

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers August 2018



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

**September 27, 2018: Interagency Coordinating Council Retreat:** Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, Marlborough, MA

*Please note the ICC Retreat will be open to the ICC Advisory board and ICC Committee Co-chairs only, this year. The purpose of the retreat will be to re-group, re-energize and set priorities for the upcoming year. Shauna Crane, Associate Director Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) will be facilitating the ICC Retreat.*

*Registration information will be forthcoming.*



### DPH Updates

#### Family Rights Notices

Cindy Wallace, who processes program requests for Family Rights notices is currently on medical leave. It is anticipated that Cindy will return sometime in September. During her absence, please continue to submit requests to Cindy ([cynthia.wallace@state.ma.us](mailto:cynthia.wallace@state.ma.us)) **AND "cc"** Mary Dennehy-Colorusso ([mary.dennehy-colorusso@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.dennehy-colorusso@state.ma.us)). Mary will process requests during Cindy's absence. Please forward this information to the appropriate staff at your program.

#### Universal Database Form

The EIPLP is thrilled to have sent *The Parent Perspective* newsletter to 2,385 new families over the last year! Most of these families found their way to us because EI programs shared our Universal Database Form. Please be sure your **completed and signed forms are sent to Liz Cox**, 23 Service Center Road, Northampton, MA 01060.

#### NCSEAM Family Survey Update

NCSEAM Family Surveys for distribution in **October 2018** and **March 2019** were shipped to each EI program on Tuesday, August 7.

Your program should receive the surveys by Wednesday, August 15 from Scantron. If you do not receive your program's Surveys by then, please contact Suzanne Gottlieb at [suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us](mailto:suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us) or your EI specialist as soon as possible, so that they can track them.

Also, please remember that your shipment contains enough Surveys for both the October and March distributions. Keep the Surveys not used in October somewhere safe for distribution in March. We base the number of Surveys each program receives on EIIS data current as of July 2018. We then add 10% to this to ensure that programs will have enough for both distributions. We do have some additional surveys at DPH should you need them.

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) has several resources to help Service Coordinators and families understand the Family Survey and the importance of filling it out. Please visit <https://eiplp.org/family-outcomes/> or call 1-877-353-4757 for support.

#### BDI—2 Video Review & Feedback

All of the BDI-2 videos that were submitted early or on time have been coded and reports will be sent to programs this month. The remaining videos will be coded on an ongoing basis and reports will be sent as the videos are viewed. Please contact your Regional Specialist with any questions.



## **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)



## **EITC Updates**

### **Foundations Trainings**

The EITC is working on the fall schedule for the upcoming Foundations of MA EI orientation trainings. Trainings will start in late September. Registration should be available on the EITC website ([www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org)) by the end of August.

### **BDI—2 Training Institute UPDATE**

Thank you for everyone’s interest in the BDI-2 training institute! Currently it is fully enrolled. We have a waitlist, so PLEASE contact Emily Webb ([emily.webb@state.ma.us](mailto:emily.webb@state.ma.us)) ASAP if you have a staff member signed up who will not be able to attend all of the sessions. We are already looking into options for offering this opportunity again.

NOTE: Training Dates... October 12th, November 16th, December 14th, and January 25th at Thom Administrative office in Natick.



## **Specialty Services Update**

### **Specialty Service Provider Contacts Updated**

The updated directories of [Specialty Service Providers for Autism](#) and [Deaf/Hard of Hearing Providers](#) are now available. It should be noted that while the information for all programs is contained in these documents, not all SSPs are available to contract with all EIPs. You can always find updated Directory information in the MA EI Dropbox. If you have any questions about contract options for your EIP, please contact Joan Rafferty.

The SSP Autism providers are a list of [15 DPH approved programs](#) available to contract with EI Programs. Programs are generally assigned to specific catchment areas.

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing directory lists [9 Specialty Providers](#) that offer Parent Infant Programs in addition to other services. Specific information about each SSP is listed in this directory, as there are differences in intervention strategies as well as geographic considerations. Included in this directory are 3 additional resources that provide other services to children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, such as evaluations, information and referrals.

**\*\*Please pay particular attention to the information in the directory regarding Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This program is unique in that it is part of Boston Public Schools, therefore, services are not billed. As these services are not supported by Part C funds, different documentation is required on the IFSP Service Delivery Page. If you have any children receiving services from Horace Mann School, please consult the Directory for guidance as to completion of the IFSP Service Delivery Page. Any questions can be directed to Joan Rafferty.**

### **SSP Autism Surveys**

**Thank you** to EIPs and SSPs for completing the ASD data collection surveys that were sent to both groups. The majority of programs have responded, but if you have not completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible. All programs that have not completed the survey will be contacted. It is vitally important to have information from everyone in order to make informed decisions about capacity statewide, and particularly in various regions across the state.

Once data collection and analysis is complete, the results and any recommendations will be shared with the field.



## Resources

### **SSI/Public Benefits for Children with Special Health Care Needs Presentation**

Please reach out to Gail Havelick, SSI/Public Benefits Training and Policy Specialist if your program is interested in hosting a presentation on SSI/Public Benefits for Children with Special Health Needs. These trainings are free and are usually 1.5–2.5 hours. [Please see this flyer](#) for more information.

### **Institute for Health & Recovery (IHR)—SmokefreeMOM**

Want to give a pregnant woman a resource for support to quit smoking? SmokefreeMOM is a mobile text messaging program that provides 24/7 tips, advice, and encouragement to help pregnant women quit smoking.

<https://women.smokefree.gov/smokefreemom.aspx>

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.

### **New Video Quiz: How Safe Sleep Savvy Are You?**



A teaching Tool for reducing infant sleep related deaths.

Around 3,500 babies die from sleep-related deaths every year. We can change those numbers by having better conversations with caregivers about what safe sleep recommendations look like and why following them can save a baby's life.

To help support and spark those conversations, we've developed [this short video quiz](#) that reviews recommended safe sleep practices. The quiz is not a test; instead, **it is an interactive teaching tool to help health professionals engage families in conversations about what safe sleep looks like and why it is important.**

The video shows eight different scenes and asks viewers to identify safe and unsafe behaviors. Explanations and recommendations are provided for each scene so that participants gain needed knowledge as they go.

Physicians, nurses, home visitors and other public health professionals can sit side-by-side with caregivers while they take the quiz, review any questions and discuss best-practices.

**Interested in other infant safe-sleep resources? Check out some of our most popular articles on improving safe sleep habits:**

[How Do We Address Safe Sleep Disparities? Start by Building Trust](#)

[Ignoring Safe Sleep Progress Risks Increasing Safe Sleep Deaths](#)

[Closing the Gaps In Safe Sleep Education in Underserved Populations](#)



## Events

### Fall 2018 Regional Family Engagement Stakeholder Meetings

**Background:** Massachusetts state education, health and human services agencies are working collaboratively to create a comprehensive Prenatal-to-Grade 12 Family Engagement Framework for use in home visiting programs, early intervention services, childcare centers, public school settings, and more.

The Fall 2018 Regional Family Engagement Focus Groups will bring together members of the cross agency state team along with regional and local stakeholders from a variety of fields to provide insight, guidance, and feedback on the work currently underway to draft the Framework.

**Who:** Community organizations, parents, grandparents, practitioners, school and district personnel and other stakeholders with an interest in informing a Prenatal to Grade 12 family engagement framework are welcome to participate. Here are some examples of state, regional and local organizations that may want to join:

- ICC Parent Leaders
- Home Visitors
- CFCE/PCHP Coordinators
- Head Start Family Engagement Coordinators
- Preschool Expansion Grant Coordinators
- Businesses
- Family Centers (CT)
- Family Resource Centers (DCF)
- Early Childhood and After-School Programs
- Museums
- Libraries
- Philanthropic
- Judicial Branch Org
- ABE/GED Programs
- McKinney Vento Liaisons
- SEPAC Members
- PTA members
- School Committee members
- PCEI members
- Pediatricians
- Mental Health Clinicians
- MASCA
- Advocacy Organizations
- MSAA
- State SAC

#### When/Where:

September 12 <sup>th</sup> Holyoke, MA 10:00-1:00	September 13 <sup>th</sup> Fall River, MA 10:00-1:00	September 14 <sup>th</sup> Worcester, MA 10:00-1:00	September 17 <sup>th</sup> Boston, MA 10:30-1:30
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**Additional Information:** To register please [click here](#). To print a flyer to share, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Student and Family Support at DESE at [achievement@doe.mass.edu](mailto:achievement@doe.mass.edu) or 781-338-3010.



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

**Patti Fougere**

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**617-624-5975**