

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers June 2018



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

**June 14, 2018: ICC Meeting:** Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Marlborough, MA \*Hope to see you there!\*

**June 26, 2018: Monthly Webinar Topic**—DPH Updates & Shishmanian Presentations



### **DPH Personnel Update**

#### **Noah Feldman, MS MPA CEIS**

**Noah Feldman, MS MPA CEIS** has been appointed Acting Assistant Director, Early Intervention Program with the Department of Public Health. She is responsible for the oversight of the Early Intervention Training Center; integration of data collection and analysis for purposes of assessing program status; implementation of improvement activities; and reporting to stakeholders. Noah is the liaison to the EI IT team and is the business lead for the development of the new web-based EI data system. Please join us in congratulating Noah on her new role!



### **Welcome**

#### **Lizzie Feigenbaum, Program Director, Riverside Cambridge/Somerville EI Program**

Please join us in congratulating Elizabeth (Lizzie) Feigenbaum as the new Early Intervention Program Director at Riverside Cambridge/Somerville. Lizzie received a BSN RN at UMass Boston, and a MEd in Human Resource Education with a focus in Organizational Development from Boston University. A graduate of Jewish Family and Children's Services Infant Mental Health Fellowship, she is also certified in Circle of Security and is a Shanker Self-Reg Learning Facilitator. Lizzie has provided service to children and their families in hospitals and as a home visitor, developed curriculum and facilitated parent groups, taught Skills and Dynamics of the Therapeutic Relationship to allied health professionals, and run a small business. Beyond providing families with best practices in specific discipline areas, Lizzie is particularly interested in improving outcomes by the skilled use of self in the therapeutic relationship, stress and trauma informed-care, promoting cultural consciousness, and collaboration with community resources. A self-professed geek Lizzie is also interested in continual learning, streamlining systems and using data to inform our practice and decisions. She is delighted to be serving early intervention families in the same community in which she was raised since age ten, raised her children and still lives. Please join us in welcoming Lizzie!

## **Melissa Roller, DPT, CEIS, Program Director, Pediatric Developmental Center (PDC) EI Program**

Melissa received her Masters Degree in Physical Therapy in 2000. She began her career in Early Intervention in 2001 at Cerebral Palsy of Eastern MA/North Shore Infant & Toddler Program. In 2003 she returned to the Berkshires, where she grew up, and worked at both Pediatric Developmental Center (PDC) and First Steps EI. She remained full time at PDC while working on her Doctorate in Physical Therapy and conducted research on "Outcomes for Infants with Torticollis using KinesioTape and TOT Collars." She received her Doctorate Physical Therapy (DPT) in 2008. In 2010 she became a Certified KinesioTape practitioner. She has a special interest in working with families with children who have Cerebral Palsy as well as congenital heart conditions.

Melissa has been a team leader at PDC since 2013 using her experience to mentor occupational and physical therapists new to EI. Melissa became PDC's first Assistant Program Director in 2015. She took the lead on supporting and training the PDC team on DPH initiatives such as functional outcomes trainings, BDI-2 fidelity, PIWI implementation, and the new IFSP Roll out. In addition to leading PDC's strong, dedicated team of EI staff, Melissa is excited to continue to strengthen PDC's relationship with other Family and Child agencies in the community. Please join us in congratulating Melissa!

### **DPH Updates**

#### **Early Education and Care**

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is the statewide agency that protects the health, safety and well-being of Massachusetts' children while they are in child care. As one part of fulfilling its mandate to protect children, EEC licenses all family child care homes in Massachusetts.

State law requires that an individual be licensed as a family child care educator when providing care to children who are not related to them outside of the children's own home. This requirement ensures that children are being cared for in a manner that meets their needs and maximizes their safety. It is illegal to care for children who are not related to the caregiver without a license from EEC. See [G.L. c. 15D, §§ 1\(a\) and 6\(a\); 102 CMR 1.03\(2\)](#)

Pursuant to 606 CMR 7.02 the definition of family child care is as follows:

*Family Child Care - Temporary custody and care provided in a private residence during part or all of the day for no more than ten children younger than 14 years old or children younger than 16 years old if such children have special needs. Family child care shall not mean an informal cooperative arrangement among neighbors or relatives, or the occasional care of children with or without compensation therefore.*

Attached is additional information on [Early Education and Care Program Licensing and Licensed Care](#) and a [flyer for parents seeking early education or care programs](#). Please share with staff and families in your programs.

