

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers April 2017



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

April 3, 2017: Phase 3 of the State Systemic Improvement Plan submitted to OSEP

April 15, 2017: Last day for written public comment to be submitted to DPH for the Part C Application

April 21, 2017: Submission date for the 31st Year Part C Application to OSEP

April 21, 2017: MA Act Early State Team Spring Conference and Summit: Improving the Early Identification and Intervention of Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Autism in Under-served and Culturally Diverse Children

April 25, 2017: Monthly Webinar—CANCELLED

April 26, 2017: Fifth Annual Massachusetts Pyramid Model Partnership Summit, Westford, MA
The Pyramid Model: Building an Inclusive Community to Support all Children and Families—Keynote Speaker: Rosemarie Allen, Ph.D.

May 8 & 9, 2017: MEIC Conference, Marlborough, MA web.percs.info



Welcome New Program Director

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Sue Homan as the new Program Director for Kennedy-Donovan Center's Greater Plymouth Early Intervention Program. Sue has extensive experience as a Developmental Specialist and has been the Assistant Program Director at the program for the past four years. Sue is a creative and energetic professional who presents with a solid foundation in child development and EI. She is committed to staff training and is able to use her skills to design training opportunities that are both engaging and relevant. Sue is well respected by her staff and professional colleagues alike. We look forward to the great things to come from the Plymouth EI program under her competent direction and enthusiasm. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Sue into this new and exciting role.

DPH Updates

Pyramid Model Learning Communities May Schedule!

The next sessions of the Pyramid Model Learning Communities are scheduled for this Spring!

The Pyramid Model Learning Communities - Developing systems to support the social emotional well-being for young children and their families in Massachusetts.

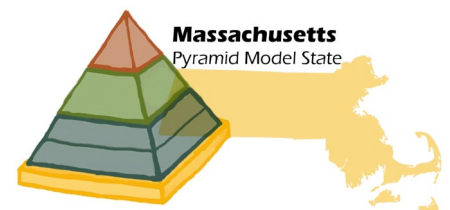
Is your program using the Pyramid Model to support children and families? Join us as we explore Pyramid Model resources, share lessons learned, and connect with a variety of community programs.

May 9, 2017; 1:00-3:00pm
Springfield EEC Office
1441 Main Street, Suite 230
Springfield, MA 01103

<https://connectedbeginnings.tfaforms.net/151>

May 15, 2017; 10:00am-12:00pm
Lawrence EEC Office
360 Merrimack Street, Building 9, Third Floor
Lawrence, MA 01843

<https://connectedbeginnings.tfaforms.net/150>



May 16, 2017; 1:00-3:00pm

Wheelock College
43 Hawes Street
Brookline, MA 02446

<https://connectedbeginnings.tfaforms.net/149>

May 23, 2017; 10:00am-12:00pm

Worcester Public Library
Banx Room, Main Branch
3 Salem Square

Worcester, MA 01608

<https://connectedbeginnings.tfaforms.net/153>

Cost: There is no cost to participants; the Pyramid Model Learning Community is supported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

New to the Pyramid Model?

Before attending the Pyramid Model Learning Community, we encourage you to view this brief Introduction to the Pyramid Model Approach

http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/explore/camtasia/pyramid_overview/pyramid_overview_captions.html

IHR—Introducing Books to Babies & Toddlers

The Institute for Health & Recovery came across a great resource for parents on introducing books to babies and toddlers. Feel free to share this link or article with families. www.zerotothree.org/resources/304-how-to-introduce-toddlers-and-babies-to-books Please contact karenwelling@healthrecovery.org or karengould@healthrecovery.org for training or technical assistance needs, and to get your hand-delivered (training included) Trauma-Informed Tip sheets.



Policy & Clarifications

Important Policy Update - Speech-Language Pathology - Clinical Fellowship Status

The Department of Public Health is providing guidance and clarity to the December 5, 2016 policy memo regarding the required documentation for Speech Language Pathology - Clinical Fellows to become provisionally certified in the MA EI system. As noted in the policy memo, individuals in their CF must be classified as a Developmental Specialist (DS) in the EI Certification system, from the time of hire until the time of completion of the CF, and receipt of a Massachusetts SLP license. DPH will waive the DSd 6% ratio for clinicians currently in their CF until the fellowship is completed for up to a year. The Clinical Fellow will need to submit the following documentation to be hired as a DS(d):

- Transcript and evidence that the Speech Language Pathology Licensure candidate is currently in their Clinical Fellowship year by submitting a copy of the Supervised Professional Practice Plan.

