

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers
December 2015



Happy Holidays—On behalf of the Department of Public Health's Early Intervention Program, we wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season!



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

January 7, 2016; 11:30am—2pm: Early Childhood Outcomes/SSIP Stakeholders Meeting, Milford, MA

January 14, 2016: ICC Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

January 26, 2016; 10am—11am: Monthly webinar—Topic: Certification for Early Intervention Program Directors (CEID)

February 1, 2016: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Due Date

Resources Attached: IHR Application 2015; Growth and Nutrition Clinic Program



DPH Updates: Institute for Health and Recovery—Early Childhood Trauma Support

As noted in the October Update, the Department is again working with the Institute for Health & Recovery (IHR) to develop an application for those EI Programs interested in obtaining guidance, technical assistance and support on becoming a "trauma informed organization;" and to work on identifying a "Trauma Champion" within their organization. This project was initiated in FY15 with five programs participating. The first year served as a "pilot" providing the DPH with valuable information for moving forward again this year. Six early intervention programs will be selected to participate. **There is still time to apply, we have extended the timeline for submission. Please submit your application by December 31, 2015.**

Growth and Nutrition: Grow Clinics

I just want to share an article (attached) that went out to all local WIC staff about the Grow Clinics. If you haven't connected with your partnering agencies, why not do so today?

To find specific contacts, please visit the following links:

- Grow and Nutrition Clinics, visit: www.mass.gov/dph/growthnutrition
- WIC locations, visit www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/basic-needs/food/wic/
- EIP locations, visit www.massfamilyties.org/index.php
- Head Start, visit www.massheadstart.org/publications.php
- Community Health Centers, visit www.massleague.org

Early Intervention Partnerships Program (EIPP)—Request for Responses (RFR)

The Request for Responses (RFR) for the Early Intervention Partnerships Program (EIPP) is now posted on CommBuys. Please use the link below to view the RFR. A Bidder's conference has been scheduled for Tuesday December 15, 2015 from 1:30-3:30PM in conference room Lobby 2 at the DPH Central Office located at 250 Washington Street in Boston.

<https://www.commbuys.com/bs0/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-16-1031-BFH00-BFH03-00000006026&external=true&parentUrl=bid>

Please share this email widely with your colleagues.

IFSP Feedback Reminder

The ICC is seeking feedback on the draft IFSP document created by the ICC IFSP task force. Please follow the link to provide feedback by December 31, 2015: eiplp.org/ifsp-feedback/



Massachusetts Early Intervention Training Center

EITC Updates: Internship Support

Thank you to the nine programs who have agreed to host ten interns from three different schools. The EI training center supported ten internships this year and all ten spots have been filled!

Data Manager Updates: EIIS Upgrade

The EIIS upgrade is almost ready to be sent to programs. However, all programs must install the updated EIIS within a certain timeframe in order to enable DPH to match the new EIIS data formats with its systems at DPH. Therefore, it has been decided that implementation of the new EIIS will occur for EI programs after the holiday period, between January 12th and February 9th. Installation of the new EIIS is very simple but entails scheduling time with Linda Mosesso to assist the program. The following should occur at your program in order to get ready for the installation of the new EIIS:



- Identify the person who will be installing the new EIIS (this does not need to be an IT person)
- Make sure that the computer being used for the new EIIS has administrative rights that will enable the person to download and install the EIIS application
- DPH will be sending the new EIIS application to your program via Interchange so make sure that you are able to access Interchange with your correct user name and password
- Call or email Linda Mosesso to schedule a time to have Linda assist your program with the installation and transmission of your first database to DPH

New EIIS data forms will accompany the new EIIS. EI programs that would like to use the new EIIS forms prior to January or February will be allowed to do so. If you are interested in having the new forms sooner rather than later or have any questions about the new EIIS please contact Jean Shimer at (617) 624-5526 or jean.shimer@state.ma.us.

Modifications to EIIS

If an EIIS data manager needs to make one of the following edits it is important to call Linda Mosesso at (617) 624-5521 to assist in the update due to the fact that access to the backend of EIIS is needed:

- Client ID change
- Deletion of a Family Contact, Evaluation, IFSP, Autism, or Discharge record

There are several tables and data fields that are linked within this database and it is easy to make more, not less, problems if updates are made incorrectly and without DPH assistance. Please make sure that your EIIS data manager is aware of this guidance. Thank you.

