

# *The UPDATE*

## **News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers** **March 2015**



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

**March 12:** Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA. Comment opportunity/ listening session on the Part C application immediately following from 1:30—3:00 p.m.

**March 24:** DPH Webinar cancelled

**March 25, 10AM—3PM:** DPH Program Director Session; Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA



The goal of the Early Intervention Program Director Session is to roll out the final MA Part C Mission & Key Principles. This will provide clarity, both within and outside the early intervention community, regarding what we do, how we do it and what we hope to achieve. This session will emphasize the connection to current initiatives, including the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR), as we move forward in the development of a sustainable and effective infrastructure, to support the implementation of an evidence-based practice.

**Registration is limited to Massachusetts Early Intervention Program Directors and Supervisory staff. Each program is allowed to register two individuals to attend the training. Registration is available through the EITC at [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org)**

### **Welcome DPH New Hires**

**Joan Kelly Rafferty, OTR/L** has been working with children with special needs for over 30 years in Massachusetts, spending the past 20 years in Early Intervention both as a Service Coordinator, Program Coordinator of a Regional Consultation Program and occasional presenter with the Early Intervention Training Center. Most recently, she was the Project Coordinator of the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition and Co-Director of The Respite Project, until returning in December to Early Intervention as a Regional Specialist for DPH. Joan has presented on multiple topics to statewide, national and international audiences, with current interests in the topics of Inclusion, Challenging Behavior, Play and Respite. She is a member of the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition, Massachusetts SpecialQuest State Leadership Team, a CSEFEL trainer, and a REST Trainer.

**Liz Cox** was introduced to Early Intervention almost six years ago when her daughter started receiving services, and first joined forces with the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project while presenting workshops in conjunction with the Regional Consultation Programs at MEIC in 2012. While she continued to work with the both the RCP and the EIPLP to provide hands on workshops to parents and providers alike, she took on the role of the at-large parent representative on the ICC, and became active on the specialty services ICC subcommittee. In 2013 she attended the IDEA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC as a MA parent representative and became a parent presenter with the Early Intervention Training Center. The following year she spent six months as office staff at the Western Regional Consultation Program. Liz has recently joined the EIPLP as the Statewide Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, dedicated to helping parents make the most of their time as an EI Parent Contact. In her new role, working closely with Parent Contacts and their EI programs, Liz is hoping to help strengthen and grow the parent leader network, and its involvement within the Early Intervention system.

# Welcome New Program Directors

**Steve Matta** is the new Program Director at the **South Bay Early Intervention program in Framingham**. Steve has served as Service Coordinator with a Mental Health background for South Bay EI programs in both Brockton and Lowell, MA with more than 3 years experience serving children and families. He is currently pursuing his CEIS. He also brings more than a decade of business experience from the biotech industry. Please join us in welcoming Steve to his new role!

**Andrea Grosskurth, LICSW**, is the new Program Director for **South Bay Early Childhood's program in Lawrence**. Andrea became a social worker in 2004 and worked in a home visiting program with teen parents in Iowa. While there she became a strong advocate for teen pregnancy prevention and was part of an initiative to make all Sex Education programs in the state, required to be scientifically accurate. Andrea then worked in Connecticut in Residential Treatment for teenagers. While at that agency, she became a CARE curriculum trainer and trained over 75 staff in this trauma-focused curriculum. Andrea has now worked in Massachusetts Early Intervention since 2012. She has presented at MEIC for the last two years regarding the topics of Teen Parents and Trauma-Informed Care. Andrea has a strong interest in Perinatal Mental Health and has provided trainings to medical providers regarding Recognizing Postpartum Depression. Andrea is also a trained doula and a strong advocate for breastfeeding. Please join us in welcoming Andrea to her new role!

