

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

March 2018



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

**March 27, 2018; 10am—11am: Monthly Webinar:** CEIS Process

**Communities of Practice: Skills for Having Difficult Conversations**

(Presented by the Institute for Health & Recovery, to register visit [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org))

**March 20, 2018** in Taunton

**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.



### DPH Updates

#### State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) - IFSP High Quality Outcome FY18 State Results

Please find the [grid here](#) showing the state's FY16 baseline, FY17 and this year's FY18 **IFSP Outcome results**. This information was gathered when Regional Specialists visited programs in the fall and winter to review 10 files. They collected outcomes written on individual IFSPs and rated them on the 6 criteria of high quality outcomes. Programs then received a report from their Regional Specialist on their individual results for both FY17 and FY18, so they could see how they have progressed with their outcome writing.

For the second year in a row, we have shown improvements as a system in writing high quality outcomes! The improvement have ranged from 1%- 14% across the 6 criteria. Thank you for all the work that you and your programs have done this past year to prioritize this initiative; including training and supporting staff to write high quality outcomes. We are pleased to see the progress we have made as a state.

Resources are available on the Early Intervention Training Center website to continue to support programs and the development of high quality outcomes. There are "Grab and Go's" on both Functional Assessment, as well as High Quality Outcomes, articles and other support materials and activities that programs can use with their staff.

We appreciate all of your efforts to support this SSIP initiative improving the quality of practice in our Massachusetts EI system!

#### Round 2 IFSP Outcomes improved over Baseline & FY17

ROUND 2 STATEWIDE AVG	Initial Outcomes: Met Criteria			Annual Outcomes: Met Criteria			Program FY17 (Initial & Annual Outcomes)	Program FY18 (Initial & Annual Outcomes)	Diff. between FY18 and FY17 (Initial & Annual Outcomes)
	State Baseline Avg FY16	Statewide Round 1 Avg FY17	Statewide Round 2 Avg FY18	State Baseline Avg FY16	Statewide Round 1 Avg FY17	Statewide Round 2 Avg FY18			
The wording of the outcome is jargon-free, clear and simple	42%	82%	89%	41%	71%	86%	77%	88%	11%
The wording of the outcome emphasizes the positive	59%	86%	88%	62%	84%	84%	85%	86%	1%
The outcome avoids the use of passive words (e.g. tolerate, receive, improve, maintain)	52%	76%	85%	52%	75%	83%	75%	84%	9%
The outcome is necessary and functional for the child's and family's life	68%	91%	96%	60%	92%	97%	91%	96%	5%
The outcome is discipline-free	67%	92%	97%	63%	90%	97%	91%	97%	6%
The outcome reflects real-life contextualized settings (e.g. not test items)	37%	35%	47%	17%	37%	52%	36%	50%	14%
Percentage of outcomes meeting all 6 criteria	-	-	40%	-	-	41%	-	40%	-
Percentage of outcomes linking to parent priorities/ concerns	64%	78%	79%	57%	70%	78%	74%	78%	4%
Number of IFSP	201	347	311	191	249	289	596	600	
Number of outcomes	355	560	531	326	441	548	1001	1079	

Source: MA Early Intervention, IFSP Outcomes Database, February 2018

## Electronic IFSP Form (eIFSP)

The Electronic IFSP is now available in the Dropbox on the EITC website (under Resources > Dropbox > IFSP). A number of programs have shared that they have had difficulty downloading the eIFSP from the Dropbox. Here are three tips that you may find helpful.

Tip #1: To open and use the form you are required to have Adobe Acrobat reader version 9 or higher on your computer.

Tip#2: Trouble downloading the form? When you open the Electronic IFSP folder in Dropbox you will see the eIFSP and the instructions. When you click on the eIFSP January 2018.pdf, a screen will show saying "Please Wait" – this is a screenshot and not an active screen that is attempting to download. In order to download this or anything in the Dropbox, please click on the download button in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

Tip #3: A reminder to download, review and follow the instructions carefully to ensure that the document saves and may be used properly.

If you try these tips and are still having trouble accessing the eIFSP in Dropbox, please reach out to your local agency IT for assistance.

