

The UPDATE

News and Information for MA EI providers!
September 2014



Important Dates:



Friday, September 19, 2014 – Annual Reports are DUE

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

RSVP to Darla Gundler @ darla.gundler@state.ma.us

October 2, 2014 – EI Program Director Session – POSTPONED

General DPH Announcements:

EI Program Director Session – POSTPONED

The EI Program Director Session on 10/2/14 is **postponed** until early spring. Based on the feedback from providers relative to the time commitment following the ICC Retreat and that the last Program Director Session held in June, 4 months earlier, the Department has decided to postpone the Session until March 2015. The Department will share the feedback from the June Session related to the Mission and Key Principles on an upcoming webinar.

EI RFR UPDATE:

The Community EI Contract awards have been approved by the commissioner's office and we are awaiting approval from the Secretary's Office. Information will be shared with providers as soon as it is available.

The Department will be releasing an RFR to re-procure the **Regional Consultation Program** once the EI Awards have been announced.

There are currently six RCPs throughout the state providing child specific consultation, training, respite and support.

NCSEAM Family Survey Update

Again this year, the Family Survey should be disseminated in **October 2014 and March 2015**.

Programs should have received a shipment of new Surveys around **August 15**.

Please remember that this shipment contains enough Surveys, cover flyers and self-addressed, stamped envelopes for both distribution months. We will have some additional materials available at DPH if needed.

Service Coordinators should distribute Surveys to all families whose children have been enrolled for at least six months. The expectation is that each family will complete one Survey per year. Programs will receive a

list of eligible children from DPH in **September and February**, followed by a form to be returned to DPH with actual numbers of Surveys given out. Please actively encourage families to complete the Survey and return it in the envelope provided.

The Department is pleased to let you know that we are now able to make the Family Survey available in Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Vietnamese. Those Programs who have families eligible to receive the Survey, who have indicated any of these three as their primary language will receive a supply of Surveys in the additional languages.

Tools to support Programs and families to understand the purpose of and complete the Survey are available on the Parent Leadership Project website: www.eiplp.org in the sticky note in the upper right hand corner of the page.

A You Tube video for families can be found at: <http://youtu.be/Gd5nnKOrkI0>

Any questions, please contact Suzanne Gottlieb, Director, Office of Family Initiatives at: Suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us or 617-624-5979

The FY14 Annual Report/Self-Assessment was emailed to EI program directors on 8/13/2014 via Interchange by Linda Mosesso. The deadline for completing and submitting the Annual Report/Self-Assessment to your EI Regional Specialist is Friday, September 19, 2014. The Annual Report/Self-Assessment file is too large to submit through SecureMail. Please see the instructions for submitting your Annual Report to your EI Regional Specialist via Interchange.

If you need assistance regarding any technical questions about the Annual Report or Interchange then please contact Linda Mosesso at (617) 624-5521 or linda.mosesso@state.ma.us. If you have any questions about the content of the Annual Report then please contact Michelle Conlon at (781) 774-6604 or michelle.e.conlon@state.ma.us.

Policy Clarification: Reporting Referral Data into EIIS

The following is intended to clarify procedures related to the management of personally identifiable information received from a referral source other than a parent when a child does not receive any EI service.

Part C regulations require a referral of a child potentially eligible for early intervention (34 CFR 303.303(a)(2)(1)). The referral source is not required to obtain consent or inform the parent of the disclosure of personally identifiable information for the purpose of making a referral (see: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/letters/2004-1/redact021204cfind1q2004.pdf>). The EI program, upon receipt of a referral, is responsible to make documented good faith efforts to identify, locate, evaluate, and if eligible, develop an IFSP within a 45 day timeline as part of their child find activities. An EI program must accept the referral regardless if the referral source has informed the parents that a referral has/will be made. An EI program may not defer the acceptance of a referral pending the referrals source's notification of the parents.

Once the referral has been made, the EI program has 14 days from the date of the first face-to-face meeting to enter the referral information into EIIS; if the family is never seen (parent(s) decline service,

parent(s)/child cannot be located), the information is to be entered into EIS within 30 days of the date of receiving the referral (Early Intervention Operational Standards, Section XII.E.1.). Reporting of referral information into EIS is required regardless whether or not there is any direct face-to-face contact with the child/parent. Program should utilize the "Date Deemed Inactive" as the "Last Service Date" even if no service was provided.

DPH is authorized to maintain this information under both state statute and federal regulations for purposes of systemic program evaluation and/or ensuring compliance. This information is secure and confidential, maintained in aggregate form to monitor trends in referrals, client growth/underserved populations, or for other monitoring activities.

