

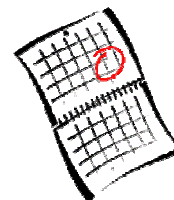
# ***The UPDATE***

## **News and Information for MA EI providers!**

**August 2013**

The Department is rolling out a new Communication Plan and format for the EI Newsletter to improve the flow of information to providers regarding upcoming initiatives, data requests, events, etc. related to the Massachusetts EI system. The intent is to streamline the information sent to programs and provide more opportunities for input on upcoming initiatives.

### **Monthly Webinars – Mark your Calendars**



The Department will be hosting monthly informational webinars for EI providers on the **fourth Tuesday of every month**, from 10 – 11am commencing in September. Topics will include updates on previous guidance/implementation activities; upcoming initiatives and activities, community resources, etc. In addition to the webinars, The EI Update will be sent out the second Tuesday of the month providing additional updates to the field on ongoing DPH initiatives, EITC, Specialty, CEID, Focused Monitoring, etc.

The first webinar will be held on **Tuesday, September 24** and will provide an overview of the changes in the EIOS. A PowerPoint presentation and a grid highlighting the changes for reference will be provided to programs along with a hard copy of the revised Operational Standards. The Department will also continue to provide the monthly list of correspondence to the field.

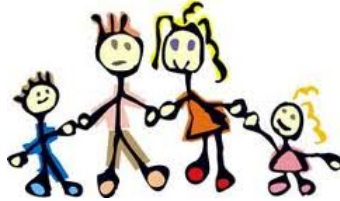


### **SAVE the DATE: EI Program Directors Meeting**

The Department will be holding an EI Program Director Training on Thursday, October 10 from 10am – 3pm at the Wachusett Inn in Westminister, MA. In addition to general DPH Updates, the agenda will provide an overview of the Massachusetts Early Intervention General Supervision/Monitoring Process and the federal Results Driven Accountability - State Systems Improvement Plan (Indicator 11). States will be required to create a dynamic plan to guide **improvement as a system** and not by discrete indicator. The State's 2015 SPP/APR submission must include a multi-year State Systemic Improvement Plan, focuses on improving results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Each program will be able to send two staff to attend the training so please share this information with appropriate staff.

## **Culturally Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Self Assessment Tool**



All Provider contracts with the Department of Public Health contain language pertaining to CLAS, and include an expectation that steps will be taken to ensure, over time, and increased level of workplace diversity, language access, and cultural-competence. All Massachusetts contracted programs will be required to complete a Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Self Assessment to help programs identify needs and develop a work plan to address the basic elements of the National CLAS Standards. The Standards were developed to help address barriers that contribute to health disparities. The Department will distribute the CLAS Self Assessment to provider in late September after the submission of the FY 13 Annual Report.

### **Training Resources/Opportunities:**

#### **Public Benefits Training:**

If you wish to host a training presentation at your agency or organization for staff, multiple agency personnel, and/or a parent group on supplemental security income (SSI), Commonwealth, Kaileigh Mulligan Home Care Program and other Public Benefits for children please contact Gail Havelick SSI/Public Benefits Training and Policy Specialist,

MA Department of Public Health at **Phone: 1-800-882-1435 or (617) 624-5961**



#### **Smoke Free Families:**

Lauren Hakala is the new Training and Policy Specialist working for the Smoke-Free Families Initiative at the Institute for Health and Recovery. She is extremely excited to be working in this role and looks forward to collaborating with Early Intervention providers..

The Institute for Health and Recovery's Smoke-Free Families Initiative supports staff and organizations in considering how to integrate secondhand smoke messages into their work with families. The scope of this project will be shifting to a focus on assessing tobacco use among behavioral health organizations' clients and staff. However, Lauren is available to provide technical assistance and consultation on the implementation of the new secondhand smoke policy requirements.

In this summer message, I would like to draw your attention to important recent news articles and research abstracts related to secondhand smoke (SHS):

### SHS-related Behavioral Health / Health Concerns for Children:

- Aggressive Behavior Linked Specifically to Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Childhood
- Smoking During Pregnancy Up Obesity and Diabetes Risk in Baby Girls

### SHS-Related Health Concerns:

- Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Aging-related Cardiac Disease
- Motivational Interviewing Intervention in Children with high risk of asthma

### Being Smoke-Free at Home and in your car:

- How Smoking at Home Reduces Property Values
- Most Americans Have Smoke-Free Rules for Home and Car

Please contact Lauren directly if you are interested in trainings or technical assistance around the topic of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure. Additionally, please do not hesitate to contact me at laurenhakala@healthrecovery.org or 617-661-3991 with questions or to partner together.

### DaSy Project



Massachusetts Part C has been chosen to be part of the federal DaSY project to support states with the development of Early Childhood Data Systems. MA will be involved in phase one which will be to develop a framework that will identify components and quality indicators for an effective early childhood data system. The framework will guide states through a self assessment of their data systems and identify areas for improvement as well as identify strategies for coordination across systems, connecting data about children across programs and over time. DPH staff involved in the development of the web-based system will be the

same ones involved in the DaSY project. The DaSY project will help MA in developing the best web-based system to support an effective early childhood data system.

### Let's Participate Project

OSEP funded: Models Promoting Young Children's Use of Assistive Technology 5 years: 2013-2019. Partners: Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Part C Early Intervention Program and the MA Dept. of Education's Part B Pre-School Program.

Research indicates "AT is effective in enhancing the development of young children when supporting meaningful participation with their family + peers." But... AT is underutilized.

### **OSEP Goal: To promote the effective use of AT by:**

- developing effective training of providers + families in the use of AT by young children
- tying AT to IFSP outcomes with child-specific AT Plans

- assisting programs in developing/coordinating AT re-use programs

In phase I of the project, Massachusetts will be piloting the Let's Participate Project with the Boston RCP and the Thom Boston EIP. Training will be provided to all the RCPs to assist in Building capacity throughout the state. Additional information about the project and training will be forthcoming.

Comments and Questions to:  
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