

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

March 2017



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

March 28, 2017; 10am: EI Monthly Webinar: Topic—CEID Process and Updates on the Child & Family Eligibility Criteria and preliminary feedback on the IFSP Pilot

April 1, 2017: Phase 3 of the State Systemic Improvement Plan due 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



DPH Updates

SSIP Outcome Results FY17

Great news! DPH is seeing positive changes in how staff are writing high quality functional outcomes after participating in the Embedding the Key Principles into the IFSP Process Training. See the attached SSIP outcome table (page 7) that shows the state's average for FY16 (data collected prior to the training roll out) and for FY17 (data collected after all programs had completed the Mission and Key Principles training). There is an improvement in nearly every area!

Remember, the purpose of the SSIP outcome data collection is to evaluate DPH efforts related to the SSIP activities, in this case the effectiveness of The Mission and Key Principle Training on program practice. It is also to inform DPH of potential areas of support and technical assistance needed by the field. Baseline outcome data was collected from a sample of 20 programs before the trainings and was collected again after the completion of trainings at all 60 programs for FY17 data. Programs also received their FY17 individual program results from their Regional Specialist. Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work!

March is NCSEAM Family Survey Distribution Month!

We apologize for any confusion caused by the need to resend lists of children and families eligible to receive a Family Survey in March.

Remember that families complete one Survey per calendar year. Those families who receive a Survey in March 2017 will not be asked to do one in October 2017. We have plenty of Surveys in all languages at DPH. If you run short, please let Suzanne Gottlieb (suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us) know and additional Surveys will be sent out right away.

Please **do not** use Surveys from other EI programs, even programs within your Vendor Agency. Surveys are coded by specific program. When families return their Surveys in the self-addressed stamped envelopes provided, the code is read and credit for the return is assigned to the EI program linked to the code on the Survey. Any questions about this system, let us know.

Thank you for encouraging families in your program to complete and return the NCSEAM Survey. Families' responses on the Survey are how we determine our Family Outcomes percentages and help to measure how well families feel their needs are met by their EI programs.

Professional Development Opportunities

Spring Workshop on Childhood Hearing Loss & Additional Challenges

Sponsored by: Clarke Mainstream Services, a program of Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

Hosted by: CREC Soundbridge

Event: Spring Workshop on Childhood Hearing Loss and Additional Challenges

Date: Friday, April 28, 2017

Location: CREC Soundbridge, 123 Progress Drive, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Website: www.clarkeschools.org/springworkshop

Overview:

Presented by Christina Perigoe, Ph.D., CED, CCC-SLP, LSLs Cert AVT

This workshop will offer an overview of the additional challenges faced by children with hearing loss, including potential difficulties with assessment, intervention and in counseling families. It will also cover the challenges particular to cochlear implant teams. Research, references and relevant resources will be shared. The target audience is speech and language pathologists and teachers of the deaf and other professionals. Parents of children with hearing loss are also welcome to attend. **Registration begins at 8:00 am, and the workshop runs from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.**

Participants can earn six professional development hours. AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language has also approved this workshop for six CE hours. Credits from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) are pending approval.

Contact: Beth Rochon

Phone: 413.587.7313

Email: springworkshop@clarkeschools.org

Fax: 413.586.6654

Webinar Series: Engaging Families and Creating Trusting Partnerships to Improve Child and Family Outcomes

The [ECTA Center](#) is partnering with the [DaSy Center](#), Ann and Rud Turnbull, and invited guests to facilitate an interactive 4-part webinar series aimed at supporting early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) systems leaders with building capacity in personnel and families to develop trusting partnerships. This webinar series is unique in addressing the knowledge-building and technical assistance needs of both practitioners and families. The webinars are intended for:

- EI/ECSE state staff (e.g., Part C and 619 Coordinators, PD/TA staff)
- EI/ECSE family leaders
- Parent center/organization staff
- IDEA State Interagency Coordinating Council/State Advisory Panel representatives; *and*
- Other early childhood leaders and stakeholders committed to strengthening family-professional collaboration in programs that serve young children with developmental delays and disabilities, and their families.

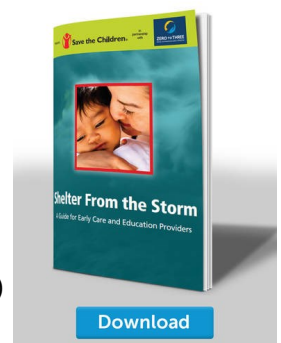
Participants are encouraged to gather with others to watch the webinars! The presenters will offer suggestions for having post-webinar group discussions.

To learn more visit ectacenter.org/~calls/2017/familyengagement.asp and to register visit https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6nxy4ZCLU49GNet

Shelter from the Storm: Resources for Early Care and Education Professionals

The Institute for Health and Recovery is eager to share a great resource co-created by Save the Children and Zero to Three. This manual provides guidance to help those caring for young children respond helpfully during a disaster, and many of the points it makes are applicable to any difficult situation. Examples are written for center-based care but the concepts can be easily applied by EI specialists. Additionally, there a nice section on self-care for providers. Visit www.zerotothree.org/resources/1662-shelter-from-the-storm-resources-for-early-care-and-education-professionals to see this resource.