**Donna Jaworek's** background is in Early Childhood Education with a Masters in Educational Leadership, with several years of experience in the field working in many different capacities. Donna has worked as a teacher in the public schools as well as in private preschools, but has spent the majority of her career in Early Intervention in both PA and MA, assuming all EI roles including Director. Having spent the past 6 years pursuing an opportunity in the child care industry, Donna returns as Program Director of **Pernet Family Health Service Early Intervention in Worcester**. In addition, Donna teaches a graduate course, as an adjunct professor, at Framingham State University. She is excited about returning to the EI community, joining the team at Pernet later this month and looks forward to sharing her passion for working with the birth to three population. Please join us in welcoming Donna to her new role!

## DPH Updates: New Director Webinar Series

The DPH is excited to offer an orientation webinar series for those new to the position of Program Director as of January 1, 2014. The intent of these webinars is to provide some topic specific information (Standards, Data Entry, Billing, etc.) as well as establish a peer group for new Directors. Because these webinars target a smaller population than our monthly webinars, our goal is to have a more interactive experience with many opportunities for questions and answers.

The first session, How the Pieces Fit Together: Federal, State & Local and the Role of the Regional Specialist, was held on March 9th, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The next session will be held on **April 6, 2015** and focus on **EIIS Data Requirements and Reports**. Upcoming topics, dates & times of future sessions will be forthcoming.

## EI Program Directors Email Distribution List

Please contact your Regional Specialist with any changes/additions to the EI Program Director Distribution List. The Regional Specialist will notify the appropriate staff within the Department to ensure the information is added to the distribution list and the Constant Contact list to receive the monthly EI Newsletter.

## SpecialQuest Newsletter

The Massachusetts SpecialQuest State Leadership Team represents a broad spectrum of cross agency partnerships and parents working together to implement cross-system early childhood professional development through opportunities for the inclusion of children birth through eight. Working together to create inclusive communities for children with disabilities. Please view this quarterly newsletter with information and resources for educating early childhood professionals on Trauma Informed Care, by clicking [here](#).



Working together to create inclusive communities for children with disabilities. March 2015

Mission	Vision
To achieve and sustain a strong, integrated statewide professional development system, including families, that supports all children in reaching their full potential.	Recognizing that all children are born with possibilities, families and children will have access to high quality, child- and family-centered inclusive settings in a seamless system of coordinated supports and services.

**Trauma Informed Care**

Agencies and programs that provide services to young children and their families are becoming more and more aware of the needs and causes of trauma experienced by some children and their families.

There are many types of trauma that a family can experience:

- Individual trauma resulting from a single event, such as a natural disaster, or an act of violence that is not necessarily related to the child's development.
- Accumulated trauma as a result of repeated exposure to traumatic events, such as domestic violence, child abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence.
- Chronic trauma as a result of repeated exposure to traumatic events, such as living in a war zone, or being a victim of human trafficking.
- Inter-generational trauma as a result of trauma experienced by previous generations, such as the Holocaust, slavery, or the experience of being a refugee.

Medical trauma can be a result of a traumatic event, injury or illness.

Each person who experiences an event or trauma has their own unique response. A particular event may be experienced as traumatic for one individual and not for another. How the individual deals, adapts, and copes with the event is also influenced by their own and others' experiences.

The effect of exposure to trauma can also differ as they occur repeatedly over time. The likelihood may vary depending on the individual's personal history and coping skills. The individual may be more likely to cope with the trauma if they have a strong support system, a strong sense of self, and a strong sense of purpose.

Children who experience trauma have a higher risk of health, behavioral, and emotional problems. They may also have a higher risk of physical health and well-being.

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**NEW Video Resources for Inclusion!**

A new video has been added to California's Online Resource Access Project Video Library. Please follow the link to view the video: [http://www.californiaonline.com/online-video-library/](#). The video is titled "Early Childhood Inclusion: Supporting Inclusion from Birth to Three Years" and is located at the top of the page in the Online Resource Access Project Video Library. There are other great videos from various agencies and organizations included in the video library.

