

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

December 2017



On behalf of the Department of Public Health's Early Intervention Team—we wish you and your families a peaceful and joyous holiday season! Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and efforts in supporting young children and families throughout Massachusetts.

Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

CANCELLED December 26, 2017: Monthly EI Webinar

January 11, 2018: Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Marlborough, MA



DPH Updates

High Quality IFSP Outcome Development Resources



As you are aware, DPH Regional Specialists have been going out to programs this fall/winter to collect and rate IFSP outcome data as part of the evaluation for the MA State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Programs have asked if the DPH Outcome Data Collection Sheet could be made available as a resource that could be used by programs with staff and during supervision. A folder has been created by DPH on the Early Intervention Training Center (EITC) website. Visit the Resources tab, and click on DPH Resources for MA Early Intervention Programs (files on Dropbox). There you will find a file called High Quality IFSP Outcomes; when you open it you will find the DPH FY18 Outcome Data Collection Sheet, as well

as a copy of the ECTA created placemat that includes the criteria defining high quality, participation-based, IFSP outcomes. In addition, there is a Grab & Go (online training module) called High Quality IFSP Outcomes available on the EITC website, under the Professional Development/Training Materials tab. It contains activities and resources on writing high quality IFSP outcome development that can be used for staff training.

PIWI Cohort 1: Follow-up Survey Coming!

The PIWI Cohort 1 programs will be receiving the 'post-test' for the PIWI implementation. This survey link will be sent to Program Directors via email. Please ensure that your staff have access to the link and that they complete the post-test. Thank you for your support.

EI Web-based System (EIIS/EIFS) Update

Thank you for your responses to the EDI-Readiness Questionnaire. We have compiled the responses and will be following up with Agency contacts regarding the data collected. This simple questionnaire has greatly supported our preparation for the Web-based System (EIIS/EIFS).



Forms & Materials

DPH Dropbox www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7gZ3fa?dl=0

MA Clearing House www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse



EITC Update

Foundations Attendance Reminder

As many of you know many of the upcoming Foundations of MA EI trainings are either full or filling up fast. If staff members are scheduled and unable to attend, please make sure that Laura Guida (laura@adcare-educational.org) is notified as soon as possible. This will allow people on the waitlist to be offered a spot. We will continue to monitor registration and waitlists to evaluate if additional spring trainings need to be offered.

Communities of Practice (COP): Skills for Having Difficult Conversations

Please check out our newest COP opportunity. This COP will be offered in five regional locations beginning in January and is being facilitated by Karen Welling, Early Childhood Trauma Specialist at the Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR). We will examine what caregivers bring to these conversations and will share, learn and practice various approaches and specific language for broaching difficult conversations. Motivational Interviewing will inform some of the activities in this COP. Please register at www.eitrainingcenter.org/professional-development.



Specialty Services Update

Contact Lists Complete!

Thank you to all the EI Program Directors for identifying a contact person from each program for Autism, Hearing Loss and Vision Loss. With the distribution lists complete, programs can receive targeted information regarding any new forms or requirements, events for families, trainings for staff and information needed by the DPH specific to a low incidence population.

Please feel free to reach out to Joan Rafferty (joan.rafferty@state.ma.us) with any concerns or questions or to highlight best practice happening out in the field!

SSP Autism Referral Process Webinar

On Tuesday, December 12 at 3:30pm, a webinar will be held to review the SSP Autism Referral Process. Materials will be sent out prior to the webinar and all Program Directors and Autism Contacts for EIPs have been invited to register. The webinar will be recorded and made available for any staff member who is unable to attend or needs a refresher in the future.

Starting Points for Service Coordinators

The ICC SSP Committee completed Starting Points for Service Coordinator documents for the following low incidence groups: Autism, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vision Loss, Medically Complex. The Committee's priority was to make the documents as user-friendly as possible, keeping them to one page and using the same format on each. The Committee plans to continue working along this line and will be developing a Transition document for each group; with completion planned for the spring. Starting Points' documents can be accessed from the Dropbox link in the MA Early Intervention folder, on the EI Training Center website, by clicking on the Specialty Service Provider folder.



Policy & Clarifications

Policies and clarifications will be posted here if there are any.



Data Manager Update

Data Manager Update/s will be posted here if there are any.



Resources

Self-paced, Online, Free Introduction to Trauma Training

This training is designed to support individual and organizational efforts to provide trauma informed care. While this training was developed specifically for substance use disorder treatment professionals, anyone who wants to know more about the relationship between trauma and substance use disorders may benefit from it. To register or learn more, events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1295768585/en/events/event/shared/default_template/event_landing.html?sco-id=1582778806

Zika Information and Update

Due to recent weather events devastating Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, families from these areas are, and will continue to, move temporarily or permanently from these regions into Massachusetts. Because both Puerto Rico and the US Virgin islands were substantially affected by the Zika epidemic over the last couple of years, this means that we will probably have pregnant women that need to be tested for evidence of Zika virus infection during their pregnancy and infants that may have been impacted by congenital Zika virus infection. It is critical that we work together to make sure that pregnant women and infants receive appropriate testing, that families with affected infants get connected to the necessary support services and that women with laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy and infants with evidence of congenital Zika virus syndrome be reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) for enrollment in the US Zika Pregnancy Registry.

Please contact the MDPH's Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at our 24/7 number 617-983-6800 for testing requests, questions and to report pregnant women and infants. Families with congenitally affected infants can be referred to the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) Community Support Line at 1-800-882-1435 which provides information, technical assistance, and resources for families with children/youth with special health needs and providers. The toll-free line is staffed by Resource Specialists with knowledge of public programs and other programs for which families may be eligible.

In addition, CDC has released updated recommendations for clinical evaluation of infants born to women with laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection during pregnancy and women with possible exposure to Zika virus during pregnancy. That guidance is attached and can also be found on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6641a1.htm?s_cid=mm6641a1_w

MA: Hurricane Maria Evacuees and Local Provider Resources

Please find the [attached resource guide](#) that the Commonwealth has developed to inform Hurricane Maria evacuees and local providers as to possible resources that may be available to them.

Institute for Health & Recovery (IHR)—Parents Helping Parents

Do your parents need someone to talk to?

FREE - CONFIDENTIAL - ANONYMOUS

We empower parents to nurture children and build stronger families

Parental Stress Line:
24/7
Trained Volunteer Counselors
1-800-632-8188

Parent Support Groups:
Facilitated Parent Meetings
Mutual Support Model
Weekly and Ongoing

We would like to support you with our FREE materials.
Simply fill out the request form on our website -
www.parentshelpingparents.org

Parents Helping Parents 
of Massachusetts

IHR would like to remind you of a tried and true resource for the inevitable stresses of parenting.

Parents Helping Parents
108 Water Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-926-5008
Website: www.parentshelpingparents.org

As always, please contact karenwelling@healthrecovery.org or karengould@healthrecovery.org for any training and technical assistance needs, and to get your hand-delivered (brief training included) Trauma-Informed Tip sheets.



Events

Events will be posted here when there are any.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:
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