

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers January 2016



Happy New Year!

Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

January 14, 2016: ICC Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

January 21, 2016; 10am—12pm: NAS Task Group Meeting, Criterion Valley EIP

January 26, 2016; 10am—11am: Monthly webinar—Topic: Certification for Early Intervention Program Directors (CEID)

February 1, 2016: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report Due to OSEP

February 26, 2016; 10am—12pm: Public Hearing, Part C 30th Year Application, Public Health Council Room, 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA

**March 10, 2016: ICC Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA
Opportunity for Public Comment on Part C Application following ICC Meeting**



Farewell, Dorrine!

Dorrine Sneed, EI Regional Specialist retired on January 4, 2016 after 25 years with the Department and 40 years working in state service. Dorrine started her career working at a Community Clinical Nursery School/DMH & DMR as Institutional Teacher. The CCNS were phased out when 766 rolled out and Dorrine transferred to a local Early Intervention Program. In 1997, Dorrine joined DPH as Western Regional Specialist where she advocated and supported located programs in the West to ensure their voices were heard. Over the years, Dorrine saw many changes in the EI system and contributed to the overall policy decisions to enhance services to meet the needs of children and families of the system.

A reception is being held for Dorrine on Thursday, January 14, 2016 immediately following the ICC at 1pm. Please join us in wishing her well in the next chapter of her life.

Coverage for Dorrine's Programs should be addressed to Patti Fougere at patti.fougere@state.ma.us. I will be triaging the calls to other DPH regional team members until the position is filled.

Welcome New Program Directors

On January 19th, 2016 **Barbara (Barb) Sanna-Collins, OTR** will become the new Program *Director for the Brockton Early Childhood Intervention Program (BECIP)*. Barb has worked as an occupational therapist in the Early Intervention at BECIP for about 30 years. She has been the Clinical Director at the program for the last 15 years. In this role she has participated in both DPH Directors trainings and MEIC Director Meetings. At BECIP she led the OT/PT team, was in charge of staff training, and created a number of short term specialty groups for children and families including yoga, sensory and feeding. For the past 5 years Barb has been teaching a class in early intervention for the OT program at Tufts University. Please join us in welcoming Barb to her new role!

Brittany Leduc, Developmental Specialist, is the new *Program Director for the South Bay Early Childhood Program in Brockton*. Brittany's background is in Child Development and Family Studies. She joined South Bay team in 2012 and has served in the roles of Early Intervention specialist and Supervisor. Brittany has been an active leader on the South Bay Early Childhood management team participating in many company initiatives, in the community, in facilitating parent groups at local shelters, providing direct care services, and effectively collaborating with community providers. She is currently studying the Spanish language. Congratulations to Brittany in her new role!

DPH Updates

Out of Catchment Services—Reminder

Programs may enroll children from out of catchment, when they have the capacity to meet the individual needs of the child and family in the home or other community setting. In addition, programs must continue to inform families, in writing, of the program that serves the town in which they reside. EIPs are responsible for providing individualized services to families as outlined in the IFSP. Occasionally this means that services may be provided outside of the service area of the program. Programs are encouraged to consider requests for out of catchment services on an individualized basis.



Families should be kept informed of their rights as well as the accepted standards established by DPH in terms of catchment area. The Department is not obligated to support out of catchment transportation. However, individual requests to the vendor and/or transportation unit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your Regional Specialist if you need any additional information.

Strategies for Collaboration:

- ***It can be challenging*** when a child who resides in your catchment area is in full time child care, outside of the catchment area. Families are challenged to balance employment with the needs of their child. EI providers are challenged by the obligation to ensure the timely provision of IFSP services.

An eligible child is entitled to the IFSP services—to meet the measurable outcomes and results identified in the IFSP. Ultimately, the program which serves the community in which the child resides, is responsible to provide IFSP services. While Part C regulations note exceptions for the timely completion of an evaluation/assessment, the regulations do not provide examples or exemption for not providing services to an eligible child. Programs are responsible for providing services within the catchment area. However, a child is “available” to access EI services even if they are out of the catchment area – their eligibility and entitlement to service is not affected by where they spend their day.

- ***The call you receive today may be the call you place tomorrow.*** While you are not obligated to assume responsibility for IFSP services for a child enrolled in another program, you may be able to provide alternative resources.
- ***Collaborate and communicate.*** Within each region, there is typically at least one program which has several child care providers in the area. An open conversation with the leadership at other programs (who in turn, may choose to have an open dialogue with staff within their programs) may identify a staff person available to meet the needs of the child.
- ***Share Responsibilities.*** Programs should determine a plan for service coordination and communication, particularly as transition approaches. The program responsible for providing a service may:
 - ⇒ need to strategize with families for short term solutions, as services outside the catchment area are arranged
 - ⇒ continue to provide service coordination either through direct (face-to-face) or indirect (telephone) contact
 - ⇒ allow the program providing ongoing IFSP services to assume all responsibilities for service coordination (family would enroll as “out of catchment”) and become the provider as the child readies for transition as long as it would meet everyone’s needs.

