

WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT
EFMP!

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- Respite Transition
- Access to Education

INSIDE...

| | |
|---|---|
| * EFMP Respite Care Program Update; Transition | 2 |
| • Enrollment Frequently asked Questions? | 3 |
| * Enrollment; who is enrolled ? | 4 |
| * Continuum of Care | 5 |
| EFMP Policy | 6 |
| * Access to Education | 7 |
| * EFMP Program Managers attend Military Child Education Coalition | 8 |



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SEPT 2010

Since the Functionality Assessment in 2007, EFMP has grown, evolved and continues to evolve based on the needs of our members. The nature of supporting family members with disabilities is dynamic. Needs change, treatment changes and the level of care required is not static.

For this reason, it is important that EFMP remain a fluid program that is able to change to meet the needs of it's members. In order to do that, analysis is ongoing. Not only do we analyze the demographics of our overall population, but also that of each installation is constantly scrutinized.

The supports that we offer must meet the needs of families. We want your input. We want to know

what works and what needs improvement. We know we've made great progress. We hear many positive comments but we also recognize areas of need. Help us help. Let us know what you need. We're here and we're listening. If communication isn't two-way, it isn't communication.

This news letter, produced quarterly will hold important information for families. You have important information for us. Please keep sharing!

- ◆ Attend a Town hall
- ◆ Call your Family Case Worker
- ◆ Fill out an ICE Comment
- ◆ Respond to a survey
- ◆ Email your local Program Manager
- ◆ Contact HQ EFMP

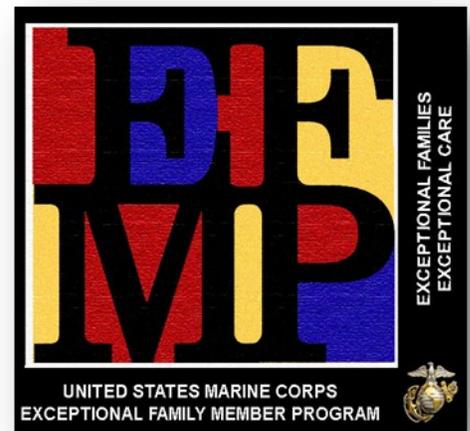
It doesn't matter how you send us your thoughts, just be sure and send them.

EFMP Enrollment

Enrollment is UP and has increased by 43% during the last year. Why the increase?

- ⇒ Increased services
- ⇒ Decreased stigma
- ⇒ Program shifts in focus
- ⇒ Increased awareness

How have services changed.....





**USMC EFMP
RESPITE CARE**

*...taking care of
the care provider*

EFMP Respite Care Update!!!!

Respite Transition.

During the months of May through July, MC EFMP completed a critical transition ensuring that current funding is sufficient to support this absolutely critical EMFP Program.

Analysis of our national model indicated nearly **THREE TIMES** the per family costs of our Installation Reimbursement Program. While MC EFMP originally implemented the national model to serve high impact needs, national programming was not serving that population. In fact, review of our Installation Reimbursement Program revealed that the majority of our high impact needs were receiving consistent care by highly qualified providers. We learned that our families were well able to find providers and took great care to review qualification. At the end of the day, families know what their children require.

The decision to transition to use only our Installation Reimbursement model was a big step for MC EFMP. But with great effort and support at the local level, families were able to transition to this model. All in all, it was a much easier transition than expected thankS to the understanding and coopera-

tion of our families. We originally planned to continue our national model for those who required nursing. At the last hour, the organization providing decided to end all services. This may have been to our advantage because many of our families care providers became available to work directly for many of our families. In the majority of cases, families were able to continue with the same provider. This was absolutely the best possibility for the exceptional family members who were receiving service.

If you are reading this and are one of the families who transitioned, thank you. Thank you for your understanding. Thank you for the great support you have shown MC EFMP. It is always our intention to take care of our families. At times the decisions of others impact our plans and structures may change. By working together, we can overcome any challenge and ensure that the continuum of support required by our family members prevails.

With appreciation,

Rhondavena LaPorte, HQ EFMP PM



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT ENROLLMENT IN EFMP

My son was just diagnosed with ADHD, do I need to enroll him in the EFMP?

