

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

April 2018



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

April 2, 2018: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) submitted to OSEP

April 24, 2018; 10am—11am: Monthly EI Webinar—Summary of the SSIP Report

Communities of Practice: Skills for Having Difficult Conversations

(Presented by the Institute for Health & Recovery, to register visit www.eitrainingcenter.org)

April 27, 2018 in Milford

May 23, 2018 in Northampton



June 14, 2018: ICC Meeting: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Marlborough, MA

*Please note this EI Update is not available on the EIPLP website at this time.



Welcome

Roxanne Hoke-Chandler, Statewide Family Engagement and Collaboration Coordinator

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) is happy to welcome **Roxanne Hoke-Chandler** to our team as the **Statewide Family Engagement and Collaboration Coordinator**. Roxanne brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this newly created position. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Lesley University. Roxanne previously served as the Director of Family Engagement at the Federation for Children with Special Needs, where she conducted workshops for families and professional development for educators on parents' rights and options, and on promoting family engagement in their children's education. Roxanne's passion is in serving hard to reach and under-served populations. Along with speaking at forums on childcare, literacy, health care disparities, and parents' rights for children with special needs, she has worked as adjunct faculty at UMass Boston in its Early Education and Care in Inclusive Settings program. Roxanne's greatest passion, however, is being a mother to her two daughters. Roxanne will be reaching out to EI programs to develop a plan with each of you to support your efforts to engage families in meaningful ways.

Laura Crosby, Early Intervention (EI) Regional Specialist

Laura Crosby has joined the Department of Public Health's EI Regional Team as a **Regional Specialist**. She received her Bachelor's degree in Special Education with a concentration in Communication Disorders; and, completed the Northeastern University Early Intervention Certificate Program. She has had extensive experience working in early childhood and the MA Early Intervention System. Laura has worked as a Service Coordinator, Clinical Team Leader and Assistant Program Director; in the MA EI system for over 17 years. Her work has included being a member of the Master Cadre trainers for the Parent's Interacting with Infants (PIWI), the evidence based practice being implemented at local programs, as well as the Foundations Trainings. She has provided support at the local program level in implementing DPH priorities related to BDI-2 fidelity, IFSP roll out and the PIWI implementation. Laura has strong organizational, interpersonal and communication skills which are strong assets she brings to her new role. Please see the attached list of the EI Regional Specialist Assignments.

Please join the Department in welcoming both Roxanne and Laura.

DPH Updates

ICC Needs Your Help!

The Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is a federally mandated statewide inter-agency group that advises and assists the Department of Public Health on Early Intervention. The ICC is comprised of parents, professionals and providers. Members of this dynamic group include representatives of state agencies (Department of Early Education and Care, Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Department of Developmental Services, and others), higher education, one State legislator, one medical professional, EI providers, early childhood service providers, as well as parents. Staff from the Department of Public Health attends ICC Meetings on a regular basis. It is important that voices from all of these perspectives are shared and valued.

Are you interested in participating in this dynamic group as the ICC Co-Chair or member of a committee? Do you want to enhance your leadership skills? Please consider this wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively with other early childhood providers in the development of a community based system of care that maximizes opportunities for all children and families.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity to be a Co-Chair, or committee member, or need additional information please reach out to patti.fougere@state.ma.us.

NCSEAM Family Survey Update

The first NCSEAM Family Surveys distribution for 2018 was in March. Please ask staff to remind families who received a Survey to complete and return it in the envelope provided. And remember to return your distribution results form to Linda Mosesso by Friday, April 13.

