

# IPTA Testimony Successful in Changing Early Intervention Program Rules

Recent testimony provided by the Illinois Physical Therapy Association and other interested health care groups has resulted in significant changes to the proposed rule to modify Illinois Administrative Code 500 for the Early Intervention Program.

IPTA testified that specific therapy guidelines and all references to those guidelines should be removed from the proposed rules that would have made substantial changes to the Early Intervention Program. IPTA provided testimony in Springfield and Chicago to ensure that these guidelines were not

implemented.

On March 3, 2004, Barb Sullivan received a letter from Tacie Drew, Bureau Chief of the Illinois Bureau of Administrative Rules and Procedures, notifying IPTA that the Therapy Guidelines, as presented as part of the proposed rulemaking process would be removed from the rulemaking.

The therapy guidelines, designed as a reference point for frequency of service delivery based on diagnosis, would have become the template for how physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and developmental therapy

would have been provided to children under the age of three years in the Early Intervention System. This was in conflict to the concept of individualized services based on the child and family's needs and goals. The elimination of these guidelines and all references to them in the administrative code returns greater weight to the therapist's recommendation for services in the development of the Individual Family Service Plan and allows programming to best meet the needs of the individual being served.

## Pathways Awareness Foundation

Established in 1988, the Pathways Awareness Foundation is a national, non-profit organization which has produced multimedia materials for both professionals and parents. Their purpose is to raise awareness and highlight the benefit of early detection and early therapy for movement differences in children.

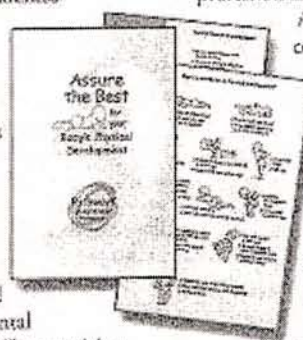
The Pathways' video, "Is My Baby Okay?" received the 2003 American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine "Sage Award" recognizing outstanding medical film presentations. This exceptional video features an eight-step gross motor skills examination comparing two six-month-old infants with differing movement abilities, empowering parents to recognize movement differences.

Using the expertise of the Medical Round Table of health and rehabilitation experts, including Gay L. Girolami, PT, Director of the Pathways

Center, Glenview, IL, and Suzann K. Campbell, Head of the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Pathways has produced a similar video for medical professionals entitled, "Early Infant

Assessment Redefined." A collection of slides was created to work in conjunction with the video. It consists of 69 color slides demonstrating all of the typical and atypical aspects of each of the eight movement positions shown in the video.

"Assure the Best for your Baby's Physical Development," is a Pathways brochure developed to allow parents to track their child's speech, play and physical development from 3 to 15 months of age. To receive your free copy of the brochure or to get more information about the Pathways Awareness Foundation, call 1-800-955-2445, email at [friends@pathwaysawareness.org](mailto:friends@pathwaysawareness.org) or visit the new web-site at [www.pathwaysawareness.org](http://www.pathwaysawareness.org).



## Oak Forest Hospital

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responsible for conducting a weekly inpatient orthotic clinic and bi-weekly prosthetic and outpatient orthotic clinics.

Staff members provide a variety of non-patient-related services to the hospital and the community. They serve on hospital quality action teams, serve as clinical instructors for physical therapy and physical therapist assistant students, speak to community groups, and participate at health fairs. To promote staff health and wellness in 2003, the department formed a team to participate in the LaSalle Bank Shamrock Shuffle. They also participated in the "Y-We Race Against Breast Cancer" on Mother's Day and raised over \$700. Three staff members joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Team-In-Training for the Chicago Marathon and raised almost \$9,000.

For nearly a century, Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County has identified and fulfilled the constantly changing healthcare needs of a diverse population spread over a large geographical area. During its second century, the Hospital will continue to meet the healthcare needs of its community.