As always, please contact karenwelling@healthrecovery.org or karengould@healthrecovery.org for any training and technical assistance needs, and to get your hand-delivered (training included) Trauma-Informed Tip sheets.





Policy & Clarifications

The Department of Public Health is in the process of finalizing a policy update and guidance document related to changes in the Child and Family Eligibility Factors reviewed and revised by the ICC Standards Committee. The DPH anticipates release of the policy/guidance document; finalized grid (released as "draft" as part of the September webinar materials – see email from Julie Longpre dated 9/26/16 and/or 9/28/16); and, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) embedded in the December edition of "The Update." The anticipated dates of release for these documents will be sometime during the last week of March/first week of April. There have been no substantive changes to the Child and Family Eligibility Criteria since its release in September. Programs should review this information with staff who routinely participate in eligibility determinations. The scheduled date for implementation continues to be April 15, 2017. Please be on the lookout for this email from Patti Fougere.



Data Manager Updates

New EIIS Client Application—Provider Questions Answered



1. When will the new EIIS system be up and running?

We will begin to install the new system on March 13th through March 31st. Linda Mosesso will be in contact with your program when she is ready to get your system installed. The new EIIS will be up and running immediately after the installation at your program.

2. Will we use our current EIIS forms through April 14 and then change over on April 15?

Yes, that is correct. April 15th is the begin date for when the new eligibility criteria will go into effect. Any evaluations that occurred prior to 4/15 should be on the current form.

3. Do we have to wait until April 15th before using the new EIIS installation?

No, as soon as you get the new installation you can begin using it. The new application can be used for all EIIS forms before and after the 4/15/17 effective date for the eligibility criteria.

4. Will we be expected to upgrade the new service pack right away?

Yes, the installation will not take very long and Linda will walk you through this process. You will begin using the new EIIS version right away.

5. How will the new EIIS handle both the current and the new eligibility criteria?

This is difficult to explain without viewing the EIIS screens. If you open up the EIIS Evaluation you may notice that neither the "Apgar" nor the "Lacking Food, Clothing and Shelter" questions appear. And the new "Lacking Food and Clothing" and "Homelessness" questions will be present. Once you enter a BDI-2 test date that occurs prior to 4/15/17 the new EIIS evaluation screen will look similar to what it looks like today with two exceptions: the location of the "Apgar" and "Lacking Food, Clothing and Shelter" questions will differ when compared to the EIIS forms.

6. Will the new EIIS System also be integrating the new IFSP form data?

No, the new EIIS IFSP does not have any updates based on the new universal IFSP which is in the process of being piloted.

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.



EITC Updates



Certification Tracking Form—New Version

An updated version of the Certification Tracking Form was shared on the February DPH Webinar. This form has the same content of the previous version, in a PDF format. The intent of this change is to make the form more user-friendly to complete electronically. PLEASE NOTE: the format requires the most up to date version of Adobe Reader. It is available now on the NEW EITC website along with a link to download Adobe Reader:

www.eitrainingcenter.org/certification

The process of obtaining Provisional Certification or PCAS has not changed. Please contact Susan Breen with questions at susan.breen@state.ma.us.

REMINDER: Programs must have a signed Certification Tracking Form for all EI staff (full time, part time, and hourly) providing services at your program. Staff members who work at multiple EI programs must have a signed Certification Tracking Form done by each program. The Approved Specialty Service Providers complete Certification Tracking Forms for their staff and can supply a copy to the EI program, EI programs do not have to submit forms for these individuals.

Mindfulness and Meditation Workshops

The Department of Children and Families has offered to fund Mindfulness and Meditation workshops for Early Intervention programs. There is funding to offer 12 trainings throughout the state. If you are interested in hosting one of these trainings you will be able send up to 40 of your staff. Details of the workshop are below.

Contact Noah Feldman (noah.feldman@state.ma.us) if you are interested in hosting one of these trainings for your team.

Mindfulness and Meditation: Using the Wisdom of the Body and Mind to Support Wellness and Resilience

Facilitator: Jennifer Fraser

The goal of this workshop is to raise awareness of the power of mindfulness and meditation as core inner resources that can mitigate stress in work and life and buffer against the vicarious traumatization that is so highly prevalent among professionals working on the front-lines of human services with vulnerable populations. This 1.5-hour workshop provides an engaging introduction to principles of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program (MBSR), an evidence-based health promotion program developed at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center's Stress Reduction Clinic. Participants will learn about the substantial health and wellness benefits of mindfulness and meditation and introduced to meditation practices that can help increase focus, decrease stress, and cultivate and sustain compassion towards oneself and others.

CEID—Launching April 3, 2017

Starting on April 3, all new Early Intervention Program Directors working in certified EI Programs must obtain certification through the Department of Public Health. This portfolio assessment must be completed by the end of 3 years of employment. The portfolio process consists of a combination of written responses, work samples, and attestations as well as online and face-to-face trainings.