#### **New Resource—Finding Topics in the Update**

Here's a new way to find topics in specific editions of the DPH Early Intervention monthly news: The Update!

We have all been there right? We know we saw something in some edition of The Update but which month? Which year? Maybe the assistant director will remember?

A new resource has been added to the EI Parent Leadership website on the Update page, [www.eiplp.org/the-update/](http://www.eiplp.org/the-update/). The link is called: [The Update – Archive of Guidance by subject updated 5/2018](#). This document is a list of topics in the Update by subject for the past few years with the corresponding update edition. This is not an exhaustive list of everything in every Update, but more specific topics that relate to policies and guidance's that might be needed as a reference or source of information in the future for a program. Check it out!



### **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)



## **Policies & Clarifications**

### **Policy to Practice: EI Catchment Areas and Summer Services**

As summer family vacation approach, we'd like to take the opportunity to review the EI Standards related to catchment areas. EI programs are responsible for providing services to infants and toddlers whose primary residence is within their catchment area.

*"Families of eligible children who volitionally maintain a temporary residence (not subject to the definition of a homeless child and youth under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act) outside of the catchment area may inquire about accessing services from the Early Intervention program that serves the city or town of the family's temporary domicile. The Early Intervention program (which is not the Early Intervention program that services the child's primary residence) may, at its discretion, honor or deny the family's request. The Early Intervention program may provide information regarding community resources to the family EIOS Section IV. C. An out-of-catchment program may agree, but is not required to provide IFSP services to a child who is maintaining a vacation residence."*

And a bit of a different twist: An EI program was recently contacted by a service coordinator from another state inquiring if the MA EI program would provide EI services to a family who was going to be vacationing in Massachusetts for the summer. This decision would be similar to an EI program subcontracting with an LEA to provide summer services to a child who has turned three. Neither child would be eligible for EI services (for the child who has turned 3 because of age; for the child who spending the summer in MA, he/she is not a MA resident).

- The MA EI program could establish a contract with the out-of-state EI program
- The MA EI program would NOT determine eligibility, enter any information into EIIS or submit billing through the DPH system.
- The MA EI program might also consider consulting their vendor agency about any additional consideration related to staff/program/agency liability.

### **Guidance on Confidentiality and Child—Find** (printable version [here](#) or at end of Update)

DPH recognizes that many of the child-find activities of infants and toddlers potentially eligible for EI services occur at the local level as a result of strong collaborations with referral sources. Both referral sources and EI program may have experienced some level of frustration when guidance was provided that the EI program could not communicate that a child was lost-to-follow-up directly to a referral source.

The following is intended to provide guidance related to information that may be communicated to a referral source when an EI program is unable to locate or obtain a response from a family.

OSEP guidance subsequent to the release of the 2011 Part C regulations was that confidentiality requirements begin when a child is referred. The interpretation assumed was that an EI program could not disclose the status of the referral to a referral source unless a release for the disclosure of information had been obtained. This would mean that a program could not disclose that an EI program had not been able to locate or had not received a response from parents to outreach.

DPH has sought further clarification from OSEP about an EI's program's responsibility related to child find (34 CFR 303.300-303) that "all infants and toddlers with disabilities in the State who are eligible for early intervention services under this part are identified, located and evaluated" and the previous guidance that confidentiality attaches at the point of referral.

The guidance OSEP has provided DPH is that an EI provider may contact a referral source if the EI program has not been able to make contact with the parents/family.

An EI program may not disclose information related to whether or not the parent has provided consent for an eligibility evaluation/assessment or the outcome of the eligibility evaluation/assessment to a referral source without appropriate consent (which may be held by the referral source).

We hope you find this clarification helpful. Please be in touch with your Regional Specialist with additional questions.



## Specialty Services Update

### Highlights from Early Connections Conference 2018 – Perkins School for the Blind

Perkins School for the Blind held their annual conference on April 201, 2018. This event brought families, children and providers together for a day of information and support. This year the conference closed with an impassioned keynote address from Rebecca Davis, the parent of a child with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), who told her personal story about her journey with her child; it was infused with both humor and tears. In 2017, Rebecca started CVI Momifesto, a blog for parents of children with CVI. To read her blog, visit <https://cvimomifesto.com/>.

Her inspirational message to the many parents present at the conference was a fitting end to a great day. The conference closed with a special presentation from Perkins to Ron Benham, recognizing him for his support and collaboration with Perkins during his many years at DPH.