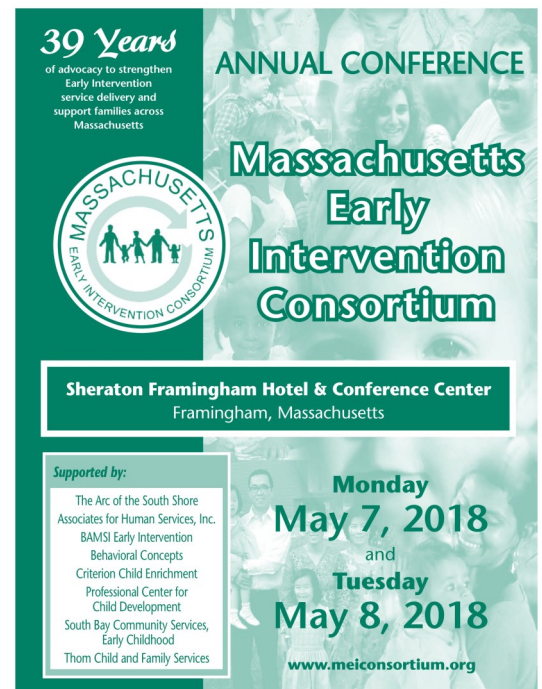
## MEIC 2018 Conference

All Parent Contacts have been sent a registration packet with a conference brochure, registration form, hotel room and conference attendance coupons (to be filled out and returned to the EIPLP), as well as detailed instructions on how to register for the MEIC conference. Parents can register by mailing their forms to the EIPLP or emailing the EIPLP ([eiplp@live.com](mailto:eiplp@live.com)) the necessary information.

If you need to send us your Parent Contact (or other parent, if your Parent Contact is unable to attend) registration, the EIPLP will need the following information:

- Parent name, address, telephone number and email address (if available)
- Workshop selections
- Will they need overnight accommodations?
- Will they be attending the Parent Dinner on Monday night?

Once the EIPLP receives this information, they will process the registration online through the MEIC Registration website. A confirmation email will be sent to the family (if an email address is provided) and a packet with a hard copy of the conference registration, and additional information from the EIPLP, will be mailed out.



The poster for the MEIC 2018 Annual Conference features a green and white color scheme. At the top left, it says "39 Years of advocacy to strengthen Early Intervention service delivery and support families across Massachusetts". The central logo is a circular seal for the "MASSACHUSETTS EARLY INTERVENTION CONSORTIUM" with a family icon. To the right, it reads "ANNUAL CONFERENCE" and "Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium". Below this, it specifies the location: "Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, Framingham, Massachusetts". The dates are listed as "Monday May 7, 2018 and Tuesday May 8, 2018". A "Supported by:" section lists several organizations including The Arc of the South Shore, BAMS, and others. The website [www.meiconsortium.org](http://www.meiconsortium.org) is at the bottom.



## Forms & Materials

DPH Dropbox [www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89\\_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7gZ3fa?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7gZ3fa?dl=0)

MA Clearing House [www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse](http://www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse)



## EITC Update

### REMINDER

Please return your updated **Personnel Database lists** to **Susan Breen** by **Wednesday, March 14, 2018**.

## CEIS Portfolio Process Suspension

In the past 2 years, DPH/EITC has been revising priority areas to align with research-based best practices in our field. The focus of our professional development offerings has changed in content; it has become more focused on the IFSP process and our Parent Interacting with Infants (PIWI) implementation. Given these changes, it is necessary to take a closer look at our current **CEIS portfolio** process to ensure that it aligns with these priorities.

As a follow up to the email sent on February 2, 2018, 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 already been received or that are received 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 once the new process is announced.

**NOTE:** This process will be developed during the suspension. There will be no consequence to Provisionally Certified EI Specialists if they choose to wait to submit their CEIS Portfolio 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. Those applicants will have to wait for the new process to apply for **FULL Certification**.

Further details will be shared during the DPH Webinar on March 27, 2018.

## Upcoming Communities of Practice (COPs)

- On March 20<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a COP focused on having difficult conversations in Taunton. There are currently three people registered. If you have staff that would be interested in attending, please have them register to avoid cancellation of the COP opportunity.
- Are you part of PIWI Cohort 3? If so please come to the Cohort 3 implementation COP for Program Directors and PIWI Champions on March 30<sup>th</sup> in Milford. This will be an opportunity to learn what other Cohort 3 programs have found successful and challenging during program-wide PIWI implementation. Please register on the training center website ([www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org)).

