

(5) FACILITATE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR PARENTS SEEKING AN EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS; AND

(6) ~~REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE AND EXPEDITE THE PROVISION OF~~ FACILITATE IMPROVED AND EXPEDITED MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM SERVICES TO CHILDREN ~~WITH SIGNS OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS~~ WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AND WHO ARE REFERRED BY A PARENT OR PEDIATRICIAN.

8-504.

THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

(1) SELECT AT LEAST 30 PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM;

(2) ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEDIATRICIANS AND STAFF OF PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

(3) ASSESS AVAILABLE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING INSTRUMENTS;

(4) IDENTIFY AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SCREENING PRACTICES USED BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE;

(5) DEVELOP TRAINING MATERIALS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ON THE EARLY DETECTION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS;

(6) DISTRIBUTE WRITTEN INFORMATION ON THE EARLY DETECTION OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS TO PARENTS WITH CHILDREN IN PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PRACTICES; AND

(7) FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND THE ~~MARYLAND~~ INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO:

(I) CONDUCT FURTHER ASSESSMENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SIGNS OF AN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; AND

(II) PROVIDE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AND WHO ARE REFERRED TO THE ~~MARYLAND~~ INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM.

8-505.

BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, SHALL:

(1) COLLECT BASELINE DATA ON PARTICIPATING PROVIDERS: