

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers
August 2016



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

August 23, 2016: DPH Webinar cancelled

September 29, 2016; 9am—4pm: ICC Retreat; Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough



Please be sure to check out Resources & Trainings:

[Understanding Child Trauma Infographic](#)

[William James College Continuing Education: Infants, Parents, and the Family: The Legacy of Dr. Gerald Stechler](#)



DPH Updates

BDI—2 Scoring Booklets

The Department has ordered the BDI-2 Scoring Booklets for programs. **All shipments to local programs have been sent. Programs should expect to receive them shortly.**

IHR Update: Children's Trust Fund Website

The Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR) wants to be sure that EI staff know about the Children's Trust Fund's site, www.onetoughjob.org. Caregivers and staff can look up resources as wide-ranging as parks, housing, services for domestic violence survivors, WIC, day care, etc. The site provides an online forum for parent discussions. There are videos, information sheets, and articles geared to children birth to six years old, broken into sections according to the child's age. The site is available in Spanish and English. Please feel free to contact Karen Gould (karen-gould@healthrecovery.org) or Karen Welling (karenwelling@healthrecovery.org) with any questions, as well as requests for training and technical assistance.

Specialty Services Updates

EI Autism Updates

Over the past few weeks, a number of changes in billing for Autism services have begun to be implemented. As information has become available, the DPH has made every effort to communicate this to the field. Along the way there have been a number of questions and concerns that we have received from both EI providers and Specialty Providers. We are communicating daily with our team at DPH as well as contacts at MassHealth and other insurers, to address concerns and answer questions, to the best of our ability, with the most up to date information we have available to us.

The DPH will be sending out frequent communications, so keep an eye on your inbox for the subject line "EI Autism Updates."

Please direct any questions or concerns to Joan Rafferty at joan.rafferty@state.ma.us.

Changes to SSP Autism Intake Policy

Among the many changes with the provision of Specialty Services for children with an ASD diagnosis, the DPH will no longer allow billing for intake visits to be conducted by SSPs, beginning October 1, 2016. Intakes that were conducted after July 1 through September 30 will be billed to DPH using the blended rate for reimbursement.

It is suggested that each EIP collaborate with their respective contracted SSPs to develop a plan to disseminate information to families regarding options for Specialty Service provision, after a child receives a diagnosis of ASD. This should not differ drastically from current program practices of notifying families of their SSP options; it would just not include a face-to-face billable visit from the SSP. Each program should decide what works best in their current model of practice and be fully implementing this by September 30. The DPH will be monitoring data the next few months to insure a smooth transition to this new practice. Please contact Joan Rafferty joan.rafferty@state.ma.us with any questions.

New from the American Academy of Pediatrics: Online Parent Resources!



Two new articles have been published by the AAP and can be found on their online parent resource www.healthychildren.org. Both articles heavily feature the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." milestone checklists.

Milestones Matter: 10 to Watch for by Age 5

Birth through age five is an exciting time to watch your child grow and learn to do many new things, like smiling, talking, walking and making friends, for the first time.

While most children meet [developmental milestones](#) around a certain age, some may take longer to reach them. If you ever have any questions about your child's development, it is always good to talk to your pediatrician. Trust your instincts—you know your child best!

The full article can be found at

www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/Pages/Milestones-Matter.aspx

It Takes a Village: Monitoring Your Child's Development

Celebrating milestones is one of the most exciting parts of being a parent! First steps, first smiles, first words—moms and dads are always eager to share. All of this sharing also creates an opportunity for others to help monitor those milestones.

For full article www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/Pages/It-Takes-a-Village-Monitoring-Your-Childs-Development.aspx

Children's Vision Massachusetts

2016 Children's Vision Massachusetts Summit will be held in Eastern and Western Massachusetts in October. To learn about this great opportunity, check out their website at www.childrensvision.preventblindness.org/2016-childrens-vision-massachusetts-summit.

