

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

May 2018



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

**May 4, 2018:** FFY (Federal Fiscal Year) 18 Massachusetts Part C Application submitted to OSEP

**May 22, 2018: Monthly Webinar Topic**—Data Accuracy & Update on Revisions to EI Billing Manual

#### 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))

**May 23, 2018** in Northampton

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

[EI Regional Specialist Assignment List](#)



### Welcome

#### Patricia Pinchette, Program Director, Pernet Family Health Service EI Program

We would like to welcome **Patricia Pinchette**, the new **Program Director for Pernet Family Health Service, Early Intervention Program**. Patricia comes to Pernet as a seasoned professional with over twenty years' experience in Program Management, Education, Non Profit/ Human Service, and Community Outreach. Her strengths in human relations, leadership, Early Childhood Education, supervision and many years in both public and private nonprofit has enabled Pattie to significantly impact the families of the North Central MA area from which she hails. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a Minor in Early Childhood from Fitchburg State College. She is experienced in conducting trainings and has led workshops and in-services on early childhood development, parenting and positive behavior supports, which she is able to use as training opportunities that are both engaging and relevant for her staff. We look forward to the great things to come from Pernet Family Health Services, EI Program under her competent direction and enthusiasm. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Patricia into this new role.

#### Amanda Kasica, Program Director, Bay Cove Early Intervention Program

We would like to welcome **Amanda Kasica**, the new **Program Director of Bay Cove Early Intervention**. Amanda joined Bay Cove's Early Intervention program in 2001 as a speech/language pathologist, and began supervising other clinicians in 2005 along with becoming a part of the management team. Amanda received her Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology from Emerson College and holds her Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She believes strongly in family-centered services, providing support to caregivers to ensure the best outcomes for each child. Locally, Amanda has presented at the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium conference in 2008 on Embedding Language Outcomes into Everyday Routines, and has also served as a guest lecturer at Emerson College. Additionally, she has acted as a consultant with the Jeddah Institute for Speech and Hearing in Saudi Arabia, regarding their Early Intervention program. She is a Hanen certified "It Takes Two to Talk" parent program instructor. Please join us in welcoming Amanda to her new role!

## Nicole Constantino, Program Director, Meeting Street Early Intervention Program

We would like to welcome **Nicole Constantino** as the new **Program Director of Meeting Street's Early Intervention** in New Bedford. She assumed her new role on May 9th and came to the position with over 13 years of experience working in Early Intervention. Nicole has been working as a clinical supervisor and Occupational Therapist for Early Intervention at Meeting Street in Providence for the last six years. Prior to working in Early Intervention at Meeting Street Nicole worked at South Bay Early Intervention. Nicole is an excellent trainer and has shared her expertise in many different venues. She is a certified OTR and has been a leader in the Meeting Street feeding team and also in our reflective practice groups. Please join us in welcoming Nicole to the program.

### DPH Updates

#### **Updated EI Service Delivery Reporting Requirements and Reimbursement for Service Manual (SDR manual) - July 1, 2018**

The DPH has updated this manual to ensure that information is accurate and more user friendly. The target audience of the SDR manual is EI Billers and Program staff that have a role in the billing and SDR submission process. It is also meant to be a resource for Practice Management System Developers.

The updated manual will be shared with EI agencies and programs on June 1, 2018. This manual will include the new rates for FY19.

#### **Essential for Childhood Project in Massachusetts—Seeking Opinions of Caregivers of Children 5 Years and Under**

**Essentials for Childhood** is a CDC-funded collective initiative that aims to reduce child abuse and neglect in Massachusetts by promoting safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

We are trying to understand parents' and caregivers' opinions about and experiences with children and parenting.

We are asking adults with children 5 years old or younger in their home to take our short survey. Participation is voluntary and anonymous—you may stop taking the survey at any time, and we will not collect personally identifying information.

We ask that our partners share this **survey** widely to help us reach a broad and diverse sample of the parenting population! Please share with families enrolled in your programs. Thanks so much!



### Forms & Materials

DPH Dropbox [www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89\\_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7qZ3fa?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7qZ3fa?dl=0)

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



### EI Training Center Update

#### **Higher Education Taskforce**

DPH is looking for EI providers to participate in the new Higher Education taskforce. These ongoing meetings will allow us the opportunity to work with higher education to determine ways that higher education can support the Mass EI system through research, grants, and other special projects. Our first meeting will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at UMASS Boston. If you or another staff person would like to participate please let Emily Webb ([emily.webb@state.ma.us](mailto:emily.webb@state.ma.us)) know.



## Data Manager Updates



### EIIS Evaluation Dates for Transferred Children

If a child is transferred to your EI program BOTH the "Date Tool First Used" AND the "Date Notified if Deemed Eligible/Ineligible" entered on the EIIS Evaluation form should match with the information given to you by the **previous** program. There are a number of transferred children being entered into EIIS where the "Date Tool First Used" occurs prior to the Referral Date but the "Date Notified if Deemed Eligible/Ineligible" occurs after the Referral Date. The "Date Notified if Deemed Eligible/Ineligible" begins the eligibility timeframe and should be accurate for all transferred children who are still eligible under a previous evaluation.

### Data Quality

This month the webinar will present information about why we collect data and issues around data quality. As we begin to get ready for the development of the new EI Web-based system (EIIS/EIFS) it is important to ensure that our data accurately represents the work that is happening in the field.



## Resources

### Institute for Health & Recovery (IHR)—Children's Trust Fund Resource

Children's Trust Fund has some video and article resources that EI parents might find useful. Here's what they offer for parents of infants, including tips on breastfeeding, facts about sleep, and basic infant care: [www.onetoughjob.org/ages/infants](http://www.onetoughjob.org/ages/infants)

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.

### 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](http://www.ecmhatters.org/ForProfessionals/Pages/IECMHProfessionalDevelopment.aspx)

### 1, 2, 3 Grow!

A TV program about early childhood development...in 8 languages! Tune in to check it out...

- 1) Boston families tuning in to BNN-TV - the time is now Wednesday's at 7:30 pm.
- 2) If you live anywhere else in MA and want your cable provider to broadcast the shows, contact the emails below.
- 3) Check out our 1-2-3-Grow YouTube channel

More info at [Shriver.UMassMed.edu/community-resources/cultural-resources/1-2-3-Grow](http://Shriver.UMassMed.edu/community-resources/cultural-resources/1-2-3-Grow)

Please share!



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

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