

# *The UPDATE*

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers September 2015



### *Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!*

#### **October 2015: NCSEAM Family Survey Distribution Month**

##### **Transition Forums:**

October 29, 2015: Holyoke Community College, 9am—3:30pm

October 30, 2015: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, 9am—3:30pm

#### **Cancelled—September 22, 2015: DPH Monthly Webinar**



**Resources Attached:** [Baby E-Alert \(Early Head Start National Resource Center\)](#); [BDI—2 Order Form](#); [Overcoming Barriers, Empowering Families Conference flyer](#)

### **Welcome New Program Director**

Pamela Wolfe, RNC, BSN, CEIS is the new Program Director for the Thom Anne Sullivan Center. Pam has been a Registered Nurse for 27 years with experience including inpatient and outpatient pediatrics and pediatric telephone triage. She joined the Thom Anne Sullivan Center in 2008 and prior to transitioning into the role of Director on July 1, 2015, she was a Team Leader and Assistant Director. As a nurse, Pam is certified in Telephone Nursing Practice. She is also a certified as an Infant Massage Educator, Baby Yoga Instructor, Happiest Baby on The Block Educator, CPR Instructor, and Child Passenger Safety Technician. Over the past 6 months, Pam has been on the Standards Committee of the ICC and was recently elected to the MEIC board. Please join us in welcoming Pam to her new role!

### **Early Childhood Special Education Transition Forum**

The Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Public Health, and Early Education and Care have collaborated to present an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Transition Forum and networking meeting for preschool and kindergarten, Early Intervention, Head Start, and early childhood staff.

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center will provide this full-day training with a focus on effective ECSE transition practices. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss strategies to promote effective transitions for young children with disabilities and their families from Early Intervention to preschool special education and transitions across other early childhood systems. Further, participants will engage in solution orientated activities and learn from each other to support effective practice.

Participation by teams is strongly encouraged. Teams may include combinations of staff from public school districts, EI programs, Early Head Start/Head Start, and early childhood programs.

The Transition Forum will from 9:00am- 3:30pm.

Registration will begin at 8:30am

There are two sessions scheduled for this event, please only select one:

- Holyoke- Holyoke Community College, October 29, 2015
- Marlborough- Best Western Royal, Plaza Hotel, October 30, 2015

Please register each person individually.

Please plan on bringing or purchasing your lunch. For registration and additional information, please click the following link: [www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=8193](http://www.doe.mass.edu/conference/?ConferenceID=8193)

## ***DPH Updates: Implementing the Affordable Care Act in MA: Changes in Subsidized Coverage Programs***

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is releasing a new issue brief, [Implementing the Affordable Care Act in Massachusetts: Changes in Subsidized Coverage Programs](#). This issue brief, prepared by Health Management Associates, provides a comprehensive review of the changes to subsidized insurance in Massachusetts resulting from the passage of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). It analyzes the changes in eligibility, benefits, cost sharing (including premiums), and health plan options available to individuals receiving subsidized insurance in the Commonwealth before and after implementation of the ACA.

## ***Baby E-lert Article: The Hottest Baby E-lert Resources of the Year***

Check out Baby E-lert No. 24 dated August 17, 2015. Take note of their most viewed resources—ranked from 1—10. All appeared in Baby E-lerts from August 2014 to date. Great for pre-service or in-service training! The top 3 are:

[Identifying Interest-Based Everyday Activities for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers](#)

[Development of Infants and Toddlers Who Are Dual Language Learners](#)

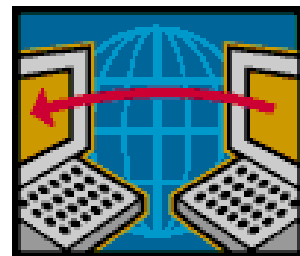
[Promoting Social-Emotional Development: Helping Infants Learn About Feelings](#)

Check out the other 7 by visiting

[hsicc.cmail1.com/t/ViewEmail/j/2036C9E218DDC2AC/491B8162AC26870544D0DD5392A9C75A](mailto:hsicc.cmail1.com/t/ViewEmail/j/2036C9E218DDC2AC/491B8162AC26870544D0DD5392A9C75A)

## ***Data Manager Updates: EIIS Upgrade***

The next EIIS upgrade will include ICD-10 codes effective for evaluations on or after October 1, 2015. This upgrade is being tested and will be available for installation by providers by the end of October. In order for this upgrade to go smoothly DPH will provide a check list of things that an EI program needs to have in place before installing the new version of EIIS.