Transition Survey System (TSS) Files

DPH is requesting that a subject line of "TSS" (and nothing else) be used when transmitting your TSS.csv file via Secure Mail. The eiis@state.ma.us mail box receives EIIS, TSS, SASID and MBD files. In order to automatically process all files by DPH's internal systems the subject line is used to identify data files.

New Request for Reimbursement Form

The Department continues to update the Request for Reimbursement process and form. The new form is a PDF that the EI program can type into, save and Secure Mail to Susan Murray (susan.murray@eohhs-sfed.state.ma.us) for each request for reimbursement. The Department will be sending the new Request for Reimbursement form to programs sometime in January.

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

Patti.fougere@state.ma.us

617-624-5975

Community Nutrition Partner Spotlight: The Growth and Nutrition Program

Massachusetts' Growth and Nutrition Program (GNP), administered through the Nutrition Division at DPH, provides specialized nutritional, medical, and behavioral therapy to eligible children to promote proper health, growth and development. GNP services are available to children, through six years of age, who live in Massachusetts, and who are experiencing delayed or slowed growth, also referred to as Failure to Thrive. Referrals to the GNP may be completed by primary care providers, hospitals, and/or community-based agencies including Early Intervention, and Early/Head Start Programs and, of course, WIC. Currently, the GNP serves approximately 1,100 infants and children throughout the Commonwealth.

The Growth and Nutrition Team is made up of a wide variety of professional staff, including physicians, psychologists, social workers, nurses, dietitians, occupational therapist and speech therapists. Families can receive a wide variety of services through the GNP, such as clinic visits, feeding groups and home visits. The GNP is built on a family-centered model of care; input from family members is an important part of the evaluation and treatment of a child's growth concerns.

This fall has been an exciting time for the GNP as the Program began a new contract cycle on October 1st; GNP locations in FY16 include Boston Children's Hospital (with a satellite site in Lawrence), Boston Medical Center (with a satellite site in Brockton and Waltham), Lowell General Hospital, UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester (with a new satellite site planned for Leominster), and a brand new program based at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield (with plans to expand to Great Barrington).

One area of focus for the upcoming year will be an increased focus on collaboration between WIC and the GNP. Working together, staff can ensure that shared families receive consistent and supportive nutrition care and that unnecessary duplication of nutrition services can be avoided. The Lowell WIC Program and the Lowell General Hospital at Saints Campus GNP have already built an excellent model for collaboration; the nutritionists from each program maintain a list of shared patients to track enrollments and discharges, food prescriptions, nutrition care plans, and other relevant information. Mutual clients/participants benefit from this collaboration because they are ensured the correct food package (which may include reduced juice quantities), consistent nutrition messaging, and reinforcement of WIC participation for good health up to age five. Both programs benefit from efforts to help the family secure appropriate services, such as Early/Head Start, SNAP, emergency food resources, and Early Intervention services, as appropriate. It's a win-win for all involved!

Children's Hospital has developed a short video that highlights their GNP services (www.childrenshospital.org/centers-and-services/growth-and-nutrition-program). Even though each clinic operates uniquely, this clip provides staff with a great overview of the GNP and will help them make an appropriate referral, when needed. Why not incorporate this into a staff meeting for all to view? Julie would love to hear your comments or questions. She can be reached at 617-624-6140 or julie.schaeffer@state.ma.us.

FY16 Trauma Integration Initiative Request Form

Name of EI Program:

Contact person:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Email:

Write 2-3 sentences about why you want to participate in this initiative and how it will enhance your program's services for children and families:

Write 2-3 sentences summarizing how supervisors in your program will use the content of the initiative to support staff in implementation of the IFSP process.

Would you be willing to present your program's experience/benefits/challenges of this process at a statewide meeting?

Yes ___ No ___

Number of: Administrators ___

Supervisors /Team Leaders ___

Professional staff members ___

Support staff members ___

Other (please specify) ___

The Executive Director of my agency and the EI Program Director will commit staff time for:

4-hour training of all staff (including support staff, maintenance, financial, anyone who has contact with children and families (and some who may not) **NOTE:** this can be done in 2 parts

Monthly meetings for staff who form Trauma Integration Team Yes ___ No ___

Signature _____ Printed Name _____

Please submit this completed application by Thursday, December 31, 2015 to:

Jean Nigro
Early Intervention Training Director
Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health - Regional Health Office
365 East St.
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Fall, 2015