Calling All Parent Contacts: The MEIC Conference is Almost Here

DPH, through the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP), sponsors a parent from each EI program to attend the MEIC Conference. If your Parent Contact is not able to attend, the opportunity can be offered to another parent from your program. Please contact Liz Cox at liz.cox@state.ma.us or 877-353-4757 to get them registered. Registration through the EIPLP includes conference registration, hotel accommodations for Monday night, lunch on both days, (if they are attending both days), the Parent Dinner Monday evening, and breakfast Tuesday morning. We need the following information to process their registration:

- Would they like to attend one day, or both?
- Their workshop selections (they must choose a full schedule each day they are attending). Please note that due to capacity being reached, the following workshops are no longer available A3, A6, B2, B4, C1, D1, D4, E5, E6, M1, M2, M4, T1, T3
- Would they like to spend the night?
- Would they like to attend the Parent Dinner on Monday night?
- Their complete contact information, including phone number, mailing address and email (if applicable)

The conference brochure can be viewed here <https://meiconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Conference-Brochure-1.pdf>. Workshops are filling up very quickly, so the sooner we get their information, the better. If you have any questions regarding registration, please direct them to Liz. Some Parent Contacts have already registered themselves. Liz has been letting programs know if their Parent Contact has registered. Feel free to check with her if you aren't sure if your Parent Contact has registered.

EIPLP Contact Information

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Forms & Materials

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

MA Clearing House www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse



EITC Update

Required Trainings for New Staff

There have been a number of questions about required trainings for new staff since the CEIS suspension was announced on the March Webinar. There have been no changes made to requirements for training.

All staff, new to the field of Early Intervention in Massachusetts, working 20 hours per week or more in a Massachusetts EI program, are required to attend and participate in the orientation training offered by the Department of Public Health's Early Intervention Training Center. It is strongly recommended that all staff new to the Massachusetts system, regardless of number of hours per week, participate in this training by the end of their first year of employment (MA EI Operational Standards, p. 19 and Welcome Letter sent to EI Specialists following Provisional Certification).

Foundations of Massachusetts Early Intervention (MA EI) is the orientation program sponsored by the Early Intervention Training Center and is required for new providers working in MA Early Intervention. This training offers an opportunity for participants to share ideas with facilitators and other participants, and actively practice using and applying their knowledge via case study, as well as small and large group discussions.

Included in orientation at this time:

1. Foundations of MA EI: Partnering with families throughout the IFSP process - PART 1

Pre-requisites for MA EI I:

- History of Massachusetts Early Intervention (on-line module)
- Principles and Practices of Early Intervention: Child Development (on-line module)

2. Foundations of MA EI: Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI)

Pre-requisites for MA EI II:

- Foundations of Massachusetts Early Intervention Part I: Partnering with families throughout the IFSP process
- Overview of the Pyramid Model Framework (on-line module)

CEIS Suspension

Reminder: DPH will be suspending the CEIS portfolio process as of September 30, 2018. Portfolios will be accepted up until that date. All portfolios that have been received already or that are received moving forward prior to September 30, 2018 will be reviewed using the current process.

Applicants who have not reached their CEIS Portfolio Submission due date have the OPTION of submitting a portfolio under the current process OR waiting to apply for FULL Certification status when a new process is announced.

NOTE: The new process will be developed during the suspension period. There will be no consequence to Provisionally Certified EI Specialists if they choose to wait to submit under the new process.

Portfolio materials received past identified deadlines (either for portfolio due dates or in follow-up communications), will not be reviewed under the current process and those applicants will have to wait for the new process to apply for FULL Certification.

NEW INFORMATION: We are waiting for follow-up materials to be submitted on a number of Portfolios that were received prior to the announcement of the CEIS suspension. Many of the deadlines for materials have passed. All outstanding materials for these applicants must be received by May 1, 2018 to continue in the current review process.



Specialty Services Update

ICD 10 Code Changes for Vision Loss

There are currently 8 conditions identified regarding vision loss on the MA DPH Early Intervention DIAGNOSED CONDITIONS LIST (Effective: October 1, 2015), each with the corresponding ICD 10 Diagnosis Code listed. All 8 conditions remain valid ICD-10 for diagnoses purposes but, beginning October 1, 2017, four of those codes, listed below, have been eliminated for reimbursement purposes, and replaced with more specific codes and descriptions for each condition.

