

# *The UPDATE*

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

April 2016



### *Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!*

**April 21, 2016:** Federal Part C Application due

**April 26, 2016; 10am—11am:** Monthly Webinar: Update on State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Implementation Plan; BDI—2 Fidelity Study, Angi Stone-McDonald

**May 9 and May 10, 2016:** MEIC Conference, Sheraton Framingham, Framingham, MA

**June 1, 2016:** Program Director Session: SSIP Integration into the MA EI System, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

**June 9, 2016:** Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

#### **Resources & Trainings:**

[2016 Massachusetts Act Early State Team Summit Meeting](#); [Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood](#); [Everyday Words for Public Health Communication](#); [A Child's First Eight Years Critical for Substance Abuse Prevention](#); [Zika Virus Information and Handouts](#)



### **Welcome, New Staff!**

**Julie Longpre** has joined the DPH Regional EI team. Julie holds a Master of Public Administration specializing in Public Sector Management. She has extensive experience working in education, government, and public policy. She has participated as an education data assessor, program evaluator, and certified CLASS observe in Infant, Toddler and Pre-K. Julie will be attending various ICC committee meetings, onsite visits and trainings as part of her orientation to the Massachusetts EI system.

**Michelle Buonasaro** has been hired as a Program Coordinator to support the functions of the EI Training Center. Michelle has over 4 years of experience working in an administrative/clerical capacity. Her responsibilities will include data entry, file management, maintenance of data accuracy, and providing customer support. She will be working closely with Susan Breen on the CEIS and Portfolio management process.

### **DPH Updates**

#### **Fiscal Support for "Embedding Key Principles into IFSP Process" Training**

As soon as the amendment to the Thom RCP contract has been completed, programs will be receiving additional information regarding the funding disbursement for participation in the Embedding the Key Principles into the IFSP process training.

#### **Phase II—State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

Phase II of the SSIP was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on April 1, 2016. The Massachusetts Part C/Early Intervention (EI) system chose to focus its SSIP efforts on improving the statewide percentage of children showing positive growth in Child Outcome 1: social-emotional skills (including social relationships), as measured by Summary Statement 1 in the State's Performance Plan. Massachusetts Early Intervention was able to identify clear areas of strength in its system to build upon in Phase II.

The focus of Phase 2 is to expand capacity & support evidence-based strategies leading to improvement of the SIMR (2016). Massachusetts chose Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI) as its evidence-based practice to improve social-emotional skills development.

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Additional efforts to improve social-emotional skills include:

1. BDI-2 Fidelity
2. Mission & Key Principles training
3. Revised Universal IFSP & toolkit

The Massachusetts State Leadership has been focusing on the following activities:

- Engaging stakeholders in the multi-year SSIP planning
- Refining the Evidence Based Practice to scale-up across programs
- Identifying activities to support training and roll-out
- Developing an evaluation plan and data collection needs
- Identifying TA needs

Massachusetts Early Intervention is confident that the implementation activities laid out in Phase II of the Improvement Plan will have a positive effect on the social-emotional skills development and will be accurately captured through its corresponding evaluation plan.

We look forward to partnering with the EI community to build on the current state infrastructure improvements, align the SSIP with current initiatives, and collaborate with other state agencies in leveraging resources. The Department will provide additional information on the SSIP and preparation for Phase III on the April 26 webinar, and at the June 1st EI Program Director Session at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, MA.

## **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Webinar**

Karen Gould and Karen Welling of IHR are excited the response to their webinar of March 22 in which they detailed some of the free services they can provide. A resource they hope will be useful is a series of webinars on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by NOFAS (National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome). The first webinar, about resources for families living with FASD can be viewed at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzL\\_YmwwPng&list=PLiFZcDuldDA4ZmCioygn4YHwwAMjQtAA\\_&index=9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzL_YmwwPng&list=PLiFZcDuldDA4ZmCioygn4YHwwAMjQtAA_&index=9).