CEID is based on Core Values & Key Principles that form the foundations of Early Intervention services in Massachusetts. These values and principles of the MA Early Intervention system have been mirrored in the competency indicators for program directors. Required competency indicators for program directors are designed to ensure that each EI Program Director practices an awareness of these values and principles.

Any Program Directors in their positions prior to 4/3/17, will be placed on one of three tracks depending on their start date. They will have up to 3 years from 4/3/17 to complete the requirements of their individualized track.

Please join the March 2017 Webinar on March 28, for more information about CEID and the different tracks. Feel free to contact Sue Grossman at susan.grossman@state.ma.us with any questions you may have.



Specialty Services Updates

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

Join colleagues on April 21 at UMass Medical School in Worcester for this day long conference that will include keynotes from co-authors of the MCHAT - Deborah Fein, PhD and Thyde Dumont-Mathieu, MD, MPH; Tere Ramos-Dunne, Esq.; Elaine Gabovitch, DPH Division Director CYSHCN.

A highlight of this year's summit will be a panel discussion featuring staff from Early Intervention, WIC, Head Start and EEC - Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Programs.

Register Early – Space is limited. \$25 includes breakfast, lunch and parking.

The registration form and agenda can be found out www.maactearly.org/.

Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children Offerings

DEC Learning Decks are professional development webinars for those who work with, or on behalf of, young children with special needs. Click on the link below for more information.

www.dec-sped.org/learning-decks

Coming on March 15th - Maximizing the Benefits of Shared Story Reading for Young Children with Autism and Developmental Disabilities

Facilitators: Veronica Fleury, PhD, BCBA-D

Registration media.wix.com/ugd/38a114_1454d96aadeb44cb91733d84a8d62cc2.pdf

Join AFAM - Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts

Annual Autism Spectrum Awareness and Acceptance Day at the State House

Boston, Great Hall of the State House, April 10th, 2017, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The annual "Autism Spectrum Awareness and Acceptance Day" at the State House invites the community to hear speakers, legislators, self advocates and more. In addition, attendees are encouraged to visit their legislators to advocate for support of legislation and funding for autism-related services. For further information, contact Judy Zacek, AFAM Administrator (781)-891-6270, ext. 102 or zacek@arcmass.org or visit afamaction.org/events.html

Hear to Learn

This user friendly learning resource is for parents and professionals to support spoken language learning for young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Website includes: Video tutorials, Downloadable intervention materials, Current Research, and Communities in English and Spanish. www.heartolearn.org

eLearning from Perkins: CVI from a Parent's Perspective

Rebecca Davis will speak directly to families and providers about the challenges, resources, science and strategy of raising a child with cortical/cerebral visual impairment on March 28 from 12—1pm (EST). Learn more

www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webinar/cvi-from-parent-perspective?utm_campaign=cvi&utm_source=webinar%20announcement&utm_medium=email



Forms & Materials

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Supporting Infants, Toddlers and Families Impacted by Caregiver Mental Health Problems, Substance Abuse, and Trauma

[A Community Action Guide](#)

[A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders](#)

[National Alliance of Children's Trust & Prevention Funds: What Parents Say About...Using the Protective Factors to Understand Substance Abuse and Recovery](#)

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

Patti.fougere@state.ma.us

617-624-5975

SSIP OUTCOME DATA - STATEWIDE AVERAGES

ROUND 1 TOTAL	Initial Outcomes: Met Criteria		Annual Outcomes: Met Criteria	
	State Baseline Avg FY16	State Round 1 Avg FY17	State Baseline Avg FY16	State Round 1 Avg FY17
The wording of the outcome is jargon-free, clear and simple	42%	82%	41%	71%
The wording of the outcome emphasizes the positive	59%	86%	62%	84%
The outcome avoids the use of passive words (e.g. tolerate, receive, improve, maintain)	52%	76%	52%	75%
The outcome is necessary and functional for the child's and family's life	68%	91%	60%	92%
The outcome is discipline-free	67%	92%	63%	90%
The outcome reflects real-life contextualized settings (e.g. not test items)	17%	35%	17%	37%
Child Outcomes: positive social-emotional skills	22%	24%	27%	31%
Child Outcomes: acquisition and use of knowledge and skills	80%	80%	81%	80%
Child Outcomes: use of appropriate behaviors	40%	40%	38%	54%
Family Outcomes: know their rights	0%	1%	0%	0%
Family Outcomes: communicate their children's needs	1%	1%	1%	1%
Family Outcomes: help children develop and learn	15%	23%	24%	20%
Number of IFSP	201	347	191	249
Number of outcomes	355	560	326	441
Percentage of outcomes linking to parent priorities/ concerns	64%	78%	57%	70%



SAVE THE DATE

*Join us for AFAM's Annual
Autism Spectrum Awareness and Acceptance Day
at the State House*

Monday, April 10th, 2017

Great Hall
And Grand Staircase
The State House
Boston, Massachusetts

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Questions - Contact:
Judy Zacek - 781-891-6270, Ext 6102
Or visit: www.afamaction.org

Come, join other families and make an impact!