Screening Guidance

The Part C Federal Regulations include the provision of screening as a post-referral activity. This was designed for states with high referral rates not meeting the 45 day timeline from referral to IFSP meeting.

DPH does not include screening procedures in the MA EI Operational Standards. DPH does allow for an initial home visit coded as an Intake to share and gather information from families regarding eligibility.

Community outreach (NOT screening) is an allowable activity under "Child Find/Public Awareness." This can include EI staff visiting an early education and care program, describing resources, and educating the early education and care staff on the referral process. It should not include the administration of a screening tool with the potential to "screen-out" potentially eligible children.

If you have any questions related to screening, please contact your Regional Specialist.

EITC Updates



Safe Sleep Trainings: 6-month Follow-up Evaluation

As part of the Safe Sleep training initiative, we are required by EOHHS to have staff complete a follow-up survey at least 6-month post-training. This survey can be sent to all staff at your program. There is a question on the survey asking if the person participated in the Safe Sleep training.

The survey is anonymous and results will be analyzed by a third party outside of the Department of Public Health.

Please forward the following link to all of you staff and advise them to complete the survey.

https://bostonu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1ApD2qdDf7J3pg9

BDI-2 Practice

EITC staff would love to participate on BDI-2 assessments or evaluations at your program. We have limited opportunity to keep up our clinical skills using the tool and would appreciate time to administer the BDI-2 to kids in realistic settings. If we were to participate, we would be part of your evaluation team and families would be informed of our role through the PWN and consent for evaluation/assessment form. DPH/EITC staff are not billable staff for your program. We would be happy to combine this opportunity with training for your staff.

Please contact Noah Feldman if you would be interested in having us join some evaluations or assessments.

EI—Newborn Behavioral Observation Study: "Supporting Parents of NewBORns" Newborn Behavioral Observation System

The Brazelton Institute has received funding from the Noonan Foundation to conduct an Early Intervention-Newborn Behavioral Observation study (EI-NBO).

The goal of this project is to see how the NBO can improve 1) parents' ability to read and respond to their baby's cues, 2) parent-infant interaction, 3) infants' early self-regulatory skills and 4) infants' later social-emotional development.

The Institute is seeking experienced EI providers who frequently work with families of high-risk newborns to be involved in this project!!

Participants will:

- Become certified in the NBO and receive advanced training in early self-regulatory difficulties, feeding, sleeping, and crying
 - The Level II NBO training will be held Feb 26th and 27th, 2016
- Receive ongoing mentorship from faculty from the Brazelton Institute
- Gain experience working with researchers from Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School

The Institute is seeking EI providers who can commit to working with them from February through August 2016.

Additional information will be shared during the DPH Webinar on January 26, 2016

Data Manager Updates

EIIS Upgrade

The EIIS upgrade is almost ready to be sent to programs. The new EIIS forms and a letter will be sent to program directors with instructions regarding how to get ready for the new EIIS installation. If you have any questions about the EIIS upgrade please contact Jean Shimer at (617) 624-5526 or jean.shimer@state.ma.us.



New Request for Reimbursement Form

The Department continues to update the Request for Reimbursement process. The new Request for Reimbursement form is a PDF that the EI program can type into, save and Secure Mail to Susan Murray for each request for reimbursement. The Department will be sending the new Request for Reimbursement form to programs sometime in January.

Transition—Handling an “Almost Late EI Referral”

In order to meet the 90-day compliancy timeframe EI programs should make sure that transition is discussed as soon as possible with families considered to be an “almost late EI referral.” An “almost late EI referral” is a referral where the IFSP is signed when the child is between 30 and 32 months of age. As you know, a late referral, an automatic justified reason for late transition, is a child referred or having an IFSP at the age of 33 months or greater. Transition discussions should occur quickly for an “almost late EI referral” and their transition information entered into the TSS data system and transmitted to DPH as soon as possible. If you have any questions about transition please contact your EI Regional Specialist.

Specialty Services Updates

ICC Specialty Service Provider Committee

The ICC Specialty Service Provider committee is meeting on Thursday, January 21 at 10:30am in Natick. The committee is actively recruiting members to include parents of children receiving specialty services (vision, hearing, autism, complex needs) and program staff (Early Intervention and Specialty) working with children having a diagnosis of ASD. This committee meets the third Thursday of every other month. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Joan Rafferty (joan.rafferty@state.ma.us) to be added to the distribution list.

Caregiver Support Resources

Did you know...

“Across the nation, thousands of families who are supporting loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities are in crisis. They do not receive enough financial support to meet the needs of their loved one in their home without significant hardship. They need our increased support. This crisis affects many of the eighteen thousand families in Massachusetts who support their loved ones at home. They are struggling to meet the needs of their loved ones, with tremendous investments of their family resources. They help their family member with daily needs and assist them in self-care; for some this is a 24/7 routine and a life-long role. This work comes at a substantial personal cost. Many of these family caregivers are not adequately assisted. These caregivers are the foundation of long term care for our most vulnerable. As a result, they can experience a diminished quality of life and restricted job choices, which creates stress, financial and otherwise. Businesses experience decreased productivity from caregivers and this costs in the tens of millions of dollars annually. The amount is even higher when loss of family income is included.”