## ***New Request for Reimbursement Form***

The Department has updated the Request for Reimbursement form to a PDF form that the EI program can type into, save and SecureMail to Susan Murray for each request for reimbursement. The request form has been tested and is almost ready to be distributed to all EI programs. The Department will be sending out the new form to programs sometime in October.

## ***Specialty Services Updates: BCBA Licensure—Changes***

A recent change in the BCBA license expiration date has come to our attention at DPH.

In a prior notification to the field, the process of applying for and obtaining a license for BCBA's and BCaBA's was outlined. Originally, according to the Division of Professional Licensure, those obtaining a license prior to October 1, 2015, would receive a license with an expiration date of December 31, 2015, and would then need to renew that license through December 31, 2017, thus having to pay the license fee of \$155 twice. Some in the field had indicated that they would postpone seeking licensure until after October 1 in order to avoid the duplicate fee.

At this time, the Allied Mental Health Board at the Division of Professional Licensure has indicated that a change has been made in this regard. Currently, licenses issued after July 31, 2015 will be valid until December 31, 2017. As previously indicated, the DPH strongly recommends eligible BCBA's and BCaBA's to obtain licensure as soon as possible to avoid any delays with reimbursement for services during this transition. The field will be informed of the deadline date for implementation of this requirement as soon as it is determined.

Any questions regarding the licensure application process should be directed to the Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions, [www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/mh/](http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/mh/)

## Eyeglasses for Children added to 2017 MA Essential Health Benefit Benchmark Plan

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted a list of the 2017 Essential Health Benefits (EHB) benchmark plans for each state to the CCIIO website [www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Data-Resources/ehb.html](http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Data-Resources/ehb.html) - a summary of the Massachusetts EHB is attached. Eyeglasses for children will be included as a MA EHB Benchmark Plan benefit beginning 2017 as highlighted on pages 1 and 3 of the Summary.



## The Division for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs (DCYSHN) is looking for your help!

The Division has received a Systems Integration Grant from the Maternal & Child Health Bureau which facilitates efforts to improve collaboration across systems of care. One focus area is the development of a standardized feedback loop documenting the outcome of referrals from the Medical Home/Pediatrician to Early Intervention programs. As a starting point, DCYSHN is interested in seeing any templates that EI programs use to "close the loop" with referring pediatricians. We would appreciate it if programs would share these forms with the DCYSHN. Thank you to programs that have already provided their materials in response to a request from a Regional Consultation Program and thanks in advance to any other programs willing to share their forms.

Please send forms to Suzanne Gottlieb at: [suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us](mailto:suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us)

## NCSEAM Family Survey Update



The next dissemination of the NCSEAM Family Survey will be in October. Surveys were shipped to all programs on August 19. Please let the Department know if you did not receive your Surveys.

The number of Surveys sent to each program was based on EIIS data through June of 2015, with an additional 10% added to that number. This is to ensure that programs will have enough Surveys for both the **October 2015** and **March 2016** distributions. Please remember that the shipment you received in August is for the entire year and put the Surveys to be used in March in a safe place. We will have a small number of additional Surveys here at DPH but rely on programs to safely store the ones they get initially.

A list of children whose families should receive a NCSEAM Survey will be sent to all programs by the third week in September. These will be families whose children have been enrolled in EI for at least **six** months who did not complete a Family Survey in March 2015. A Power point presentation and FAQs for staff explaining the rationale for administering the Survey as well as a You Tube Video for families is available on the EI Parent Leadership Project website at [www.eiplp.org](http://www.eiplp.org).

