

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers February 2017



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

February 28, 2017; 10am: EI Monthly Webinar: Topic—EIIS Service Pack Upgrade; SSIP Data Reports

March 2, 2017; 10am—1pm: EI Part C Public Hearing: Public Health Council Room, Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

March 9, 2017; 1pm: EI Part C Public Hearing: Immediately following the ICC meeting; Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01752



DPH Updates

IFSP Pilot

The Department is currently piloting the revised IFSP with five EIPs. The purpose of this pilot is to gather feedback on the new document, guidance materials and resources, and to identify any additional needs for support and/or training, prior to universal roll out. The IFSP Task Group developed the IFSP document to be used in its entirety in following the IFSP process, and developed a handbook to support its use. While we are aware that some programs are using some of the pages of the new document as tools to gather information from families to inform the process, it is without the use of this resource, and may not meet the intended use of the page.

Each of the pilot programs have agreed to participate in the following data collection:

- Monthly staff survey to provide feedback on the form and training materials
- Participate in a face to face facilitated discussion at the end of February/early March (to be held at the program)
- Participation in a face to face focus group at the end of the pilot

Feedback from this pilot is extremely important as it will ensure that the form and training materials meet the needs of program staff and families; ensuring a smooth transition of the revised form to the field.

Information gathered from the pilot will be shared with the IFSP Task Group. Discussion regarding any changes or modification of the form or materials will be shared with the field.

Training Opportunity: Early Signs and Symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder

On March 24, the Jewish Family & Children Service (JF&CS) is hosting an Infant-Parent Training Institute called Early Signs and Symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Waltham, MA. To learn more and to register, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/early-signs-and-symptoms-of-autism-spectrum-disorder-tickets-31723213987.

Request For Reimbursement (RFR)/Billing Waivers

A few recurring issues have been slowing down the process. To avoid having to resend requests:

- Please be sure you are sending your requests FROM Secure Mail to Susan.Grossman@eohhs-sfed.state.ma.us. They cannot be opened otherwise.
- Do not use commas when saving your file; although I love commas, as a former English major, the database does not. Please use the format given in the instructions on what to name your files.
- The requests need to match what is in your EIIS. If it is not yet in your EIIS, it will not be able to be processed. Please do not send requests without checking that it matches what is in your EIIS. This includes children who are re-referred.
- Each time a request form is opened, the director approved box defaults to unchecked. You will need to recheck that and complete the VERIFY–SAVE–SUBMIT sequence on the form, every time the form is opened, prior to attaching and sending.

Requests can take up to 2 weeks to process. Please plan accordingly. If you are waiting for a request past the 2 week time frame, and have checked that the firewall at your program has not filtered it into your junk/quarantined folder, please ask – it may be that I never received it.

Any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at susan.grossman@state.ma.us.

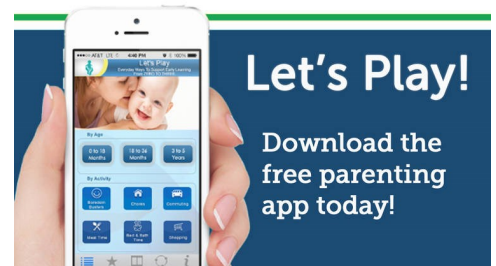
Let's Play App

There's a popular free app on ZERO TO THREE's (ZTT) website that staff and families may like. Let's Play! is a free parenting app with fun activities, organized by age and routine, for parents to use to support their young child's early learning www.zerotothree.org/resources/380-let-s-play-free-parenting-app

- Take photos to remember the moment
- Share your activities through social media
- Choose fun activities that promote early learning for your child

Search activities by age (0-18 months, 18-36 months, and 3-5 years), tag favorites, and share activities via social media. All of the activities reflect children's typical skills at each age and are designed to support development in the context of play and family routines.

Thanks to the Institute for Health & Recovery for sharing! Please feel free to contact karenwelling@healthrecovery.org or karengould@healthrecovery.org, at the IHR, for any training and technical assistance needs you or your program may have, and to get your hand-delivered (brief training included) Trauma-Informed Tip sheets.



Opportunities for Families

MEIC Parent Contact Support

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) supports one current parent from each Early Intervention Program in MA, to attend the Early Intervention (MEIC) Conference. This year, the MEIC Conference will be held on May 8 and May 9, at the Framingham Sheraton. This opportunity is offered to your Parent Contact first, if they are unavailable to attend, you may offer this to another parent from your program. Eligible parents must be current EI parents and cannot be a staff member.