## MA Annual Injury Report

The MDPH Injury Surveillance Program is pleased to announce the release of its new MA annual injury report, "*Injuries Among Massachusetts Residents, 2011*". This report contains specific data on injuries to MA infants and children ages 0-14 years (see pg. 7). Here are a few key findings from the data:



- **Total Injuries:** In 2011, there were 29 injury deaths, 3,523 injury-related hospital stays and 131,304 injury-related Emergency Department (ED) visits among MA infants and children ages 0-14. Of the 29 injury deaths in this age group, 17 were due to unintentional injuries (59%), 6 were homicides (21%), 5 were suicides (17%) and 1 was of undetermined intent.
- **Drowning:** Drowning was the leading cause of injury death of MA children ages 0-14 in 2011. That is, of the 29 injury deaths in this age group, 9 were due to drowning. Children ages 0-14 also had the highest hospital stay and ED visit rates for near-drowning compared to other age groups, with a total of 66 such events in 2011.
- **Unintentional Falls:** Unintentional falls were the leading cause of injury-related hospital stays (n=1,215) and ED visits (n=43,052) among MA children ages 0-14 in 2011. Fortunately, no deaths from unintentional falls were reported in this age group in 2011.
- **Poisonings/overdoses:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of injury-related hospital stays among MA children ages 0-14 were poisonings/overdoses (all intents combined). In 2011, poisonings and overdoses resulted in 4 deaths, 324 hospital stays and 2,487 ED visits of MA children in this age group.
- **Motor Vehicle, Pedal Cyclist and Pedestrian Injuries:** Transportation-related accidents were also important causes of injury among MA children ages 0-14. In 2011, there were 2 deaths, 73 hospital stays and 4,340 ED visits of children in this age group due to injuries sustained as an occupant in a MV crash. Pedal cyclist injuries (MV and non-MV-related) in this age group resulted in no deaths, but 143 hospital stays and 2,941 ED visits. Pedestrian injuries (MV and non-MV-related) resulted in 1 death, 99 hospital stays and 558 ED visits of children in this age group.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury:** Rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI) were particularly high among MA children ages 0-14. One in five injury-related hospital stays (19%, 663 of 3,523) and one in ten injury-related ED visits (12%, 15,328 of 131,304) in this age group – or nearly 16,000 visits - involved a TBI.
- **Injury Prevention Resources:** The report includes a two-page section highlighting MA injury prevention activities and resources.

Link to report: [www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/injury-surveillance/injury-surveillance-report-2011.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/injury-surveillance/injury-surveillance-report-2011.pdf)

## Transportation Update

The Human Services Transportation Unit is still working out the details/final dates with MassHealth in converting the EI transportation to PT-1s.

Remember not all MassHealth eligibility categories include non-emergency transportation. The categories that do include non-emergency transportation are MassHealth Standard, CommonHealth and CarePlus. If children are covered by another category, they would not qualify for PT-1 transportation. MassHealth will be reaching out to physicians and medical providers to update them on this new requirement. The DPH will keep you updated on this transition as soon as information is available from MassHealth. I would recommend programs hold off doing outreach to pediatricians until additional information is available. Information regarding the new requirement may be found in the August 2014 Update located on the EIPLP website at [eiplp.org/documents/UPDATE-August EI Update2014.pdf](http://eiplp.org/documents/UPDATE-August EI Update2014.pdf)



## 'Strength-Based Approaches to Supporting Young Children and Families Facing Adversity' training

Supported by the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, the Department of Public Health and the Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) are partnering with nationally recognized expert trainers to provide a regional 4-part training series on "Strength-Based Approaches to Supporting Young Children and Families Facing Adversity". The series is intended for staff who are part of EEC's mixed delivery system including educators, administrators and staff who work in or provide support to early care and education settings.

Participants will gain understanding of, and learn to identify, risk factors for toxic stress in young children, the impact of trauma and stress on child development, and principles of trauma-informed practice for working with young children and families. Strategies for working with children and families to support nurturing relationships and resilience, as well as sources for support and referrals, will also be addressed. The full-day trainings are structured as a series and participants are strongly encouraged to attend each module. Registration preference will be given to those who sign up for all four trainings.