It depends. The diagnosis of ADHD or ADD alone does not automatically qualify an individual for the EFMP. If your son meets at least one of the following criteria, he must be enrolled: The existence of a co-morbid psychological diagnosis.

The requirement of multiple medications, psycho-pharmaceuticals (other than stimulants) or does not respond to normal doses of medication.

The requirement of management and treatment by mental health provider (i.e. psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker).

The requirement of specialty consultant, other than a family practice physician or general medical officer, more than twice a year on a chronic basis.

The requirement of modifications of the educational curriculum or the use of behavioral management staff.

My daughter has asthma. The only medication she takes is Albuterol when she needs it. Do I need to enroll her?

No. If the only medicine your child takes is a rescue inhaler like Albuterol, you do not need to enroll her. However, if an individual meets any of the following criteria, he/she would need to be enrolled:

- Scheduled use of inhaled anti-inflammatory agents and/or bronchodilator.
- History of emergency room use or clinic visits for acute asthma exacerbations within the last year.
- History of one or more hospitalizations for asthma within the past 5 years.

talizations for asthma within the past 5 years.

- History of intensive care unit admissions for asthma within the past 5 years

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.

We know that my unborn child is going to have complications. Can we enroll him before he's born?

No. Since DEERS enrollment is a requirement, your unborn child is not eligible for the program.

If I have to see my doctor twice a year for my condition, do I need to enroll in the EFMP?

Yes. If you have a potentially life-threatening condition and/or chronic medical/physical condition requiring follow-up support more than once a year or specialty care, you are required to enroll.

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 I 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 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 a DD 2792 for my son who is 11 years old and has allergic rhinitis. Since my son doesn't have an IEP, do I still need to have the school complete a DD 2792-1?

Yes. All school-aged children are required to have a 2792-1 completed by a school official even if the child isn't receiving any services from the school. For children who are not school-aged yet and are receiving services on either an IFSP or IEP, it is beneficial, but not required for you to submit the documents with the EFMP packet.

My daughter has an IEP for a learning disability. Do I need to submit a DD 2792?

Yes. The DD 2792 is required to be completed for all initial enrollments and updates.

EFMP Enrollment Increase



Enrollment in EFMP is increasing at an unexpected rate. Changes in the program, increased understanding about the program and many other factors have led to MC EFMP realizing the vision.

Currently there are over 10,000 exceptional family members and nearly 8200 families.

The gambit of medical, mental health and educational disabilities are found within our population. The fastest growing demographic are those with mental health diagnoses. Not unlike the civilian population, increased awareness and many other factors have led to unbelievable growth in this area. Within the MC, a disproportionate grown in those

with diagnosed Anxiety Disorders has been observed. We are likely seeing the impact of the high operational tempo associated with war.

USMC is actively implementing new programs to support all EFMP family needs.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT
10,000+

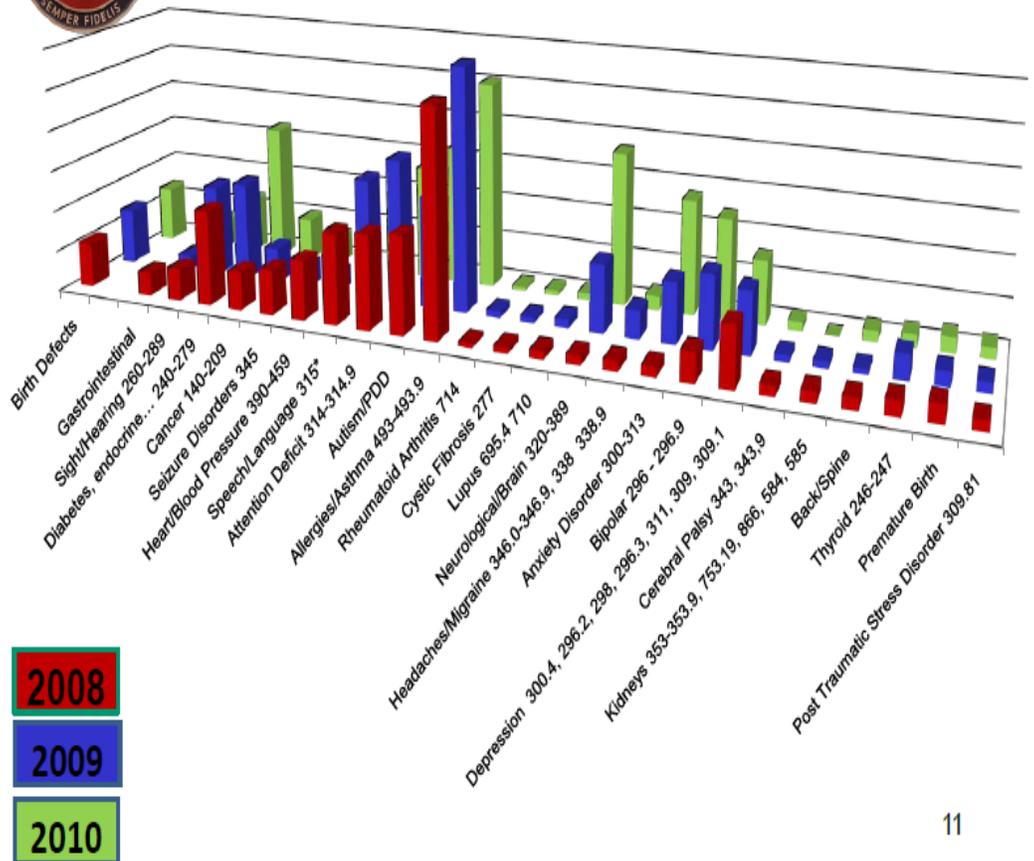
A review of national prevalence statistics indicate that at least 18,000 family members will enroll in EFMP.



**EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES
EXCEPTIONAL CARE**



Diagnostic Demographics



Continuum of Care—What if the doctor is OUT?



EFMP strives to ensure each EFM continuum of care; to help families gain access and availability to medical, educational and financial support services.

With today’s fiscal crisis, the continuum of care is definitely impacted. Treatment providers are closing their doors, limiting their clients and declining to work with some insur-

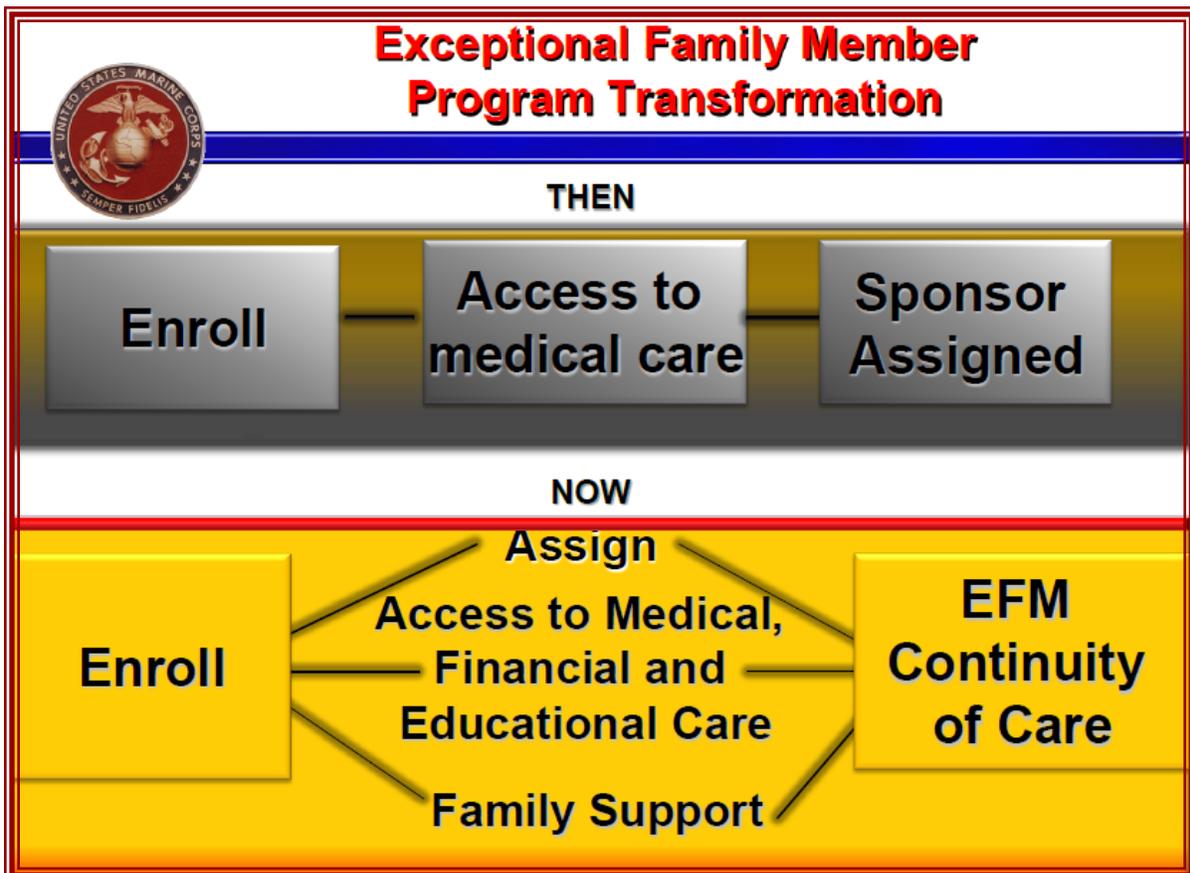
ance companies. It’s scary out there if you have an exceptional family member. How does HQ EFMP research to review each assignment.