If the individual would like to be provisionally certified as a DS (a-c), the following documentation is required:

- Transcripts of degree work or subsequent transcripts that reflect successful completion of at least 4 approved 3-credit courses that focus on infants, toddlers, and/or families. Additionally, at least 300 hours of practicum or work experience with young children (under the age of 5) is required and documented on a résumé. Additional experience with infants, toddlers, and/or families is preferred.

Once the permanent Speech Language Pathology license is issued, the Program Director will need to submit a tracking form with a copy of the license. The date of hire remains the same. The staff will then be reclassified in the DPH personnel database as an SLP.

The Department is aware of the challenges programs are facing in hiring a qualified, diverse staff to meet the needs of children and families enrolled in programs. In response to that challenge, we have allowed the opportunity for staff to be provisionally certified as Developmental Specialists while continuing to meet the highest level of qualifications for individual disciplines. The Department is also aware of the recommendations from the ICC Standards committee to revise the language for the Speech Language Pathology – Clinical Fellow, and will have further discussions after the recommendations have been presented to the ICC Steering Committee in May.



Data Manager Updates



New EIIS Client Application Upgrade

DPH, and more specifically, Linda Mosesso, would like to THANK all of the EI program directors and EIIS data support personnel for the FABULOUS job they did assisting in downloading and installing the new EIIS application version. Everything went extremely smoothly and all 60 EI programs were upgraded with the new EIIS in 12 days. Thank you all for your cooperation and help in meeting a critical deadline for DPH, as some of our major systems and functionalities with the management of incoming data, went through a major transition.

New EIIS Client Application Upgrade, Part II

One addition to EIIS that was not stated in any other previous correspondence was an update that occurred in all of the text fields. There are certain characters or keystrokes (e.g., hitting the Enter key in order to create a new paragraph) that cause problems in your database. Therefore, the following will happen when, for example, the EIIS person is entering information under the "Reason for Referral" question:

- A comma will change to a colon
- A double quote will change to a single quote
- Hitting the Enter key will not create a new line

Please pass this information along to your EIIS support person so that their data entry in the many EIIS text fields will go smoothly. And again, THANK YOU all!



EITC Update



CEID Update

CEID 2017 was officially launched on April 3, 2017. The March 2017 webinar highlighted the details of the process and the 2 entries. Additional information can be found on the EITC website at www.eitrainingcenter.org/certification/certification-for-ei-directors. All forms are electronic and can be downloaded and saved to be able to keep your work as you go. The DPH would like to thank the directors who took part in the pilot program: Deirdre Shea-Morrissey, Colleen O'Brien, Heather Biedrzycki, Judith Hahn, Lauren Meatty, Kelly Brennan and to those who attended the pilot of our Leadership Day: Mary Bishop, Janine Davey, Denise Spencer, Robin Jones, Lee King, Arlene Tannenbaum, Marie Peirent. Congratulations to these first recipients of the 2017 CEID!

If you have any questions regarding the process, please e-mail susan.grossman@state.ma.us.



Specialty Services Updates

Home Modification Loan

At a recent Autism Commission Meeting, a presentation was made by Susan Gillam, Project Manager for the Home Modification Loan Program (HMLP).

The HMLP, a program of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, was established by the Massachusetts Legislature to assist homeowners and small landlords to fund the necessary changes to keep disabled or elderly family members in their own homes and communities.

For example, the program has funded ramps and lifts, kitchen and bathroom modifications, hand rails, brighter lighting, the widening of doorways, and floor renovations. These simple modifications can be the difference between keeping a

disabled or elderly family member at home as opposed to relocating the individual to a long-term health care facility. Homeowners who are income-eligible may borrow up to \$30,000 (inclusive of all costs) in a no or low-interest deferred payment or amortized loan.

The HMLP is not limited to assisting individuals with physical disabilities, but broadly covers the needs of individuals with Autism, such as building a sensory room in a home or fencing in the back yard for safety. If you want more information about this program click on the link below for the HMLP brochure or call Susan Gillam at 866-500-5599.

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/mrc/hmlp-brochure-2016.pdf>



Forms & Materials

Forms and materials will be posted here when there are any.

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

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