You can reach Karen and Karen at [karengould@healthrecovery.org](mailto:karengould@healthrecovery.org) and [karenwelling@healthrecovery.org](mailto:karenwelling@healthrecovery.org) or by calling 617-661-3991.

## **Resources**

### **Event: Massachusetts Act Early**

Massachusetts Act Early aims to educate parents and professionals about healthy childhood development, early warning signs of autism and other developmental disorders, the importance of routine developmental screening, and timely early intervention whenever there is a concern.

[2016 Massachusetts Act Early State Team Summit Meeting](#)

### **A recent post to Facebook, Twitter & Pinterest that is important!**

"...more than three decades of research into what makes a young child able to cope with life's inevitable stresses, we now have unique opportunities to intervene very early in life to prevent substance use disorders," said NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow, M.D. "We now know that early intervention can set the stage for more positive self-regulation as children prepare for their school years." "This guide is important reading for anyone who has an influence over a child's life, from early development through the transition to elementary school," Here's a link to this important guide:

[www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-substance-abuse-prevention-early-childhood/index](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-substance-abuse-prevention-early-childhood/index).

### **Publication: Everyday Words for Public Health Communication**

### **NIH Article: A Child's First Eight Years Critical for Substance Abuse Prevention**

### **Zika Virus Information and Handouts**

## Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition (MLRC) Needs Your Help

We at the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition (MLRC) are preparing to gather policy makers for a respite policy summit in June to identify and address respite needs across the state of Massachusetts. We want to present these leaders with a snapshot of Massachusetts' caregiver burden and respite need at this time. We hope you will take 5 minutes or less to complete this very brief survey to have your voices heard in this effort. Your information will remain anonymous and will only be represented as part of all survey respondents.

We thank you in advance for joining us in helping raise awareness about caregiving and gaining respite support from our policy leaders. The survey can be accessed by clicking this [link](#).

## Data Manager Updates

### Do Not Handle: EIIS Machine

Oftentimes IT support staff at your program will do updates to all computers within your agency or program to keep up with security, virus and browser updates. Although their intent is good they do not always know what is best for the computer that houses your EIIS Client data system. PLEASE do NOT allow them to do any updates (virus updates are okay) on this computer prior to discussing this with DPH. DPH will be able to identify if there will be an adverse impact on your EIIS system and its transmission functionality. Please let your IT staff know that EIIS is only supported on a Windows 7 operating system with Office 2010 on a 32-bit PC. You should contact Linda Mosesso at (617) 624-5521 or [linda.mosesso@state.ma.us](mailto:linda.mosesso@state.ma.us) with any questions regarding changes to the EIIS computer at your program. Thank you.



### Linda's Rule of Thumb

If you have ever talked to Linda Mosesso, the EIIS and TSS Help Desk Support person, then you know Linda's Rule of Thumb: Enter data today, transmit tonight. This ensures that DPH has the most up-to-date data from your EI program. This is especially important for programs whose EIIS machines are not backed-up by program or agency staff. About every six months or so one EI program has a major issue with the computer that houses either the EIIS Client or TSS application. Some examples include a computer hard drive crash, a stolen machine, a lightning strike, and a fire (yes, all of these have happened). Once your data is lost DPH is able to create a new database for you based on your most recent transmission. If that transmission is one month old and you have no back-ups at your program then it will result in a lot of work on your part to identify and re-enter one month's worth of forms. New staff, especially, need to be aware of the reason for and importance of daily data transmission to DPH.

### It's Coming: The New EIIS

The Department has been involved for over a year now with providers, outside vendors, and other states to identify a client, service delivery, and fiscal system that will best accommodate the current and future needs for Early Intervention in Massachusetts. The Web-In-Progress (WIP) group, a group composed of EI providers and Department staff, has been meeting for several months and has provided valuable input and feedback for how to move forward with the design of a new system. An RFR is being reviewed and is almost ready for release, hopefully within the next two to three weeks. The Department will continue to communicate about the progress of this project through this Update, the monthly webinars, and ICC and WIP group meetings.

**Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:**

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