HQ EFMP endorses assignment if....

- ◆ There are at least 3 providers in the designated area
- ◆ The provider accepts TRICARE
- ◆ The provider accepts clients in the age group of the member
- ◆ The provider supports the diagnosis
- ◆ The travel-ability is reasonable
- ◆ There are no known issues with access to the care needed in the area including medical, therapeutic and access to education.

Even so, HQ EFMP acknowledges that “things change.” HQ EFMP cannot guarantee, in spite of great effort, that provider services will 100% be ensured. We try. We investigate. We even talk to you at times to be sure we have all the information and that we understand your situation.

However, we are here if something needed, expected to be in place turns out NOT to be available. Contact us. Let us help!



EFMP Policy MCO 1754.4B

Final Stages

In August 2010, the long process to develop new EFMP Policy is nearly complete. The process began in 2008 and the effort of many just about has us where we want to be. Successful movement through the review process can be a long and daunting process. Revising policy for an evolving program, can be even more challenging. As many dedicated people, wrote and rewrote, we

found that we needed to change and change again. Which led to more re-writes and even more changes. Our families needs and responses directly led to the development of policy that is being emulated by many of the services. MCO 1754.4B is a reflection of the heart and spirit many.



Policy timelines

Feb 09—MARADMIN 068/09 Respite Care Policy

June 09—MARADMIN 348/09 Continuation on Location

July 09—MCO 1754.4B Informal Review

October 09—MCO 1754.4B Independent Review.

May 10-MCO 1754.4B Compliance Review

June 10-MARADMIN 308/10 Respite Care Guidance

July 10—MCO 1754.4B Consensus Review

August 10—Routed ——final steps before signing!

Policy

Development...

a long road...

a moving target....

A critical

component of

change!

**EFMP
Helps!**



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!

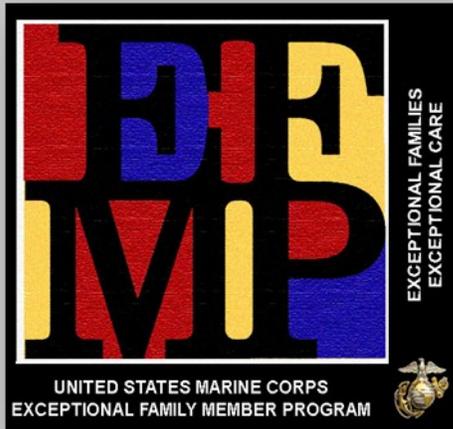
**ACCESS TO
EDUCATION IS
IDENTIFIED IN
STUDY AFTER
STUDY AS A
NUMBER ONE
AREA OF
CONCERN FOR
MC FAMILIES!**



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.



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM

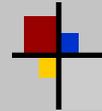
**HEADQUARTERS USMC
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA**

Phone: 703-784-0298

Fax: 703-784-9821

E-mail:

HQMC.EFMP@USMC.MIL



EFMP Program Managers Meet during the recent 2010 Military Child Education Coalition in Washington DC. Program Managers participated in a 2-day MC Forum during this important week. Many gathered for an impromptu group picture. While not all are present, you may recognize a few faces below. HQ EFMP appreciated the engagement and input from our participants.

