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Provider Information Notice

TO: Early Intervention Providers and Payees
Child and Family Connections Offices
Early Intervention Stakeholders

FROM: Benjamin Delgado, Jr., Chief 
Bureau of Early Intervention

DATE: November 18, 2022

RE: Transgender Day of Remembrance

I wanted to share with all of you a message from Secretary Grace Hou. Our Early Intervention community stands steadfast in our commitment toward advancing equity, racial and social justice. I encourage all of us to continue our learning journey as we work together to remove barriers that have historically stood in the path of inclusion.

Dear colleagues,

Each year on November 20 we recognize Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). First commemorated in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith, TDOR was a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman who was killed in 1998, and all the transgender people lost to violence since her death. This observance launched an annual memorial that has become a day to remember and honor the lives of transgender people who have been murdered.

As we remember those impacted, we can also reflect on what we can do to combat the hate and violence directed toward the transgender community.

We can learn about the cycle of violence that plagues the transgender community, and the ways we can interrupt it. We can create public policies that support the long-term health and wellness of the community and ensure equitable application of those policies. We can acknowledge the hatred, harassment, and discrimination experienced by the transgender community, and combat that with every resource we have in order to protect the rights, lives, and dignity of this vulnerable population.

As part of our ongoing work to advance equity and racial justice, we are committed to recognizing, honoring, and embracing the humanity of a community that is marginalized and brutalized simply for existing as who they are. We will continue to support and stand in solidarity with the transgender community, a community that has shown to be, time and time again, fearlessly authentic and extraordinarily resilient.

In the words of Governor Pritzker, "We will never surrender in the battle against hate."

*In solidarity,
Grace*