## Professional Development Opportunity

### Neuropsychology of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders: Neurotoxic Sequelae in Infants, Children and Adults

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015

Time: 11:30am MST

Presenter: Dr. James Lewis

[REGISTER HERE <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8838777532080979458>](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8838777532080979458)

This presentation differentiates "classic" Fetal Alcohol Syndrome from the more underidentified Fetal Drug and Alcohol Exposure disorders. These conditions create increased risk for "subtle" and worse neurodevelopmental disorders (in learning, attention, memory and Executive Functioning.) This Webinar focuses on applying knowledge of Clinical Neuropsychology to evaluations of brain impairment in young and older children with histories of Fetal Drug/Alcohol Exposure and on differential diagnosis of frontotemporal disorders in adolescent alcohol/substance abusers (neurotoxic effects on the physiologically immature brain.) The adult neurotoxicology component to this webinar addresses the misdiagnosis of DSM-5: Bipolar and Mood Disorders for Substance Induced Mood and Cognitive disturbances that "mimic" these other psychiatric conditions. The presentation concludes with patient education methods to enhance recovery of function in affected clients.

## Learning Objectives:

- \* Develop a basic understanding of the under identified neuropsychological consequences of fetal drug and alcohol exposure as differentiated from the predominant medical model that is limited to diagnosis only of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Overlooked conditions include "acquired" neurocognitive disorders
- \* Learn about an evaluation model that identifies neurotoxic effects on learning, attention, memory and executive function in young and older children with histories of Fetal Drug/Alcohol Disorders and differentiating frontotemporal disorders due to adolescent alcohol/substance abuse effects on the "physiologically immature" brain
- \* Understand how neuropsychological assessments of adults with alcohol and substance abuse can differentiate "overdiagnosed" Bipolar and Mood Disorders from underdiagnosed Substance Induced Mood and Cognitive disturbances. This area of focus will also include how to enhance prognosis for recovery of function.

## Presenter Biography

Dr. James Lewis is a Clinical Neuropsychologist with over 35 years of experience conducting child and adult evaluations in child abuse and neglect cases. His clinical and teaching experience includes a focus on neurotoxicology of Fetal Drug and Alcohol Exposure, impaired neuropsychological development in child and adolescent alcohol and substance abuse disorders. Dr. Lewis' continuing professional seminars also include applying neuropsychological evaluation methods to "co-occurring" mental health and alcohol/substance abuse disorders in adult caregivers. Dr. Lewis has lectured extensively on drug and alcohol related neurodevelopmental disorders, especially as applied to the Child Welfare System.

PLEASE NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, all National DEC webinar start times are listed in MOUNTAIN time. Please adjust on your calendar accordingly. See below for a conversion chart:

Pacific: 10.30am

Mountain: 11.30am

Central: 12.30pm

**Eastern: 1.30pm**



## ***EITC Updates: EI—Newborn Behavioral Observation Study***

The Brazelton Institute has received funding from the Noonan Foundation to conduct an Early Intervention-Newborn Behavioral Observation study (EI-NBO). The study is a year-long project that examines the effectiveness of an EI-NBO model of care on infant and maternal outcomes.

Project investigators have received interest in participating from some Massachusetts Early Intervention providers. They would like to confirm that those providers are still interested in participating, and would also like to open the opportunity to other programs. EI programs need participation of about 5-6 individual EI Specialists - 3 NBO trained and 3 usual care providers.