2016 Jenny Pomeroy Award Recipient

On July 13, 2016, Bruce Moore, OD, Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies, New England College of Optometry, and Co-Chair of Children's Vision Massachusetts, received the Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health at the Prevent Blindness Focus on Eye Health National Summit, National Press Club in Washington, DC. Learn more or read the full article www.childrensvision.preventblindness.org/bruce-moore-od-receives-jenny-pomeroy-award-washington-dc.



EITC Updates

CEIS Portfolio Questions

Moving forward, please direct all questions regarding CEIS portfolios to Michelle Buonasaro at michelle.buonasaro@state.ma.us or (617) 624-5920.

BDI—2 Video

All EI programs are required to submit one video of the BDI-2 being administered to a child either referred to, or enrolled in, their Early Intervention program between July 1, 2016-December 31, 2016. This requirement is part of the ongoing implementation of the State Systemic Improvement plan (SSIP) to evaluate our Data Quality strand in our action plan. Each video will be reviewed by DPH staff using the Fidelity Checklist (version 2016) and written feedback will be given to each program. If programs are producing BDI-2 videos of other reasons (part of a technical assistance plan, etc.) during this time period, then that video may be used for this requirement. At this time, the BDI-2 must be administered in English for this requirement. We are investigating options for reviewing Spanish speaking videos, but do not have that resource at this time.

BDI-2 video submission instructions:

The purpose of this video is to provide feedback to the EI program in their administration of the evaluation tool (Battelle Developmental Inventory, 2nd edition). The video will focus on the examiner(s) and not the parent or child, however, it is likely, due to the nature of the activity, that the parent or child will be visible in the video. This video will be solely used for General Supervision to the EI program. This means it will be reviewed by appropriate staff at the Department of Public Health/Early Intervention and parts may be used to give feedback to the staff at your EI program. Once this process is completed, the video will be destroyed.

Instructions for videotaping for the fidelity checklist:

1. Review and Complete DPH-EITC Consent forms for ALL people who are captured on video.
 - a. Child/Family
 - b. EI providers
 - c. Other

Check off the box:

'to create a **video file or film** and use it for General Supervision of the Early Intervention Program.'

Return all consent forms to DPH

2. Videotaping guidelines:
 - a. Video tape without stopping the camera throughout the administration
 - b. The interview is part of the video (or audio).
 - c. Focus the video on the examiner not on the child
 - d. Make sure that the Interviewer is close enough to the device that he/she is heard on the video.
3. Video and consent form submission instructions: 2 options
 - a. Submit via Interchange to Noah Feldman at noah.feldman@state.ma.us: this is a secure electronic process (that was used for annual report submission) <https://ics.mass.gov/DynIC> (see attachment for instructions for use of Interchange) **NOTE**: programs have had difficulty using this method because of the size of the file.
 - b. Submit directly to DPH staff: save video on a memory stick and deliver directly to a DPH staff member. Please coordinate this process with Noah Feldman, noah.feldman@state.ma.us or (617) 624-5532.

Fidelity Checklist

Many programs have requested a copy of the fidelity checklist. The form itself has not been fully updated to reflect the '2016' changes that are mentioned above, however, the main criteria will not be changing. Here are the headings that we will be looking at for each item:

Item	Standardized Procedure used	Followed Item Instructions Interview	Followed Item Instructions Structured	Standardization Protocol Adhered to Interview	Standardization Protocol Adhered to Structured	Standardization Error Interview	Standardization Error Structured	Interview Administered with Fidelity	Structured Administered with Fidelity	Comments
SR 1										
SR 2										
SR 3										

Standardization Errors include:

- Examiner or parent cued the child
- Examiner did not use the correct verbal prompt
- Examiner did not use the correct materials
- Examiner allowed additional time or trials for the item
- Examiner did not ask one or more of the interview questions

Based on the review of videos from the past 2 fiscal years, there may be some changes to the edits that have not been finalized. More information will be shared as it is available.

The fidelity checklist will be made available to programs once finalized. Please use these criteria as a guide.