- H54.0 Blindness, both eyes
- H54.2 Low vision, both eyes
- H54.51 Low vision, right eye, normal vision left eye
- H54.52 Low vision, left eye, normal vision right eye

Should you enroll a child whose diagnosis includes one of these conditions, you must use one of the updated ICD 10 codes for billing, or the insurance company will reject any claims. The new codes are quite specific (for example - *H54.2X12-Low vision right eye category 1, low vision left eye category 2*) with the category determined by visual acuity numbers. Brenda Allair from Perkins School for the Blind was consulted to help explain.

*"This information *might* be in an eye report, not likely. Parents *might* know the difference in their child's eye acuity, but it's unlikely."* So what should EI providers do?

Contact the diagnosing physician to determine what ICD 10 code was assigned to this child's condition. If a child coming to EI is already working with Perkins, staff there may be able to help make this determination.

If an insurer is rejecting services based on what you know to be an established condition, check the ICD 10 codes to make sure you are submitting valid codes for reimbursement. For more information, refer to the following link and select "Changes" on the website header: <http://www.icd10data.com/ICD10CM/Codes>

The EIIS Client data system will not be updated to include the more specific codes until the next upgrade occurs.

1, 2, 3, Grow!! TV Series Coming to Cable TV!



The cable TV series, 1, 2, 3...Grow!, is wrapping up the editing process and will be ready for viewing on Boston Neighborhood Network TV starting in May! Filmed in 7 languages and highlighting 8 cultures, the shows were developed to help families understand the importance of early developmental screening and what to do if they have concerns. Each show includes a discussion between the host and physician, video clips of developmental milestones and a parent story that highlights barriers specific to that culture - Haitian, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Arabic, African-American, English. Materials translated into the various languages will be made available along with a contact phone number accessible for all. A broad distribution plan is in place – look for more information to come with tips on how to bring shows to your local cable TV station, watch on YouTube and more!!

For a sneak peek – visit the EI Dropbox, click on Specialty Service Providers folder, and click on 1,2,3, Grow! Trailer! OR click here: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAB7bxJeMKDsDL8qmhf5Vtn1a/Specialty%20Service%20Providers?dl=0&preview=1%2C+2%2C+3%2C+Grow! Trailer FINAL 3.20.18.mp4](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAB7bxJeMKDsDL8qmhf5Vtn1a/Specialty%20Service%20Providers?dl=0&preview=1%2C+2%2C+3%2C+Grow!%20Trailer%20FINAL%203.20.18.mp4)



Data Manager Update

Discharging Children Receiving Autism Specialty Services

Children should not be discharged from EIIS until all IFSP services have ended; this includes Specialty Services for autism. Oftentimes children continue to receive autism services until their third birth date. When a child is discharged prematurely, SSP autism services are suspended at DPH because the EIIS Last Date of Service occurs before the on-going SSP services.



TSS Timeliness

REMINDER: Programs have two weeks to enter the data into the TSS following the LEA referral and then TSS data should be transmitted to DPH the day it is entered. DPH has been analyzing data around the TSS and is finding that the average for data entry is 14 days and 5 days for transmission.

A delay in data submission to DPH directly impacts the state's LEA Referral percentage that is reported federally.

Please review your process for entering and sending TSS data.

FY17 Service Delivery Support Documentation Submission

All FY17 support documentation based on charges submitted to DPH through March 12th must be sent to Steve McCourt via SecureMail by Tuesday, May 1st. Do not send support documentation unless you are able to verify the pended status on your most recent DPH remittance file. And do NOT re-send material that has been submitted previously. DPH has spent an inordinate amount of time on provider's support documentation for charges that either were never submitted to DPH or were approved and paid on an earlier review of support documentation sent.



Resources

A New Website for Pregnant and Parenting Women with Substance Use Disorder

The Department of Public Health recently launched an online resource for pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorder, the [Journey Project](#). This website emphasizes the importance of peer-to-peer support for women seeking and maintaining treatment and recovery before and after delivery. For more information on the Commonwealth's response to the opioid epidemic as well as links to the latest data. Visit www.mass.gov/opioidresponse. To get help for a substance use disorder, visit www.helpline.org, or call the Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline at 800-327-5050.