Included in this parent opportunity is the following:

- * 1 or 2 day Conference Registration
- * Parent Dinner on Monday Night
- * Family Hospitality Room
- * Overnight Accommodations

Please contact the EIPLP at eiplp@live.com or 877-353-4757, for more information.

Perkins 34th Annual Early Connections Conference

Perkins School for the Blind is hosting their 34th Annual Early Connections Conference on Saturday, April 29th. This is an opportunity for parents of children birth to age 7 to connect with other families and resources. Topics will include Early Concept Development, Intro to Cortical Visual Impairment, Literacy, Mindfulness Parenting, Nature through Sound, Orientation and Mobility, Parenting Strategies, Preschool Transition and more.

Early bird registration is available until February 28. Please share this information with families in your program.

www.perkins.org/get-involved/events/early-connections

NCSEAM Family Survey—March is Family Survey Month!

DPH has received the aggregate analysis for the 2016 NCSEAM Family Survey. We are pleased to report that **4750** of 12,328 Surveys were returned which is a rate of 38.5% and represents an increase of 3% over last year.

As you know after meeting with stakeholders last year, the Family Flyer was redesigned to make it easier for families to understand. Also families were offered an additional way to return their Surveys, by giving the completed Survey in the sealed envelope to their Service Coordinator to mail for them. This new process was implemented in the October 2016 distribution, so we are not yet sure of the impact of these changes on the increased return. We will have a better sense of this after the next dissemination in March.

Here's what we learned from families responding to the Survey in 2016.

- **86%** feel that Early Intervention services help them know their rights
- **83.1%** say that Early Intervention services help them effectively communicate their children's needs
- **92.3%** feel that Early Intervention services help them to help their children develop and learn

The next Survey distribution will occur in March 2017. Please encourage families to complete and return the Survey so that we have the data needed to report on Family Outcomes and can all continue our efforts to improve the Massachusetts EI system.

Programs should have enough Surveys for the March distribution. We have some additional Surveys here at DPH, so please contact Suzanne Gottlieb at suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us, if you need more.

Your program specific reports are in the mail. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Policy & Clarifications

Policy & Clarifications will be posted here when there are any.

Data Manager Updates

EIIS Client Application Upgrade

The EIIS Client upgrade will be available for EI providers as of March 13, 2017. Linda Mosesso will be in contact with you to schedule a time for this implementation to occur at your program. The installation of the new EIIS is a VERY SIMPLE process which can be handled by program staff. Please identify the contact person ahead of time who will be responsible for the download and install of this upgrade.



It is crucial that all programs have this upgrade installed by March 31st. Please ensure that the appropriate staff members at your program are prepared for Linda's call and prioritize the upgrade process. Delays at one program have a ripple effect in getting all of the programs upgrades completed by the deadline.

A webinar will take place for program directors and EIIS data managers to review the changes on the forms and within EIIS at the EI monthly webinar on February 28th.

Requests for Reimbursements – Possible Delays

The Request for Reimbursement application used at DPH is dependent on a weekly update of EIIS client data. During the implementation of the new EIIS application DPH will be unable to update EIIS client data. As a result, this may affect a delay in response for children who have newly transferred from another EI program in need of a reimbursement request. If any concerns occur regarding this please contact Sue Grossman at susan.grossman@state.ma.us.

EIIS Data Reports

Error Reports: The Error Reports will not be generated this month. They will continue on a monthly basis starting again in March.

Child Count Report: This report was not sent to program directors in January. We are doing specific program follow-up for some of the more problematic records. The preliminary report will be sent to programs at the end of February. Programs will have two weeks to make any additions in EIIS prior to the final report being generated.

FY16 Compliancy Reports: The final Timely Services, Timely IFSPs and Transition reports will be distributed to program directors by mid-February.

Family Survey List of Children: The Family Survey report to be used by programs in next month's survey will be sent to providers by Friday, February 17, 2017.

EITC Updates

Pyramid Framework Overview On-line Module

There have been many calls made to the Training-on-Demand help desk with regard to this module. Please be sure to encourage your staff to use the instructions sent by Emily Webb on 12/14/16 when accessing the module. These instructions were created in response to the feedback received from providers, during the PIWI Cohort 2 conference call. The instructions will be sent to Cohort 3 during the sign up for PIWI trainings in the spring.

SSIP Update: BDI-2 Fidelity Feedback Reports

BDI-2 fidelity feedback reports are delayed due to a large number of missing consent forms. Julie Longpre has sent emails to those programs missing consent forms or with errors/missing information on the consent forms that were submitted. Julie has all forms that have been submitted to DPH staff.

Forms & Materials

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

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

Patti.fougere@state.ma.us

617-624-5975