

Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood
October 4, 2016

Department: Department of Health and Senior Services
Liaison to the Board: Peter Lyskowski
Report as of September 19, 2016

- **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

- **Announcements:**

Child Care Inclusion Services

The Department of Health and Senior Services, through the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, contracts with United 4 Children to provide inclusion referral services, technical assistance and training throughout the state to help families and caregivers of children with special needs. These children may require enhanced child care services over that of a typically developing child due to an actual or perceived developmental disability and/or delay, health, mental health or behavioral issues.

Inclusion specialists assist families with locating appropriate child care that will successfully support the individual needs of their child. This includes providing families with a list of licensed family child care facilities that have the ability to accommodate a specific need, thus saving the families a lot of time and frustration when seeking appropriate care for their child. When the list does not produce a facility that is able to accommodate a specific need in accordance with the family's wishes, a specialist will reach out to a program to discuss the requirements of the child in need of care. Inclusion specialists make site visits to the program to strategize on how the facility can make minor adaptations to successfully include a child. They offer follow up technical assistance until the facility is fully equipped to meet the needs of the child. Specialists provide training to the caregivers to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to appropriately meet the needs of the child in care. The inclusion specialists will connect families with other community resources as appropriate.

When a child care facility reaches out to an inclusion specialist, the specialist is able to provide general classroom, as well as child specific observations. Following the observations, the inclusion specialist provides technical assistance to the caregivers regarding the needs of the group or specific child and provides appropriate referrals, if needed. Inclusion specialists work with caregivers and parents to develop strategies that promote the growth and development of the children in care. Inclusion specialists offer training as needed to further the knowledge and skills of the caregivers.

Parents or child care providers who are interested in accessing these services may contact United 4 Children at 800-467-2322 or via their website at www.united4children.org.

-- END OF REPORT--