



The Update:

News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

June 2010

Welcome to the Summer Edition of "The Update." This is a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This issue will highlight important information about Focused Monitoring for FY 2011

Focused Monitoring FY 2011



The DPH held a Focused Monitoring (FM) Feedback Session at the May 20, 2010 ICC Meeting. The session offered an opportunity for stakeholders to share perspectives and provide input to the Department on how to improve the Focused Monitoring Process for FY 2011.

Focused Monitoring is one component of the Massachusetts Monitoring System. The DPH continues to use other data sources to monitor compliance and track improvement, such as the Annual Report/Self Assessment, Data Verification, Dispute Resolution and Local Determinations.

The FM process allows the DPH to utilize resources more efficiently and effectively by identifying Priority Areas and examining information to drill down and provide strategies and technical assistance to support the program to improve performance. The FM process has continued to evolve in the Massachusetts EI system over the last several years. The DPH would like to move away from identifying Priority Areas that are tied to program compliance and use the process and components of FM to gather information about commendable practices that will help guide the DPH in making policy decisions.

The DPH proposed the FY 2011 onsite selection be based on the following Priority Areas and Data Sources:

- Data/EIIS Issues** - Data Source – EIIS Error Report
 - Program with the highest percentage of ineligible, missing or undetermined eligibility from the EIIS Error Report
 - Program with the lowest percentage of errors.
- Clinical Judgment:** Data Source – EIIS Report on enrolled IFSP children eligible based on Clinical Judgment.
 - Program with the highest number/percentage of children enrolled based on clinical judgment
 - Program with the lowest number/percentage of children enrolled based on clinical judgment.
- Transition Practices:** Data Source – EIIS Report on children receiving services after ineligibility determination.
 - Program with the highest number of children receiving services after 21 days from ineligibility determination;

- Program with the highest number of children receiving services over 45 days from ineligibility determination
 - Program with the highest number of children receiving services less than 21 days from ineligibility determination.
- Comparison of units of service/number of clients:** Data Source – Service Delivery data.
 - Program with decrease in clients FY09 – FY10 and increase in service units
 - Program with increase in clients FY09 – FY10 and decrease in service units
 - Program with increase in clients FY09 – FY10 and increase in service units

The Department is planning to perform 10 onsite visits in FY 2011. Programs will be notified in June and onsite visits will commence in August. The onsite protocols and length of the visit will be individualized for each program based on the priority area. Discussions and interviews with Program Administrative staff prior to the onsite will help shape the onsite activities. The Focused Monitoring team consisting of DPH Regional Specialists, the Focused Monitoring Parent Coordinator and Parent Team member will work closely with the program director to discuss the reason for selection, gather information, and identify other data sources that may be helpful in formulating a hypothesis regarding the reason for the trends in the data.

“The goal of Focused Monitoring is to develop a hypothesis, drilldown by examining information in order to best provide support and provide technical assistance to a program, identify commendable practices and inform policy decisions.”

The Focused Monitoring Stakeholders Presentation from the May ICC meeting highlighting the Massachusetts Monitoring System, General Supervision, Components of the Focused Monitoring Process, Priority Areas and Data sources may be found on the on the EI Parent Leadership Project website at www.eiplp.org.

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Local Determinations



The Department of Public Health, as lead agency for Early Intervention in Massachusetts is required to make “local determinations” on program performance. In determining how well Massachusetts Early Intervention Programs meet the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Office of Special Education Programs requires that we use the most recent Annual Report data from four compliance Indicators in the State Performance Plan.

The Department of Public Health will be hosting a teleconference for Early Intervention providers to review and discuss the FY2009 Local Determinations report, Transition Report update and the Child Outcome report. This is the first year the Department is required to report local child outcomes data.

The teleconference will be held on:

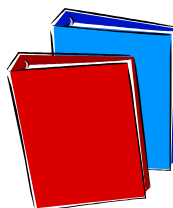
Day: Monday, June 14, 2010

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Phone #: 888-946-3504

Participant pass code: 64338

FY 10 — Annual Report/Self-Assessment



The Annual Report/Self Assessment is used for federal reporting requirements of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and is used in identifying areas of non-compliance and in making Local Determinations.

The FY 10 Annual Report/Self Assessment will be sent to EI programs by the end of June. The Annual Report/Self-

Assessment System is an Access database that will be used by EI programs for the collection of the following information:

- Program contact information
- Process/data verification
- Health & Safety affirmation
- Client timeliness of services reporting
- File Review

The deadline for the submission of the FY10 Annual Report will be September 17, 2010. Further details and instructions will be sent to program directors later this month.

Transition Survey



DPH has created a Transition Survey application to be used by your program for all LEA-referred children who have been discharged between 1/1/2010 and 6/30/2010. The Transition Survey System application replaced the Transition Survey section of the Annual Report and allows you

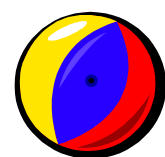
to capture transition data on children as they are discharged.

EI programs should transmit the Transition database after all transition data has been entered by **July 30, 2010** to their EI Re-

gional Specialist. Instructions regarding how to do this will be sent out at a later time. Providers should continue to enter transition data for children discharged after June 30, 2010. The DPH will send a new application to programs by the end of the month. Details will be forthcoming.

Questions about Annual Report/Self Assessment or the Transition Survey application can be addressed to Katee Duffy at (508) 984-0625 or kr.duffy@state.ma.us.

Out of Catchment — Summer Services



Early Intervention Programs are responsible for providing individualized services to families as outlined in the IFSP, and families are entitled to IFSP services provided within the community in which they are enrolled.

During the summer months many families are vacationing outside of their service/catchment area. Early Intervention Providers are not required to provide IFSP services to children and families from out of the catchment area in which they re-

side. Programs may choose to service children from out of the catchment during the summer months if they have the capacity to meet the individual need of the child and family. Consistent with current DPH policy, services provided by a secondary program would require a waiver. Programs may also share additional community resources with families in the vacationing area. If families choose to pursue services outside their catchment area they would be responsible for investigating funding sources with their insurance provider.

Comments and questions to:

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