If programs have staff members who are interested in participating, but have NOT been NBO trained, there is an upcoming EI NBO training on Oct 15th and 16th. More information can be found at [www.brazelton-institute.com/cnbas.html](http://www.brazelton-institute.com/cnbas.html)

By participating in the study, EI NBO providers will receive:

- 1) 3-day advanced NBO training with study investigators from the Brazelton Institute. The cost of attending and travel to the training will be covered. This offering will be a 3 day training, scheduled in early December. More details will be available soon.
- 2) ongoing mentorship with study investigators, including onsite and offsite mentoring

For further information or to confirm your program's interest in participating, please contact Beth McManus, [bethmmcmanus@gmail.com](mailto:bethmmcmanus@gmail.com) by September 25th. In your communication you should indicate:

- 1) If your program is interested in participating;
- 2) How many providers from your program will participate;
- 3) How many have been previously NBO trained.

The Brazelton Institute is very excited about this opportunity. We hope you will consider participating.

## CEIS Process Support

Early Intervention Training Center staff wants to remind you that there is online support for applicants and supervisors working on preparing portfolio submissions for the Certification Process (CEIS).

### ***Certification for Early Intervention Specialists – 2012 How to complete a CEIS Portfolio in 3 years:***

This module summarizes the process of completing an application for certification as a Massachusetts Early Intervention Specialist. It provides an overview and suggestions for identifying supports that are available to the applicant in completing the process and also provides a time line to guide its completion in a three year time frame.

***The Role of the Supervisor in the CEIS 2012 Portfolio Process:*** This module summarizes the role of supervisors in supporting individuals during the process of completing an application for certification as a Massachusetts Early Intervention Specialist. The module will provide an overview of supervisory roles and responsibilities in assisting CEIS candidates and a time frame that can be used as a guide.

Both modules can be found at [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org). Click on calendar/registration to sign up.

## UMass Boston: BDI—2 Fidelity Study Update

UMASS has completed the coding process for the study. They have reviewed the submitted videos and are currently working on feedback for each program. They will be sending feedback as they complete each video between now and January 2016. Feedback will initially be sent to Noah in a sealed envelope and Noah will forward the sealed envelope out to the appropriate program contact. DPH staff will not see the individual program results, only the aggregate results. Feedback must come through Noah because videos were coded when submitted to UMass Boston so that they did not know the program identity.

Once you receive your feedback, please let us know if you are interested in support from the EI Training Center for on-going training or technical assistance needs.

## MA BDI—2 Ordering Materials Information

Programs can use the attached [order form](#) or view products on-line. Please indicate on the order form or notify customer service that you are from the "MA Department of Health" and include the following discount code:

**RPCCLR25PB**. You can calculate 10% from the 2015 pricing.

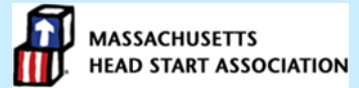
*NOTE: To order individual replacement materials from your BDI-2 kit, you must call Houghton Mifflin Harcourt customer service at 1-800-323-9540.*

## BDI—2 Examiner's Manual Typo

The table in the BDI2 manual (copyright 2005): page 183, Table B.26, personal-social self-concept/social role for 27-29 months should read 11-13.

**Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:**  
**Patti Fougere**  
**[Patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:Patti.fougere@state.ma.us)**  
**617-624-5975**

# Overcoming Barriers, Empowering Families Conference



## Save the Date! Monday, November 9th, 2015

Overcoming Barriers, Empowering Families:  
Understanding the voices of those who struggle with  
poverty

Join the Massachusetts Head Start Association for an exciting day of presentations and workshops designed to help people who work with families in poverty to understand and empower them to overcome barriers and achieve success.

Keynote Address: Dr. Donna M. Beegle is an authentic voice who speaks, writes and trains across the nation to break the iron cage of poverty. For 25 years, Donna has worked with educators, justice professionals, health care providers, social service agencies, and other organizations who want to make a difference for those living in the crisis of poverty.



**In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care/Head Start  
State Collaboration Office**

### Hours & Location

**8:30am - 4:30pm**  
**Devens Conference Center**  
31 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434

Vendor Space available-contact  
[pkuechler@massheadstart.org](mailto:pkuechler@massheadstart.org) if interested.