



The Update:

News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

February 2012

Welcome to the Winter Edition of "The Update." This is a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This issue highlights Public Hearings for Early Intervention Services, Certification for Early Intervention Specialist (CEIS) 2012, Data Accountability Center (DAC) Pilot, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Funds, Regional Consultation Programs Update, EITC Update, EIP/SSP Integration and NCSEAM Family Survey Update.

Public Hearings for Early Intervention Services



The Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council, held hearings on the Commonwealth's application for 26th year funding under Part C on February 6 & 9, 2012. The hearings provided an opportunity to discuss the grant application and proposed changes to policies and procedures based on the new Part C Federal Regulations.

The Department welcomes testimony regarding the changes in Child Find; Evaluation and Assessment; IFSP development; Transition; Procedural Safeguards, accessing private insurance and on any other aspects of the grant.

Written comments may be sent to the attention of Ron Benham, Director, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Early Intervention Services, 250 Washington Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108 – 4619 by March 9, 2012.

Certification for Early Intervention Specialist (CEIS) - 2012

The DPH will begin accepting portfolios in the CEIS 2012 format as of July 1, 2012. As of January 1, 2014, all portfolios must be submitted in the CEIS 2012 format.

In preparation, programs will receive 5 copies of *Certification for Early Intervention Specialists, January 2012* and a packet of related materials in late January. These materials include:

- a listing of the 2012 competency indicators, highlighting EITC workshops awarding competency indicators now required in Entry 1
- a cross-walk of 2002 and 2012 CEIS competency indicators
- Information regarding online training which will award CEIS 2012 competency indicator 1.6.

In addition to this distribution, *Certification for Early Intervention Specialists, January 2012* will be available at BAC; in a paper version from EITC; and electronically at www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention, click on link to "Early Intervention Training Center".

During Spring 2012, EITC will provide other supporting materials including online Power Points "How to Complete a CEIS Portfolio in 3 Years" and "The Role of the Supervisor in CEIS 2012."

CEC Applications

CEIS applicants who wish to convert non-EITC workshops and conferences to CEIS 2012 competency indicators may continue to do so via an application process. From January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012, approved applications will show both CEIS 2002 competency indicators and CEIS 2012 competency indicators.

After July 2012, only CEIS 2012 competency indicators will be assigned (EITC will continue to cross-walk 2002 and 2012 competency indicators at the request of individuals).

CEC application materials will be available in *Certification for Early Intervention Specialists, January 2012* and online at www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention, click on link to "Early Intervention Training Center".

CEIS 2012 at MEIC Conference

EITC certificates awarded at the May 2012 MEIC Conference will show both CEIS 2002 and CEIS 2012 competency indicators. EITC certificates in subsequent years will show only CEIS 2012 competency indicators.

CEIS 2012 Panel Review

During Winter 2012, the EITC will be recruiting Portfolio Review Panelists for the CEIS 2012. Interested parents, peers, and administrators should contact Holly Newman at Holly.Newman@state.ma.us. Panelist training will take place in Spring 2012.

Data Accountability Center (DAC) Pilot

Massachusetts has been participating in the Data Accountability Center (DAC) Data Analytic Pilot with teams from five local early intervention programs. The goal of the process is to use available data in ongoing program improvement and decision making.

The eligibility category of Clinical Judgment was selected as the priority area to be addressed through the DAC pilot. On December 13 & 14, 2011 the five early intervention program teams (consisting of administrators, program staff, and parents), DPH and DAC staff met to engage in this pro-active model. The Department provided program specific data related to the eligibility category of Clinical Judgment to allow local programs to review relevant data, conduct data analysis to generate a hypothesis, and to develop a Data Analysis Plan to collect and analyze additional data to test, hypothesize and determine a program statement.

The DAC framework for data use consists of three phases with several steps:

- Preparation Phase
 - Identify relevant data
- Inquiry Phase
 - Conduct data analysis
 - Determine root cause
- Action Phase
 - Plan for improvement
 - Implement Plan
 - Evaluate Progress



The teams will be coming together in mid-February to share progress, success, challenges, etc. Another face-to-face meeting is scheduled in late April to discuss what programs learned about their program practices related to the use of Clinical Judgment and to evaluate progress.

The Department will share information and insights learned from the DAC pilot. In addition, the DAC Framework will be shared with early intervention providers interested in implementing the model at the local program level.