Safe Sleep Training:

All EOHHS Home Visiting Programs must receive training on the Department's "Safe Sleep Policy" to ensure consistent messaging to families. The EI and EITC staff members have been meeting with the Child Injury Prevention staff to develop a training plan to ensure that all EIP staff members receive the training, resources and supports to share this information with families. The EITC will be recruiting trainers with experience and skills in presenting information to adult learners. Additional information will be forthcoming.

NEW EI Program Director Announcement:

April (Maloney) Haefner has been announced as the new Program Director for the Thom Boston Metro EI Program.

Data Manager Updates:

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EITC Update:



Go to 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.

On-line Training resource:

Check out this Feeding Children in Group Setting module at: <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/feeding/> which was created as a result of an HS grant in Idaho. The website includes lots of information that would be useful to any program that serves food to children. It contains information such as videotaping children while eating, creating appropriate mealtime feeding environments, appropriate language and conversation starters, and food safety. All of the information is free (and includes trainer's note, too).

Specialty Services Update:

Just a reminder: it is important to continue to use the EIP Checklist to Determine Eligibility for MassHealth Waiver for all children with ASD who are MassHealth recipients who will receive Specialty Services. The attached form is a slight revision and should replace the previous version. The original instructions are also attached.

Please contact Tracy Osbahr at tracy.osbahr.state.ma.us or 413-586-7525 if you have any questions.
Instructions for EIP CHECKLIST TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR MASSHEALTH WAIVER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD

1. Complete this form only for children enrolled in or referred to Specialty Services for Autism Spectrum Disorders who have **MassHealth coverage**.
2. Few children under the age of three are enrolled in the current **DDS Waiver Program** so the response to this question will typically be YES.

DDS will inform us when the new round of waiver recipients are accepted. DPH will notify you if any children in your program are in this group. If so, their SSP services cannot be billed to MassHealth but should be billed directly to DPH.

3. The diagnosis of **Autism Spectrum Disorder** is what all autism-related diagnoses are called in the DSM-5.
4. ABA approved programs do not include the Reach and Pediatric Development Center SSPs. Claims for services provided by these SSPs should be sent directly to DPH, not to MassHealth.

A Massachusetts Act Early article was just published in the special annual online issue below of the *Boston Parents Paper* "Your Child with Special Needs." It's entitled "Tracking Milestones: Act Early to Improve Outcomes" on page 25 and pulls info from "Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive!" and "Learn the Signs. Act Early." programs, as well as from our own Massachusetts campaign.

<http://bostonparentspaper.digitalparenthood.com/Vizion5/viewer.aspx?shareKey=QDu2if#issueID=53&pageID=1>

Resources for EI Programs:

The Institute for Health and Recovery is **currently accepting outpatient referrals** for women, including pregnant and parenting women, men, and youth ages 12 and up at our **Boston, Cambridge and Lowell offices.**

Outpatient Services

IHR is a CARF-accredited, licensed mental health and substance use clinic offering family-centered, trauma-informed, integrated treatment services. We serve communities surrounding our Boston, Cambridge and Lowell offices, including greater Boston and northeast Massachusetts.

Adult Services

- Individual, couples, and family treatment for substance use, trauma and/or mental health issues
- Recovery and wellness groups, especially for young and adult women
- Walk-in services, no appointment necessary, Tuesday 12-4 (Cambridge office only)

Specialized Pregnant and Parenting Women Services

- Substance use, trauma, and/or mental health treatment and education related to pregnancy and parenting
- Relapse prevention planning
- Parenting skill-building
- Parent-infant attachment and attunement
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders screening when appropriate
- Connection to community supports and services
- Walk-in services, no appointment necessary, Tuesday 12-4 (Cambridge office only)

Youth and Young Adult Services

- Positive, strength-based, intensive treatment for youth and young adults (ages 12-26) and their families
- Help with substance use, mental health, trauma and related legal, medical, educational, personal, family, and social problems
- Assertive case management and linkage to other supports and services
- Treatment in the home, school, or community

For more information, please contact us:

Email: outpatient@healthrecovery.org

Tel: 617-661-3991

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95 Berkeley Street, Suite 201A
Boston, MA 02116

IHR Cambridge
349 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02139

IHR Lowell
97 Central Street, Unit 207
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MassHealth and the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) have updated and released a revised brochure that describes its home- and community-based behavioral health services to children, youth and families, "**Worried about the way your child is acting or feeling?**" It provides family-friendly descriptions of the behavioral-health services available to certain MassHealth-enrolled children and youth under age 21. The brochure can help guide a conversation with parents/caregivers about available services. It includes regional contact information for Mobile Crisis Intervention, In-Home Therapy and Intensive Care Coordination providers and is available **in bulk quantities free of charge**.

The brochure is available in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Chinese. To order copies, visit www.mass.gov/masshealth/cbhi and then click on [*CBHI Brochure and Companion Guide*](#). Scroll down the page until you see the online order form. You can also call MassHealth Customer Service (1-800-841-2900) to order by phone.