June 22 Memo to CIS EI:

CAPTA and Differential Response

September, 2010

TO: CIS/Early Intervention

From: Terri Edgerton, CIS/EI Administrator

Memo: CAPTA and Differential Response

There has been confusion regarding children being referred as "high risk" with an open case in the Family Services Division (FSD) Differential Response system. Are regions required to provide a full evaluation for non-CAPTA children referred to CIS/Early Intervention, or can these children be screen and move to full evaluation if the screening indicates the need for an evaluation.

I spoke with our Office of Special Education Programs project officer regarding Vermont's Family Service's transformation of their approach in working with families, or differential response that is now in place.

- An outcome of Differential response is a reduction in the number of children who are designated as eligible for a CAPTA referrals (those children and have had a substantiation of abuse or neglect) A CAPTA referral mandates that children 0-3 must receive a developmental screening from early intervention.
- As a result of FSD's differential response some regions are seeing an increase in the number of at risk referrals from FSD for a full Part C evaluation. Since these children are not considered a CAPTA referral they go to a full evaluation.

After our conversation our OSEP project officer recommended that children referred to early intervention that are open family cases with FSD but do not have a substantiation and do not have a developmental concern can be screened and not move to full

evaluation. However, if the parent requests a full evaluation they are still entitled to a full evaluation.

In summary, children referred from Family Services:

Non CAPTA children who are "high risk" with an open case with FSD and are referred to early intervention from FSD will go to a developmental screening unless they are referred with a developmental concern or their family is requesting a full evaluation.

Children who are not a CAPTA referral for early intervention and do not have a developmental concern can be referred to the local Children's Integrated Services team as well for appropriate services with family support or early childhood and family mental health.