

# Referral Summary for FY 22-23 including Demographic Analysis Relating to Infants and Toddlers And Corresponding Child Find Plan Developed to Address More Effective Outreach

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Referral data is categorized by new to PELICAN (Pennsylvania’s Enterprise to Link Information for Children Across Networks), known to PELICAN (Children previously enrolled in Pelican) and not in PELICAN (Families either decline pursuing EI or do not respond to attempts to contact upon receiving the referral.). Although the focus is given to the analysis of new referrals, some attention has been given to the known referrals. It is necessary in analyzing the data to review what influences exist within the local area that impact the number of referrals made and their outcomes. It is noted that some data may not necessarily be readily available and therefore, anecdotal reporting is incorporated into the summary. Additional data elements have been included in this year’s summary. Every attempt possible has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data reflected below. Since FY 2018- 2019, those known to PELICAN who have a record that needs reactivation at the time of re-enrollment will be considered a new referral.

While it is important to discuss the overall number of referrals, it also is critical to review data per county. The following tables reflect referral data from a comparative view for the past four fiscal years including per county and age at referral date. Table 1 reflects basic referral data. Tables 2 and 3 reflect data on new referrals with comparisons being made to previous fiscal years. The data for referrals known to HCSIS (The Home And Community Services Information System) PELICAN reported in Table 1 is specific to those whose record was closed at the time of the referral.

Table 1

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	<b>FY 22-23</b>
Overall	387	422	417	<b>610</b>
New to PELICAN	195	201	297	<b>428</b>
Known to PELICAN	65	54	63	<b>49</b>
Not in PELICAN	127	167	57	<b>133</b>

In reviewing data by county, we see that numbers have decreased a little bit with minor variances (Table 2). Table 3 reflects data by age and fiscal year.

Table 2

	FY 19-20 (New to Pelican)	FY 20-21 (New to Pelican)	FY 21-22 (New to Pelican)	<b>FY 22-23 (New to Pelican)</b>
Columbia	136	112	155	<b>99</b>
Montour	58	22	70	<b>49</b>
Snyder	37	52	92	<b>44</b>
Union	81	25	81	<b>72</b>

Table 3

	FY 19-20 (New to Pelican)	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	<b>FY 22-23</b>
0-11 months	108	41	145	<b>166</b>

12-23 months	108	92	156	<b>160</b>
24-35 months	79	9	111	<b>125</b>

Tables 4 and 5 provide a comparative summary of known referrals to PELICAN per county and by age group. These referrals include children who moved into the CMSU catchment area already enrolled in PELICAN, children who were involved with CMSU Tracking (systematic process to monitor the development of at-risk children), and children who previously received services or were evaluated and referred again.

Table 4

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	<b>FY 22-23</b>
Columbia	84	98	9	<b>16</b>
Montour	61	69	10	<b>8</b>
Snyder	58	84	10	<b>16</b>
Union	56	92	10	<b>9</b>

Table 5

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	<b>FY 22-23</b>
0-11 months	79	125	4	<b>12</b>
12-23 months	104	164	13	<b>17</b>
24-35 months	81	134	17	<b>13</b>

## Referral Reason

Communications mastery continues to remain the top referring reason to Early Intervention across new and known categories of referrals; those referrals placed in Name File found communications mastery as the primary referral reason as well. Developmental concerns, physical development, NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) stay, and diagnosis were the other top referral reasons. When a child is re-enrolled, the referral reason is now being updated along with the referral source.

## Referral Source

The referral source data pertains only to new referrals. Data is available upon request for those children referred who are already known to PELICAN. Data is also available upon request from prior fiscal years.

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	<b>FY 22-23</b>
Hospitals	17	0	58	<b>84</b>
Physicians	101	74	135	<b>85</b>
Family	57	128	139	<b>173</b>
Child Care Programs	9	0	9	<b>4</b>
Local Education Agency	1	0	0	<b>0</b>
EI Provider		0	12	<b>3</b>
Public Health Agency(DOH)	0	0	1	<b>1</b>

EPSDT (The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment) Screening Facility	0	0	0	0
Other Social Service Agency	13	9	33	13
Other Health Care Provider	2	0	0	1
Connect	54	0	0	0
Other	15	0	0	0
Family Center	5	1	20	5
Homeless Shelter	0	0	0	0
Head Start/Early Head Start	0	0	0	4
Media/Public Awareness	0	0	0	0
CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act)	0	0	0	0
COMPASS (tool to apply to human service programs)	3	0	0	0

## Referral Outcomes

This data only reflects children new to PELICAN. The FY 22-23 data also reflects increasing changes. As the number of infants and toddlers being determined ineligible continues to increase, this is an area that should be looked into to determine the appropriateness of referrals and to ensure that the determination of eligibility was appropriately made.

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
# Referrals	195	201	380	400
# Evaluated	166	155	148	240
# Eligible	120	109	157	148
# IFSPs completed	120	109	157	148
# Eligible but chose Tracking	0	0	0	0
# Eligible Declined	0	0	0	0
# Eligible but declined both services and Tracking	0	0	0	0
# Not Eligible	41	40	61	76
# Not Eligible but Tracking Eligible &	5	6	14	19

Chosen				
# Not Eligible/Tracking/Declined-NE/T?	0	0	0	0
# Tracking – no evaluation	1	13	18	27
# Moved	5	4	0	17
# No Response	12	16	73	53
# Declined	11	12	57	35
# withdrew	0	0	0	0
# Screen w/no further eval	0	1	0	0

The outcome of known referrals:

	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
Eligible	25	20	12	16
Not Eligible	8	15	3	12
Transfers	5	0	12	13
Tracking/No eval	1	0	0	4
No response/WD	16	33	2	4

### \*\*\*Other

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) also requires counties to ensure that they are identifying all eligible infants and toddlers and that the numbers enrolled are reflective of the counties' demographics including children typically considered as traditionally underserved which include: migrant, homeless, wards of the state, premature infants, infants with other physical risk factors associated with learning or developmental complications, infants and toddlers who have been involved in substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect; infants and toddlers who are affected by illegal substance abuse and infants and toddlers with low incidence disabilities. During the fiscal year 2014-2015, OCDEL began encouraging all EI programs and their associated LICCs ( Local Interagency Coordinating Council) to look more closely at their specific demographics to ensure that all underserved, hard-to-reach communities or at-risk populations are being identified appropriately. Experiencing homelessness was added as criteria for enrollment in Tracking. There have been comments made from families indicating openness in discussing homelessness and families are admitting to being homeless. Actual numbers of those in Tracking due to homelessness remain very low to none at all. FY 22-23 referral data was reviewed to determine baseline numbers of infants and toddlers referred for drug-related reasons. In FY 22-23, there were twenty six total referrals with only eight enrolling in Early Intervention. As the state moves to a more comprehensive approach to addressing the issue of opioid and substance use affecting infants and toddlers, these numbers will continue to be monitored as well as reviewing referral sources to determine referrals are being made. It is likely that these numbers will increase. A typical experience with these referrals so far has been that parents will either not respond or stay connected; if Children and Youth are involved, the family is more likely to be involved. In reviewing local demographic data, it appears that CMSU is identifying and serving children appropriate to the percentage of race and ethnicity within the community. According to the 2018-2020 Family Support Needs Assessment released by OCDEL, CMSU is serving 5.33% of infants and toddlers within the catchment area.

CMSU EI continues to serve all children determined eligible for early intervention services in which the parents have requested services. CMSU Early Intervention continues to work with community partners regarding when to refer children to EI as well as to provide developmental insight upon request. CMSU EI also continues to work collaboratively with other early childhood programs to ensure that children are receiving the appropriate services without duplication. In 2017, collaboration with Geisinger Bloomsburg Pediatrics occurred.

