- ⇒ Parent have the right to on-going data collection utilized to analyze progress and then expect decisions to be evidence based supported by data.

Have you read “Parents as Advocates” ? This newsletter, available on HQ EFMP website had information and recommendations to help.

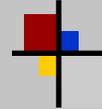


Family Care Branch

HEADQUARTERS USMC
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

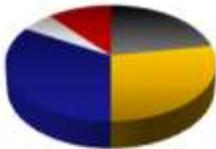
Phone: 703-432-9786

Fax: 703-784-9821



WHO ARE WE?

TOGETHER WE HAVE 236 YEARS OF DIRECT EXPERIENCE SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
We are teachers,, nurses, school administrators, child care providers, Social Workers, Coaches, Moms, Dads, Grandmothers.



- Medical
- Education
- Early Childhood
- Social Work

•94% OF US HAVE BACHELORS

•27% OF US HAVE MASTERS DEGREES

•55% OF US ARE MILITARY SPOUSES

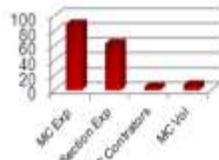
•27% OF US ARE FORMER ACTIVE DUTY (NAVY, USMC, AF)

•33% OF US WERE MC SPOUSE/VOLUNTEERS

•100% OF US ARE 100% COMMITTED TO SERVING THE MARINE CORPS



- Civilian
- Former Military



■ Years