Foundations of MA EI (Part 1): Partnering with Families Throughout the IFSP Process

As announced last month, Foundations of MA EI (Part I) training is replacing Building A Community, Part I (BAC I) as one of the required workshops for new hire orientation. This training is the same content as the Embedding the Key Principles into the IFSP Process training that occurred at your program between January 2016 and June 2016. If you have staff that attended at your program, they do not need to attend Foundations of MA EI (Part 1).

Registration for Foundations of MA EI (Part 1): Partnering with Families Throughout the IFSP Process is now open on the EITC website:

www.cvent.com/EVENTS/Calendar/Calendar.aspx?cal=989eaea2-9183-43ca-9654-50e460d66645

NOTE: Prerequisites for this face-to-face workshop are 2 on-line modules:

- * History of Massachusetts Early Intervention 8.1
- * Principles and Practices of Early Intervention: Child Development 1.1;1.4

Shishmanian Grants

Mark your calendar, Shishmanian grants are coming and applications are due Friday October 14th. We have expanded the grants this year to include current EI staff enrolled in an advanced degree program or EI certificate program, as well as program directors. More information about senior practitioner and student tracks can be found in the EITC August newsletter.

The program director track is designed for full time permanent current MA Early Intervention program directors. Applicants may propose enrollment in a course, formal seminar, training, or intensive workshop focusing on expanding their knowledge and skills in business, management, or professional leadership.

The primary goal of the Program Director grants is for program directors to take advantage of professional development opportunities that will enhance their ability to provide motivational leadership or business management skills to support their program as a whole. Grants provide program directors the opportunity to enhance their administrative knowledge and expertise through professional development.

Please visit www.eitrainingcenter.org for more information and applications.

Data Manager Updates

FY2016 Annual Report and Self-Assessment



Timely Services – Which IFSPs to Enter (also sent as an email to EI providers on 8/1/16)

There have been questions from providers regarding which IFSPs to enter and which ones NOT to be entered into the Timely Services Report. The 10 children under this report were chosen because they were active before or on 7/1/2015 through at least 6/30/2016 (based on data received as of 7/10/2016). This means that they received a full year of EI services and should have at least one IFSP or IFSP Review completed during this timeframe. For clarification regarding which IFSPs to be entered into the Timely Services report we have presented some of the questions that DPH has received and the responses to these questions:

QUESTION: The instructions state that, "The children in this database may have IFSPs that occurred PRIOR to 7/1/15. Do NOT enter those IFSPs into the report. Only enter IFSPs that occurred between 7/1/15 and 6/30/16." Should we enter an IFSP Review if it occurred between 7/1/2016 and 6/30/2016 for an IFSP that was initiated prior to 7/1/2015?

DPH RESPONSE: Yes. For example, a child has an initial IFSP that was signed on 6/5/2015, an IFSP review signed on 12/1/2016 and a subsequent IFSP signed on 6/10/2016. The 12/1/2016 and the 6/10/2016 IFSPs should be entered. The 6/5/2015 IFSP should NOT be entered.

QUESTION: In the period of time for FY16, a 6 month IFSP review was done with no changes. The re-evaluation was delayed due to the parent canceling it and did not occur until July 2016. So the only information to be entered into the Timely Services report is the IFSP review...Is this correct? You do not want any other reviews or subsequent IFSPs.

DPH RESPONSE: Yes, that is correct. The one IFSP Review is all that we are requesting.

QUESTION: I have a child on this report whose last IFSP was signed on 4/1/15 which is before the time frame that we are looking for in this report (IFSP between 7/1/15 and 6/30/16). The service coordinator was not able to contact the family to complete the annual assessment until 7/6/16 and the child turned three on 7/9/16. I don't have an IFSP to enter in this time period and am wondering why this child was selected and how I should proceed.

DPH RESPONSE: The child was selected because they received a full year of services. The child should at least have had an IFSP review during this time period. If that is the only IFSP that occurred for this child then just enter the IFSP review information.

The deadline for EI providers to send their completed Annual Reports to their Regional Specialists is Friday, September 9, 2016. Please contact Michelle Conlon at (781) 774-6604 or michelle.e.conlon@state.ma.us with any further questions regarding the Timely Services report.

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

Patti.fougere@state.ma.us

617-624-5975