This clinic practice wants to significantly improve its awareness of community resources and its ability to talk with parents about resources. Their end goal is to have a higher connection rate of families to programs when referrals are made and are looking at ways to increase connections with Early Intervention. This will also then improve the rate of enrollment into the EI program. CMSU EI is always looking for new ways to reach the community regarding Early Intervention. Resources are regularly sent to child care providers and physicians in our catchment area to promote Early Intervention and to increase referrals.

## **Conclusions and Response:**

It is important to remember that this summary reflects referral data only and is used as a basis for the FY 22-23 Child Find Plan (children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated). There has been no discussion relative to the number of children served which is an important component of the program. There are many factors that can be viewed with referral data; this summary only reflects a portion of those factors.

It is also important to note that this summary does not look closely at those referrals that do not make it into the system. As one looks at child find and child keep, this could be an area that requires closer scrutiny. The majority of families referred who do not enter PELICAN are families who didn't respond. Past discussions with parents who had a NICU experience indicate a cultural impact. Early Intervention represents a visible reminder that pregnancy including labor and delivery was not typical. In addition, families are told "your baby is doing well" and they hold onto that. They do not hear that their child remains at risk as they have dealt with so much and just want to be home with their baby. CMSU works closely with Geisinger Medical Center to increase family awareness of Early Intervention and, hopefully, increase the likelihood of connection once the referral has been made. The next largest group of referrals not making it into PELICAN occurs with outside agencies, including, physicians. In this group, families often are not really in agreement with the referral and either does not respond or decline involvement. As indicated earlier, one clinic had set this as an improvement goal starting in the fall of 2017.

CMSU EI continues to serve the identified underserved populations as found in both IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and state law and regulations. As already noted above, both NICU families and those families involved with drug usage can be considered hard to reach. Efforts to better understand how to connect with these families should be considered. OCDEL is encouraging EI programs and LICCs to identify hard-to-reach communities within the program's area to ensure that outreach efforts are occurring and to increase effectiveness. As efforts begin to look more closely at these and other groups, one must remember that cultural mindsets and cultural values impact significantly how outreach occurs and is received.

## 0-3 Child Find Plan 22-23

### Referral Sources:

CMSU will continue to inform the early learning community of its existence and encourage programs to make referrals as appropriate. In addition, close collaboration occurs with the medical community and will continue.

Opportunities for presentation will be sought. The Watch Me Grow brochures and Help Me Grow rack cards continue to be distributed across a variety of settings in which parents of infants and toddlers find themselves.

CMSU will also look more closely at hard-to-reach communities and determine how outreach needs to occur. Preliminary identification of said communities indicates homeless, NICU families, and those families engaging in drug usage. Partnership with the LICC will occur as per OCDEL's encouragement. Hospitals are required to universally screen newborns for withdrawal symptoms from prenatal substance exposure. In addition, there will be increased collaborations across all agencies involved with either the infant/toddler or their families to better identify and address the community's needs relative to the opioid struggle.

In partnership with the Department of Health, identified children who have an elevated blood lead level of 5 or greater will be referred to Early Intervention. However, as of 5/14/2021, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated its blood lead reference value (BLRV) from 5 to 3.5. The PA Department of Health (DOH) adopted the new lower BLRV on January 1, 2022. As of 4/19/2022, all Early Intervention Programs will use the lowered reference value of (3.5) or greater as well. The goal is to double the enrollment of children with elevated blood lead levels across the state. While the number of referrals due to meeting this elevated blood level has fallen off significantly, this shall remain as part of the child find plan. Additional activities will be considered, but with the change in reference value, the referral numbers should increase in regards to children with elevated blood lead levels.

In September of 2017, collaboration with the Geisinger Bloomsburg Pediatrics clinic began that specifically looked at how the physicians and psychologists can make appropriate referrals, as well as better, explain early intervention to families to reduce the number of families that do not respond to CMSU EI contact or who decline involvement with EI. This collaboration will be monitored throughout the years and additional steps taken as needed. This collaborative venture has been successful to date and additional steps are being considered to further the collaboration.