Institute for Health & Recovery (IHR)—Presenting at MEIC: Caring for Substance-Exposed Newborns

IHR is presenting at the MEIC Conference! Please join us at the MEIC conference on Tuesday, May 8 from 8:45am—12:45pm. They will be presenting, *Caring for Substance-Exposed Newborns: Providers, Peer Mentors, and Families Working Together with a Trauma-Informed Approach*.

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.

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Development Resource Guide

This guide contains more than 100 trainings offered by 20 agencies for cross-systems professionals working with infants, young children, and their families. Please check out their flyer [here](#), or download for free at www.ecmhatters.org/ForProfessionals/Pages/IECMHProfessionalDevelopment.aspx



Events

Upcoming Conferences & Opportunities

[The Women Recover! Conference](#), April 11, 2018, 8:45 am - 4:00 pm, Sheraton by Four Points, Norwood

[The Dr. T. Berry Brazelton Symposium and 100th Birthday Celebration](#), April 23, 2018, Newton

MA Act Early Spring Summit, April 20, 2018, North Eastham, MA

Responding to requests from the field to make trainings more accessible, the MA Act Early State Leadership Team will host the Spring 2018 Summit on April 20 in North Eastham, MA. This full day training conference for early childhood providers will include learning about the extensive inventory of CDC Act Early materials and resources, hearing about current research, viewing the Watch Me Grow! Modules and networking with colleagues.

Breakout sessions will include sharing difficult information with families, implementing developmental surveillance, accessing community resources and communicating with other stakeholders.

This is a **FREE** conference day that includes a light breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon snacks, certificate of attendance, and materials.

Registration form attached. Coming soon - MA Act Early Fall Summit –Western MA – Fall 2018!

STAND UP! Against Sexual Violence, luncheon and panel discussion, **April 25, 2018**, Hotel 1620, Plymouth

Early Connections Conference—Perkins School for the Blind, April 28, 2018, Watertown

Join us at the Early Connections Conference! We invite parents and professionals throughout New England to network, share ideas and strategies for helping children with visual impairments from birth to age 7. For the past 35 years this unique conference has fostered communities and offered a wealth of resources for families like yours.

Activities and childcare will be provided by counselors who will be assigned according to each child's age, disability and special considerations.

Questions? Please call Teri Turgeon at 617-972-7331 or email Teri.Turgeon@Perkins.org.

The Early Connections Conference will be held in Watertown on Perkins' campus. Perkins will provide free child care and lunch for attendees.

6th Annual Pyramid Summit—Registration Open—April 30, 2018, Devens, MA

Join us on Monday, April 30, for this year's Pyramid Summit – *Building the Pyramid Together* - at a new location – The Devens Common Center, Devens, MA. The day will include discussions on building skill, opportunities to connect with practitioners pursuing the Pyramid Model in your region, poster presentations on programs using the Pyramid Model, and break-out sessions on a variety of capacity-building topics across settings. Rob Corso, Executive Director of the Pyramid Model Consortium, will be the keynote speaker. \$35 includes lunch and CEUs (check registration site for specifics).

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2018-sixth-annual-ma-pyramid-model-partnership-summit-534-/event-summary-0a2976e7194243d7a983419424e318b4.aspx>

UMass Medical Center: Conversations between Practitioners and Researchers Series: Meeting the Needs of Children in the Opioid Epidemic, May 3, 2018, Shrewsbury Campus

Pyramid Model Learning Community Regional Meetings, Spring 2018 Schedule

The Spring 2018 schedule for the Regional Pyramid Model Learning Community (PMLC) meetings has just been released.

*Is your program using the Pyramid Model to support children and families? Join us as we explore Pyramid Model resources, share lessons learned, and connect with a variety of community programs. Look for the best location for you: *Click on the link below the Regional Pyramid Model Learning Community you wish to attend, click the 'Register' button on the page to RSVP for this **free** opportunity* Registration form attached.*

Zero to Three Annual Conference 2018, October 3-5, 2018, Denver, Colorado



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

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