This is a replication of well-received series held across the state in 2013-2014. One participant remarked: "Dynamic trainer who gave me insight to the issues facing the children and families I work with. I have some great ideas about changes I can make in my program!"

TO REGISTER: [www.cvent.com/d/rdqxd/6T](http://www.cvent.com/d/rdqxd/6T)

Applications for CEU credits for educators, social workers and mental health counselors have been submitted. The registration page provides more detailed information about training dates, locations, content and logistics.

For questions, please contact Denise Henry at AdCare Educational Institute at [denise@adcare-educational.org](mailto:denise@adcare-educational.org)

***Specialty Services Update: Act Early*** (clickable link)



## ***Data Manager Update: Request for Reimbursement Form***

DPH has been working on improving the Request for Reimbursement form for EI providers. The new form will be a pdf document which can be updated with all request information, including comments. This new document can then be emailed to Susan Murray or Tracy Osbahr via SecureMail and a pdf document will be emailed back via SecureMail with the approval/denial and approval authorization number. DPH will be testing this document soon and is interested in any providers being willing to pilot the form and provide feedback back to the Department regarding the functionality and user friendliness of the form and process. EI providers interested in being part of the pilot can contact Jean Shimer at (617) 624-5526 or [jean.shimer@state.ma.us](mailto:jean.shimer@state.ma.us). Once pilot testing has been completed the form will be made available to all EI providers, hopefully by late spring.

**UMASS Boston BDI-2 Fidelity Study:**

Due to the significant weather conditions that we have faced in the past 2 months, the deadline for video submission for the UMASS BDI-2 Fidelity Study has been extended to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

See email dated 12/2/14 from Noah Feldman for video instructions and consent forms to participate.

DPH strongly recommends that each EI program submits at least 1 video to the study. UMASS Boston has agreed to share findings to support the on-going training needs of our MA EI system.

DPH staff will **NOT** review video submissions or receive video or program specific feedback from the researchers.

**Core Training Offering: Supporting Children’s Play  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Criterion Valley EIP, 375 Fortune Boulevard Milford, Massachusetts 01757

To register go to: [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org)

**Supervisor Training Sessions:**

Due to low enrollment, the Supervisor Training in the Southeast will be postponed until the Fall 2015.

Supervisor Trainings will be occurring in the Western and Northeastern regions. There is still room in both trainings. Please email Noah Feldman ([noah.feldman@state.ma.us](mailto:noah.feldman@state.ma.us)) to register or with any questions.

*Western region:*  
Location: May Center EIP,  
West Springfield  
Dates: Fridays: 3/13, 4/10,  
5/8 and 6/12

*Northeast region:*  
Location: Professional Center,  
Andover MA  
Dates: Mondays 3/16, 4/13,  
5/11 and 6/15

NOTE: Participants must commit to all 4 days of the training. Each day will run from 10am-3pm.

**Newborn Behavioral Observations System (NBO) Presentation:**

For more information about the Newborn Behavioral Observations System (NBO) presentation please contact:

Beth McManus: [beth.mcmanus@ucdenver.edu](mailto:beth.mcmanus@ucdenver.edu) OR Kevin Nugent: [kevin.nugent@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:kevin.nugent@childrens.harvard.edu)

Additional resources can be found at:

[www.nysecac.org/files/3514/2177/6269/WAIMH\\_properties\\_of\\_the\\_NBO.pdf](http://www.nysecac.org/files/3514/2177/6269/WAIMH_properties_of_the_NBO.pdf)

[www.brazelton-institute.com/research.html#art120](http://www.brazelton-institute.com/research.html#art120)

[drkevinnugent.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/mcmanus\\_nugent\\_provider\\_confidence\\_nbo-1.pdf](http://drkevinnugent.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/mcmanus_nugent_provider_confidence_nbo-1.pdf)

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

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