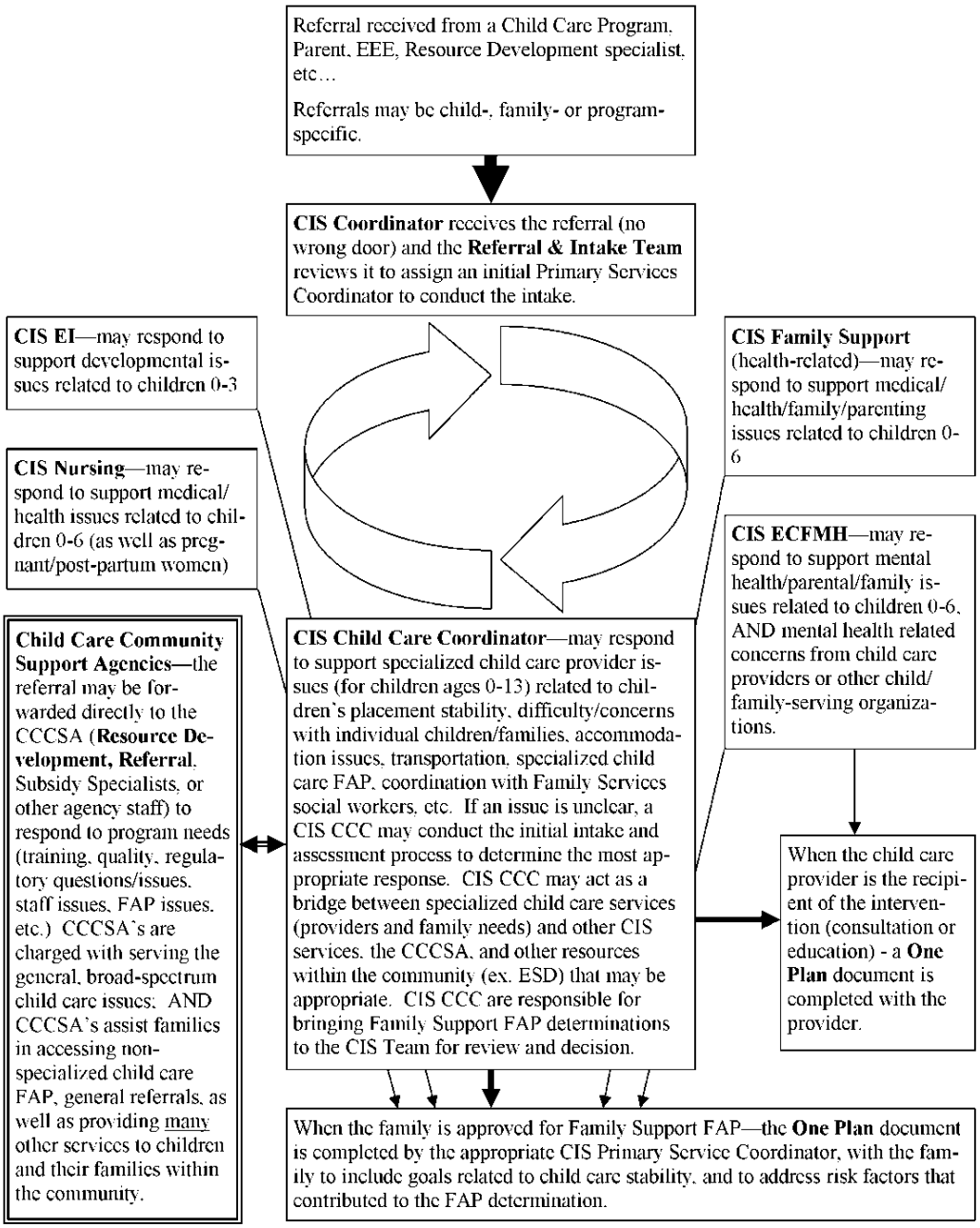
CIS Child Care Coordinators within the Array of CIS Services and the Continuum of Child Care and Specialized Child Care Services



May 12, 2011

- **Specialized Child Care**

CIS Specialized Child Care Services are a continuum of available supports for particular populations of children (age 6 weeks to 13 years) and their families. CIS Specialized Child Care Services are intended to increase access to and enhance success in high quality child development programs for children. CIS Child Care Coordinators hold primary responsibility, coordination, oversight and content expertise regarding the provision of specialized child care services and supports.

The particular populations identified for these services, irrespective of their participation in the State's Child Care Financial Assistance Program, include:

A. Children with open cases with the Family Services Division (FSD) of the Department for Children and Families (DCF);

B. Children with special physical, behavioral, or developmental needs; and

C. Families experiencing significant, short term stress.

Specialized child care services may include:

I. Ensuring access to quality child development programs by:

- Supporting the regional supply of specialized child care providers as needed as they seek to provide high quality care for enrolled children with identified specialized needs.
- Providing expertise on the CIS teams and to child- and family-serving providers/organizations regarding regulated child care.
- Serving as the primary service coordinator for CIS families whose primary service need is child care.
- Assisting families in navigating the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.
- Administering Financial Assistance Program benefits for the following service needs: Child Care Family Support, Child with Special Health Needs, and Protective Services, including developing One Plans with families as required.

- Assisting Family Services Division (FSD) social workers in identifying appropriate specialized child care providers, facilitating coordination between FSD staff and CDD when a child care provider is seeking to become a resource family for FSD, and supporting child care programs to obtain Specialized Child Care Provider Status.
- Processing enrollment in the Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) for children/families receiving a Financial Assistance Program benefit for a specialized service need.

II. Ensuring access to transportation services by:

   i. Administering transportation determinations and provider enrollment.

   ii. Assisting eligible families to access transportation to enable children to access quality child care.

   iii. Coordinating and processing transportation enrollment in BFIS.

   iv. Coordinating with CDD the use of approved transportation providers.

III. Supporting Specialized Child Care providers by:

   i. Assisting high quality child care providers in becoming Specialized Child Care Providers and maintaining their Specialized Child Care Provider status.

   ii. Assisting child care providers in assessing, adjusting their environments or program activities/curriculum, and/or accessing resources to support the successful enrollment and healthy development of children utilizing the CIS Referral, Intake and One Plan documentation.

   iii. Assisting child care providers in accessing local resources and statewide systems for professional development and continuous quality improvement.