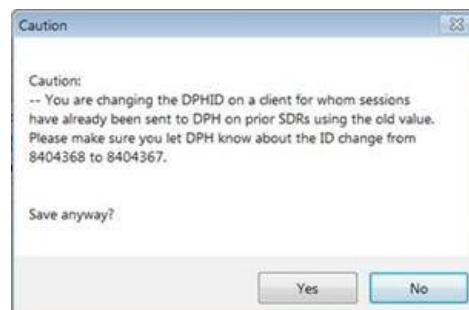


## Data Manager Update

### Missing/Incorrect EIIS & SDR Client IDs

In order for claims to be processed for payment at DPH the client ID on the SDR must match to a client in EIIS. When this match does not occur the claim will pend and not be paid until the problem is resolved. This is a 6A (Client cannot be matched to EIIS) error on the monthly remittance that is sent to each biller **AND** is also included on Error Report #1 and #2 (clients with no names). If a client ID remains problematic for more than 3 months then Linda Mosesso will follow up with the EI program to get them corrected. Please do not wait for Linda's call. Get these issues resolved as quickly as possible. If Linda does call you, you must correct this information immediately.

For those programs using the Thom biller, please make sure that your biller contacts Linda Mosesso or Jean Shimer when they update a client ID in the Thom biller and receive the following message:



Oftentimes DPH is never notified of these updates.

## Annual Family Income Grid

The [2018 Annual Family Income Grid](#) is now available. Please replace your 2017 Annual Family Income Grid with the 2018 update that has been included [here](#).



## Resources

### Early Intervention Featured on Raquel Quezada's Radio Program

**Raquel Quezada** is currently a LEND fellow at Children's Hospital, a graduate from the Federation For Children With Disability, Family Leadership 2017 and boot camp from MFOFC and the most important a Mom of child with disability. Her mission in life and is to educate the Latino community about general information and resources for children with disabilities.

Recently, a bilingual provider from the Professional Center for Child Development participated in Raquel Quezada's radio program providing an overview of Early Intervention. The segment aired on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am – noon, and was very well received. They have invited the Professional Center bilingual staff to join the radio show on a quarterly basis to reach new listeners.



### Institute for Health & Recovery (IHR)—Understanding Child Trauma Infographic

Here is a link for an infographic on child trauma. While addressing children of all ages, much content applies to EI-aged children, and certainly to their older siblings. [www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs\\_campaigns/nctsi/nctsi-infographic-full.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/nctsi/nctsi-infographic-full.pdf)

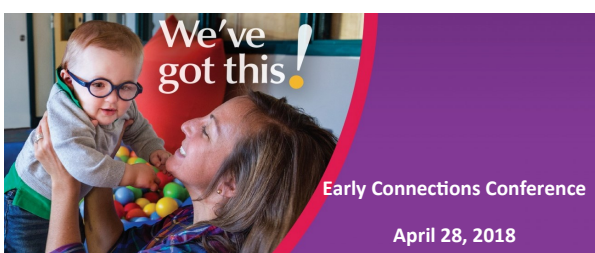
As always, please contact [karenwelling@healthrecovery.org](mailto:karenwelling@healthrecovery.org) or [karengould@healthrecovery.org](mailto:karengould@healthrecovery.org) for any training and technical assistance needs, and to get your hand-delivered (brief training included) Trauma-Informed Tip sheets.



## Events

### Monthly Webinars Hosted by the Michigan Breastfeeding Network: March 20, 1pm—2pm: Sorting through the Smoke: Marijuana and Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding education webinars cover a clinical or community topic each month and are presented by breastfeeding experts. The webinar event offers **CERPs** each month and **continuing education** for nurses on months with a clinical topic. A **certificate of attendance** is provided each month for dietitians and social workers. Please note that the webinar needs to be watched in 'real time' in order to receive CERPs or continuing education credit. **Webinars are free of charge and offered the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00-2:00pm.** To register for this webinar, visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3625808205993877249>.



### Perkins School for the Blind: Early Connections Conference Save the Date

<http://www.perkins.org/get-involved/events/early-connections>

**The Neonatal Quality Improvement Collaborative of Massachusetts Spring Summit Registration: Improving the Care of Mothers, Infants and Families Impacted by Perinatal Opioid Use: A MA Statewide Initiative**—Registration is now open for the May 23<sup>rd</sup> summit for our statewide initiative, “Improving the Care of Mothers, Infants, and Families Impacted by Perinatal Opioid Use.” The link for registration is on our website ([www.neoqicma.org](http://www.neoqicma.org)), and is here: [www.cvent.com/d/htqyt9](http://www.cvent.com/d/htqyt9). The website will be updated regularly with more details about the summit. There is no registration fee for the summit, and lunch and refreshments will be provided; however, we are not able to offer continuing education credits. Please view the [Save-the-Date here](#).



**Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:**

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