

# *The UPDATE*

**News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers**  
**December 2018**



*On behalf of the Department of Public Health's Division of Early Intervention we would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season...*

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

**December 12, 2018: Program Director Session: Empowering Programs...Stories from the Field**, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

**CANCELLED: December 25, 2018: EI Webinar**

**January 15, 2019: EI Web-based System Stakeholder Meeting #2**, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

**February 14, 2019: ICC Meeting**, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA



## **DPH Updates**

### **Web-based System Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first Stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, December 5th. We had 55 people attend and share important feedback as we work toward developing the new system.

We recognize that folks continue to look for more information about the Client and Fiscal System while it is being built and are eager to have something to see. Development is underway and we should be able to share more of the look and feel of the system in the new year.

Based on the questions that have been coming in from agencies, here are some things you may want to know:

- The Client System will have all of the components of the child's record.
- EI Specialists will be able to enter into the system even when they do not have internet access while at home visits. The system will upload the information to the system once they are connected to the internet.
- DPH and SSG will migrate the data from our EIIS into the new client system before anyone begins to use the Client System.
- Although there will be costs associated with supplying staff with equipment to use while out doing home-based services, there will be no fee to agencies to use the Client or Fiscal System.
- Consent can be obtained through electronic signature in the Client System and will be stored in the child's record.
- There will be 'business rules' built into the Client System to prevent errors, such as:
  - ◊ Calculations (eg. Child's age)
  - ◊ Limiting options (eg. If there are no assessment hours left, assessment would not be a service option)
  - ◊ Notifications (eg. To remind staff when tasks need to be done to meet required timelines)
  - ◊ Illogical data (eg. The birth day entered is before today's date).



## Future Stakeholder meetings:

We have scheduled future stakeholder meetings.

Where: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center  
181 Boston Post Road W Marlborough, MA 01752  
When: Tentative time 9-4pm

- January 15, 2019
- February 26, 2019
- April 3, 2019
- May 14, 2019

**NOTE: Agendas will be shared with the field, 1-2 weeks prior to the meeting date.**

## EIPLP Program Visits...Liz Cox

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) supports families' growth and use of their leadership skills both during their time in EI and after. We collaborate with EI programs to identify parents interested in becoming leaders to develop and grow the family network. We help to recruit, train and mentor families to connect with each other and identify ways to share their expertise within their programs.



The EIPLP has been working to schedule visits at all 60 Early Intervention Programs. The focus of the visits, held during regularly scheduled program staff meetings, is to raise awareness of the EIPLP, the information and resources we have to share, and to help increase program staffs' comfort level in talking with families about opportunities and resources beyond their IFSP services.

We have currently visited just over 25% of programs since February 2018. If you have not yet scheduled your program's visit, please reach out to Liz Cox at [liz.cox@state.ma.us](mailto:liz.cox@state.ma.us) to get the process started.



## 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)



## Specialty Services Update

### Autism Billing Code Changes in 2019

As many of you are aware, new CPT codes are available for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and will go into effect January 1, 2019.

*"Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is a listing of terms and identifying codes used to report medical services and bill insurance providers.*

*They provide a consistent way to communicate medical, surgical, and diagnostic services nationwide among physicians, health care providers, patients, health benefit plans, and other third parties.*

*CPT codes are issued, maintained, and copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA)."*

The DPH has been contacted by both EIPs and SSPs raising concerns as to challenges with implementation of new codes. Communication with commercial insurers and MassHealth has been ongoing to determine which companies will be using new codes, which will be continuing with existing codes, and when changes will be implemented. Information has been obtained from some insurance companies. A summary of any information that DPH has obtained regarding code implementation will be shared with the field prior to the end of the year. The Autism billing code changes from a few years ago prompted programs to develop successful communication and collaboration strategies to make this process smoother. It will be important to put those strategies into place as 2019 approaches.

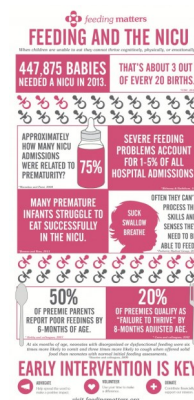


## Resources

### Feeding Matters Month & Infographic

To honor Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness Month, Feeding Matters created an infographic to share how prevalent pediatric feeding disorder can be in children who have spent time in a NICU. Feeding is complex, and eating is only instinctual in the first few weeks of life. After that, it is a learned behavior – early intervention is critical.

Please print and share, as appropriate with referral sources. Remember, nutrition staff are in a key position to help identify feeding issues early. For more information, visit [www.feedingmatters.org](http://www.feedingmatters.org).



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

The Child Trauma Academy offers a free online course about secondary trauma that EI staff may find helpful. Learn more at [www.childtraumacademy.com/cost\\_of\\_caring/index.html](http://www.childtraumacademy.com/cost_of_caring/index.html).

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

### Pediatric Feeding Disorder Conference—Glendale, AZ & Virtually



There are two ways for you to attend this year's conference: in-person or virtually. Both options grant you access to keynote presentations and breakout sessions from some of the fields foremost experts and contributors - including Dr. Jaime Phalen, Dr. Carlo di Lorenzo, Joan Arvedson, Suzanna Thoyre, and many more!

(click on photo for [link](#))

What better way to kick off 2019 than with like-minded individuals all learning and networking to advance awareness and knowledge of PFD? We wouldn't want you or your team to miss out on this awesome opportunity. Register today, learn more about the two registration options below, or contact us for information on group rate registration for the 6th International Pediatric Feeding Disorder Conference.



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

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