



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

M E M O R A N D U M

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

November 10, 2009

TO: First Steps families, service coordinators, and providers

FROM: Pam Thomas, Coordinator for Early Intervention Services

RE: System Point of Entry (SPOE) announcement

System Points of Entry (SPOEs) employ service coordinators who provide First Steps referral, eligibility and IFSP services for families in Missouri. These agencies are contracted with the State of Missouri.

On November 9, 2009 the State Office of Administration announced the award of the new First Steps SPOE contract for Northeast Region 3 to The Dahlberg Group, LLC. This contract will begin February 1, 2010.

Over the next few months DESE will be assisting both the current and new SPOE agencies to ensure a smooth transition of services. We are confident there will be no disruption to families and children in the First Steps program and families will continue to receive timely provider and service coordination services as identified in their IFSP.

Information about the competitive procurement and evaluation process which resulted in the award to The Dahlberg Group can be found on the Office of Administration, Division of Purchasing and Materials Management's Contract Document Search System at: <http://www.oa.mo.gov/purch>. Additional updates to families, service coordinators and providers can be found at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/index.html>.

Thank you for your continued support of the First Steps program.