This conference is always a great opportunity to learn about resources. If you are work with children with vision impairment or multiple disabilities, check this out at <http://wonderbaby.org/>.

[WonderBaby.org](http://wonderbaby.org/) is dedicated to helping parents of young children with visual impairments as well as children with multiple disabilities. Here you'll find a database of articles written by parents who want to share with others what they've learned about playing with and teaching a blind child, as well as links to meaningful resources and ways to connect with other families.



## Resources

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

Children’s Trust Fund has videos and articles that EI parents might find useful. Here’s what they offer about play and socializing for toddlers: <https://www.whattoexpect.com/toddler/playdates/>

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.

### 1, 2, 3 Grow! Video Series Now Available!

Are you the parent of a young child? Check out "1, 2, 3 Grow!", a series of videos about what healthy developmental milestones look like - and what to do and where to go if you're concerned about your child. **[These videos are available in 8 languages and cultures.](#)**

The 1, 2, 3 GROW video series is now available on the Mass.gov website at [www.mass.gov/info-details/1-2-3-grow](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/1-2-3-grow)

For links to the videos and additional information including translated "Tracking Milestones" brochures and "Milestones Checklists," visit the Shriver Center – UMass Medical School website, 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!



## ***Events***

### **Upcoming Webinar: Supporting Families Affected by Opioids and Other Substances through Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation—June 28, 2018**

Join us on June 28 to learn how IECMHC can help home visitors and others who work with infants and young children support families affected by substance use disorders. The webinar is scheduled to take place at 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET/12:00 – 1:00 pm CT/11:00 am – 12:00 pm MT/10:00 – 11:00 am PT and will be archived on our website. For more information, and to register <https://go.edc.org/IECMHC-webinars>.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Clarke Schools for Hearing & Speech 39th Annual Conference on Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss—October 18–19, 2018**

Please save the date for our 39th Annual Conference on Mainstreaming Students with Hearing Loss which will be held on October 18 and 19, 2018, at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, Massachusetts. This year's conference will include a blend of workshop topics covering the many facets of hearing loss and its implications for learning in typical classrooms along with topics specifically related to the conference theme: "From Access to Achievement: Empowering Every Child to Succeed in the Mainstream." Connect with Clarke and other attendees of the Mainstream Conference on the [Facebook event page!](#) [Learn more.](#)

### **SAVE THE DATE: Fall Act Early MA Summit—Friday, October 5, 2018**

Act Early MA and UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center: Mixed Early Childhood delivery systems: WIC, Headstart, Early Intervention, DCF, Preschool, Healthcare providers

Will include updates on early screening and identification research, early childhood providers training on developmental monitoring, introduction of the CDC Act Early material and interactive workshop sessions as well as many opportunities to network and share your own work! [Learn more.](#)

### **Annual Introduction to Pediatric Nutrition Course**

The Center for Nutrition at Boston Children's Hospital is pleased to announce that we will again present our annual Introduction to Pediatric Nutrition course on two consecutive Mondays this Fall.

**Conference dates will be Monday, October 29th and Monday, November 5th.** As usual, the program will run from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM on both Mondays at the Folkman Auditorium in the Enders Building at Boston Children's Hospital. Registration will be increasing this year to \$70 per student and \$225 for professionals. The registration cost includes both days of the conference, all course materials and a light breakfast with refreshments.

Full program and registration details will be sent as the event gets closer but we wanted you to have the conference dates in advance to help you plan your curriculum for your upcoming intern/student class. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions at (617) 355-4677 or via email at [nutritiondept@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:nutritiondept@childrens.harvard.edu).

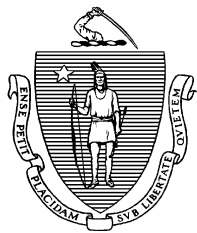


**Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:**

**Patti Fougere**

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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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To: Early Intervention Providers and Referral Sources  
From: Patti Fougere, Acting Director for Early Intervention Services  
Date: May 30, 2018  
Re: Guidance on Confidentiality and Child – Find

DPH recognizes that many of the child-find activities of infants and toddlers potentially eligible for EI services occur at the local level as a result of strong collaborations with referral sources. Both referral sources and EI program may have experienced some level of frustration when guidance was provided that the EI program could not communicate that a child was lost-to-follow-up directly to a referral source.

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