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Funds

The Departments of Public Health (DPH) & Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have engaged in an Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) to support early childhood transitions through local Early Intervention (EI) Programs. Funds will be provided to EI vendors allowing for the purchase of Battelle Developmental Inventory assessment kits and other evaluation tools for service providers, to ensure the identification of children potentially eligible for Part B services. The Department will develop online training modules for the early childhood community (i.e. public pre-school, Head Start, early education and care settings staff) to address the im-

pact of disabilities on development, and provide training opportunities to providers on the administration of the BDI this spring.

The provision of an additional community based child group to support the needs of children "potentially eligible" for Part B services, is also being made available from March 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. Application to apply for funding to support the additional child group for up to 2.5 hours per week must be submitted by **February 15, 2012** to the attention of Patti Fougere, Assistant Director Early Childhood Programs, MA DPH, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Regional Consultation Programs Update

The DPH has allocated funds to the Regional Consultation Programs (RCPs) for Respite and Family support. Each RCP will receive \$50,000 to be used to support families of children with extensive medical/health needs or multiple disabilities. Children eligible for respite/family support must meet the RCP criteria, have complex medical/health needs and be enrolled in a community based certified Early Intervention Program. It is our hope that the Department will be able to continue to support respite/family support beyond the current fiscal year but cannot commit to future years at this time. Please start informing families enrolled in



your programs of this valuable resource.

In addition, the DPH will be allocating funds to the Regional Consultation Programs to support EI programs in their provision of services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate. For example, funds could be used for foreign language translation services or to provide an incentive to attract staff who speak a foreign language. RCPs may pass these funds along directly to the EI Programs or request an invoice to support the expenditure. Individual agency allocations will be distributed to RCPs shortly.

Early Intervention Training Center Update

Mentorships are available through the EITC to programs/regions to support staff in implementing and developing best practice techniques in utilizing the Battelle Developmental Inventory – 2.

- ◆ Mentorships are available beginning in January 2012
- ◆ Eight hours of mentorship are available per program
- ◆ Programs pooling resources will be eligible for more mentorship hours



- ◆ Mentors are available to provide training, technical assistance, shadowing, coaching and ongoing support to individual staff and/or evaluation teams

If you are interested in applying for a mentorship, please contact Jean Nigro at 978-851-7261, ext. 4041 or jean.nigro@state.ma.us :

Jean Nigro
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Regional Health Office
365 East St.
Tewksbury, MA 01876

EIP/SSP Integration

The Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have formally notified the Department of the approval of the demonstration waiver which will allow MassHealth coverage, for intensive behavioral services, for children on the autism spectrum in the Early Intervention system. The proposed integration of EIP and Specialty Services for ASD will proceed. Additional clarification of the terms and conditions of the waiver will be forthcoming and will assist in crafting the policies and procedures that will be required to meet the federal accountability requirements.

By July 1, 2012 all systems will be in place for Early Intervention Programs to contract directly with Specialty Service Programs for children with ASD. Planning for this process has been underway for quite some time and will be rolled out as soon as the federal specifications are finally clarified. The Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium has collaborated with DPH in setting up a Task Force to help guide this process. It is our intention to ensure that the transition is seamless for children and families.

NCSEAM Family Survey Update

March 2012 is the next Family Survey distribution month. Based on input from stakeholders in our community, we have changed the Family Survey, reducing the number of questions from 53 to 28. Hopefully fewer questions and a reformatted Survey will address literacy issues and make it easier for families to complete and return the Survey.

Programs will be receiving a shipment of new Surveys for the March dissemination between February 15-17, 2012. Please remember that initially—on this first distribution, Programs will be required to take apart the packets received last fall and remake them including: the new version of the Survey; Family Informational Flyer; and, self-addressed, postage paid envelope. A shipment of pre-made packets containing the new Survey will be sent to all Programs in August, for distribution in Octo-



ber 2012 and March 2013.

Survey dissemination remains the same. Families complete **one** Survey per year. Surveys should be distributed to families whose children have been enrolled in EI for at least **six** months who did not complete a Survey last October 2011. Programs will receive a list of eligible children from DPH during the week of February 13, 2012.

Please explain the changes to the NCSEAM Family Survey to Service Coordinators and relevant staff, ask them to distribute Surveys to eligible families and encourage families to complete and return the Surveys. With your support, we hope to see an even greater return in calendar year 2012.

In addition, individual Program reports are ready and will be sent out early next week.

Comments and questions to:
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