

# The UPDATE

News and Information for MA EI providers!  
August 2014



## Important Dates:



**NOTE:** There will be **NO** DPH monthly webinar in August

**October 1, 2014 – ICC Retreat, Wachusett Inn, Westminster, MA.** The theme of the retreat will focus on a Trauma Informed Part C System.

**October 2, 2014 – EI Program Director Session, Wachusett Inn, Westminster, MA.** The session will continue the discussion of the Massachusetts EI Mission and Key Principles related to ongoing initiatives.

## General DPH Announcements:

### DPH Transportation Update:

Please keep in mind that the following MassHealth coverages **DO** include a transportation benefit:

- Standard
- Common Health
- Care Plus

The following coverage **DOES NOT** have a transportation benefit:

- Child Medical security Plan (CMSP)

Currently programs don't list the type of coverage on the Transportation Request Form, just whether the child is MassHealth eligible or not.

If MassHealth eligible programs provide additional information, such as the MassHealth ID, programs should continue to identify Standard, Common Health or Care Plus as they have been and list as MassHealth eligible.

In the past, if they saw CMSP they would also list as MassHealth eligible. They should no longer do this. They should just leave this area blank.

When a transportation request form is being initiated to send to the transportation broker, please indicate that any child with CMSP coverage is not MassHealth eligible, therefore programs should leave the area blank, and billing should be to DPH.



## **Data Manager Updates:**

### **EIIS Upgrade**

The EIIS upgrade has been implemented for almost every EI program across the state. The remaining EI programs will be receiving the upgrade soon. EI programs that have been upgraded should now be using both EIIS and their Transition System Survey application in Access 2010. DPH appreciates all of the effort and time put in by the EIIS and IT support staff at the EI programs who helped in making this upgrade go so smoothly.

### **EITC Update:**



**BAC Part I starts this month!**

Go to [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org) to check out the schedule!

**NOTE: +EITC on-line training: (#066) Using Social-Emotional Screening: Tools to Build Understanding of the Child and Foster a Connection with the Family** is NO longer a pre-requisite for BAC II. This on-line training AND the BDI-2 Overview on-line training together still fulfill competency 2.3.

**THIS CEIS Update was sent to CEIS program contacts:**

### **Clarifications to CEIS 2012 Manual**

Please see below for recent clarifications to Certification for Early Intervention Specialists, January 2012.

Please note this edition of the manual includes the following revisions:

Pg. 125: Entry 4, Work Sample #3: Facilitating Independence and Engagement with Others

The Cover Sheet and work sample must address at least one of the following:

- \* Appropriate positioning
- \* Mobility support
- \* Assistive technology

Pgs. 141 and 148: Entry 4, Work Sample #7: Use of Current Infant/Toddler Research

Your submission must include:

- 1) A completed cover sheet.
- 2) A printed first page, home page, or abstract that includes the title, date and publisher of research.
- 3) A progress note documenting how research was used by Applicant to approach or modify practice with a family.

Pgs. 151 and 163: CEC Application Information

Application Deadline	Notification of Assignment on or about
January 1	February 1
April 1	May 1
July 1	August 1
October 1	November 1

### **Specialty Services Update:**

#### **Autism Omnibus Bill approved by the Massachusetts Legislature**

The Autism Omnibus Bill unanimously passed both the House and Senate but the branches' versions differed so the bill returned to both branches in compromise form. The joint effort of The Arc and AFAM, with the leadership of Barbara L'Italien, Dir. of Government Affairs, was essential to passage of this bill in the final hours of the legislative session. The bill was a combination of the pieces of legislation filed by Representative Garrett Bradley and Senator Jennifer Flanagan in January, 2013 as a result of the work by the Governor's Autism Commission. The legislation:

- Reestablishes the Autism Commission as a permanent and autonomous entity, staff included
- Two specific areas directed to study - the long-term needs for housing and employment - in addition to the areas of study and recommendations previously covered by the commission.
- DDS will now be directed to include in its eligibility guidelines the federal definition of developmental disability for people on the autism spectrum and those with Prader-Willi. This is a significant change as it will assist many whose functional needs are not reflected by their IQ score and who are now denied access to DDS services.
- Health insurance coverage for medically necessary treatments to Mass Health recipients for ABA behavior therapy and both dedicated and non-dedicated augmentative communication devices will now be funded for those through age 21 years.
- Public school special education teachers will have the option to attain an "Autism Endorsement" certification - a concentration in autism coursework and training to be leaders within their school communities.
- A tax-free savings account will be established -- patterned after the federal ABLE ACT legislation -- to allow all disabled families to save in a 529-style plan for expenses including education, housing, and any other needed supports and services. This section will not take effect immediately due to the need for federal participation.

# Communities of Practice

## “Supporting Individualized Social Emotional Goals for Pre-School Children”

This presentation will focus on designing positive behavioral support plans for pre-school children. The training will cover the purpose of behaviors, preventive strategies that educators may use and the replacement skills a child should learn as a result. The training will review the importance of establishing a collaborative team effort across settings and with meaningful adults in the child's life that assist in the development of positive plans and goals for the child.

Participants will have an opportunity to learn, network and share based on their own experiences working with children and adults.

**Five (5) sessions** will be held **throughout the state** at a location near you!

**Please register with the identified contact person in “RED” for the meeting you wish to attend by providing us with your name, position, program and contact information.**

August 26, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 **RSVP BY: 8/15/2014**

EEC-Northeast, 360 Merrimack Street, Building 9, Third Floor, Entrance (i), Lawrence, MA 01843

**RSVP:** [s.perdomo@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:s.perdomo@massmail.state.ma.us)

**Directions:** <http://mapq.st/f2GCAG>

August 20, 2014 - 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 **RSVP BY: 8/15/2014**

EEC Western, 1441 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Springfield, MA 01103

**RSVP:** [tim.thomas@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:tim.thomas@massmail.state.ma.us)

**Directions:** <http://mapq.st/1hiDgWe>

August 18, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 **RSVP BY: 8/15/2014**

EEC - Central, 10 Austin St. Worcester, MA 01609

**RSVP:** [donna.joppas@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:donna.joppas@massmail.state.ma.us)

**Directions:** <http://mapq.st/fhNeBD>

August 21, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 **RSVP BY: 8 /15/2014**

EEC- South East & Cape, 1 Washington Street, Suite 20, Taunton, MA 02780

**RSVP:** [jill.elwell@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:jill.elwell@massmail.state.ma.us)

**Directions:** <http://mapq.st/dY9jRS>

August 19, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 **RSVP BY: 8/15/2014**

EEC - Metro Boston, 1250 Hancock Street, Suite 120-S, Quincy, MA 02169

**RSVP:** [yvonne.young@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:yvonne.young@massmail.state.ma.us)

**Directions:** <http://mapq.st/1dx64y>

*Look forward to seeing you there!*