This summary statement was taken from www.supportingfamilies.org, a collaboration of The Arc of Massachusetts, Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Developmental Disability Council.

Currently in our state, the Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition (MLRC) has been addressing the needs of family caregivers through a variety of innovative programs and resources.

- The January meeting included a presentation from Gwen Morgan, author of the “What if... Workbook,” an easy and convenient tool to help family caregivers prepare for the unexpected www.whatifworkbook.com.
- In addition to offerings of information and resources on the MLRC website, www.massrespite.org, coalition members are taking advantage of technology to reach out to families who are often isolated geographically or by virtue of their extensive caregiving duties.

- A “technology pilot” is currently underway with an emerging program that has created a non-traditional, “uber-like” app that helps consumers find a respite provider. A cable TV program has been launched, *Caring for Others, Caring for Ourselves*, that is filmed monthly in Belmont before a live audience. One upcoming topic will highlight Autism resources in MA.
- A recent project with EMC, a central Massachusetts information technology company and employer of 70,000 people worldwide, involved collaboration with their Disability Employee Resource Group - *Open to all EMC employees, this community provides a support network and knowledge base for EMC employees with disabilities or family members with special needs*. A caregiver needs survey was piloted, sent out to 25,000 employees. Once results are tabulated, the MLRC will collaborate with EMC to determine how to best support caregivers in the workplace. The MLRC is seeking to expand this to other employers in MA.
- A “Caregiver Night” series is being launched. Topics will include Millennial caregivers, Male caregivers and “Autism Eats” - *Providing autism-friendly non-judgmental environments for family dining, socializing and connecting with others who share similar joys and challenges* www.autismeats.org.
- Finally, a Respite Summit is scheduled for June 7 in Marlborough and will feature a presentation by Jill Kagan, Program Director, ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center www.archrespite.org. Save the Date!

For more information, events, trainings, projects and resources visit the MLRC website!

Save the Date Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel- 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough



A statewide summit for agencies delivering respite services in Massachusetts.

Organized by Massachusetts Lifespan Respite Coalition
Special guest Jill Kagan, Director, ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center



www.MassRespite.org

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

Patti.fougere@state.ma.us

617-624-5975

Spring 2016 online Workshop Series

on

Teaching Children with Hearing Loss to Listen and Talk

- ***Learn** the science of teaching children with hearing loss to listen and talk. (Birth thru' Early Elementary)
- ***Learn** techniques that you can use to enhance the spoken language part of your program (even when your program is not auditory-verbal, (i.e. not a listening-only, spoken language development program)
- ***Learn** practical strategies that you can put to use from day one!
- ***Learn** by watching and analyzing video clips of actual therapy performed by an expert with 34 years of experience!
- ***Earn** ASHA and/or LSLs CEUs; or use the professional development hours to satisfy your other continuing education requirements.

Workshop	Description	When
The BASICS	<i>Learn the basic principles, concepts, and techniques to get you going right away!</i>	Wednesday, March 2, 2016 10 AM - 5 PM Eastern Time
GETTING STARTED	<i>So the child's got his hearing aids/ Cochlear Implant and is ready to go! Now what?</i>	Tuesday, March 29, 2016 11 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern
AUDITORY ACTIVITIES	<i>How to plan a session, translating your goals into fun, auditory activities; see them in action!</i>	Thursday, March 31, 2016 11 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern
Developing SPEECH through AUDITION	<i>Using Listening and Speech Hierarchy, help your kids achieve intelligible spoken language</i>	Tuesday, April 5, 2016 11 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern
COCHLEAR IMPLANTS	<i>How do you work with a child with cochlear implants? What's different?</i>	Thursday, April 7, 2016 11 AM - 3:30 PM Eastern
WORKING WITH BABIES	<i>Working with Infants and toddlers (0-3) with hearing loss and their parents; a hard-to-find workshop!</i>	Wednesday, April 13, 2016 10 AM - 5 PM Eastern

Whether you work with Infants and Toddlers (0-3), Pre-Schoolers (3-5), or Early Elementary (5-8); and whether you work in a therapy, classroom or home-visit setting, you will find the basic concepts and techniques taught in this workshop applicable in your day-to-day work.

Please note that Smart Ears online workshops are **LIVE, INTERACTIVE** workshops, not recorded, text-based webinars!

Here are the benefits of Smart-Ears online workshops

1. Convenient—participate from home/school; no extra days lost in travel
2. Inexpensive—these live, full- and half-day workshops are cheaper than many recorded webinars!
3. Comprehensive—detailed, step-by-step instruction with plenty of video clips!
4. Practical—Start using the techniques from the very next day!

FOR MORE INFO ON ALL OUR WORKSHOPS & TO REGISTER, GO TO

<http://smart-ears.com/workshops.html>