

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers

March 2019



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

March 26, 2019: EI Webinar—Topics include:

- **CEIS Evaluation Results**—Mason Haber, Judge Baker Children’s Center Evaluation
- **Outcome Summary Reports**—Michelle Conlon, Regional EI Specialist
- **Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF) Program**—Debbie Taylor, Director

March 29, 2019; 1—2:30pm: Part C Application Listening Session—Clearly CoWorking, Think Tank Room, 474 Grove Street, Worcester, MA

- Opportunity for interested parties to provide feedback on the MA Part C Application.
- Members of families with young children, professionals who serve young children and families, and officials from any state agencies with responsibilities for services to children and families are encouraged to come and speak.

April 11, 2019: ICC Meeting, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

- **9:30am—11:30am: ICC Business Meeting**
- **12pm—2pm: Committee Meetings**



DPH Updates

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

IFSP High Quality Participation Based Outcomes—FY19 Results

This year’s State FY19 SSIP outcome results are now available – [please refer to the attached grid](#). This information was gathered during site visits done by Regional EI Specialists October 2018-December 31, 2018. IFSP outcomes were collected from 10 files, with IFSPs developed during the time frame of 7/1/2018-12/31/2018, using the new IFSP form. Up to three outcomes from each IFSP were rated on the 6 criteria defining a high quality outcome. The combined statewide data will be used in our federal SSIP submission. The DPH has been evaluating the effectiveness of the state’s efforts in implementing and supporting the practices that were presented in Embedding the Key Principles into the IFSP Process and now in Foundations of MA EI, Part 1. Programs received individual reports from their Regional Specialist with their program specific results.

For the third year in a row we have shown improvement as a system in our writing of high quality outcomes. Our greatest achievement was improving 20 percentage points system-wide in meeting all six criteria of a high quality outcome. Our state percentage of outcomes meeting all six criteria for FY18 was 40% and for FY19 was 60%.

Thank you for all the work you and your program have done through training and supporting staff to write high quality outcomes. We are very pleased with the progress we have made as a state on this initiative.

A list of training resources is available in the Dropbox in the 2018 Program Director Session folder.

This list includes training materials for the new IFSP, functional assessment, and writing high quality IFSP outcomes.

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

BROAD STATEWIDE AVE	Initial Outcomes Met Criteria						Annual Outcomes Met Criteria						
	Rate, FY18	Rate, FY19	Rate, FY18	Rate, FY19	Rate, FY18	Rate, FY19	Rate, FY18	Rate, FY19	Rate, FY18	Rate, FY19	Rate, FY18	Rate, FY19	
The quality of the outcomes to parents has improved	42%	82%	89%	92%	42%	72%	85%	89%	77%	83%	89%	112%	1%
The quality of the outcomes to providers has improved	56%	85%	88%	94%	62%	84%	88%	91%	61%	83%	89%	11%	7%
The quality of the outcomes to children has improved	52%	78%	81%	89%	52%	75%	83%	81%	75%	84%	90%	9%	6%
The outcomes to identify and document the child's and family's strengths	58%	91%	93%	95%	48%	92%	93%	96%	51%	93%	94%	11%	8%
The outcomes to develop and implement the IFSP	47%	82%	87%	90%	43%	80%	82%	87%	47%	87%	94%	6%	1%
The outcomes to monitor and evaluate the IFSP	17%	35%	47%	75%	17%	27%	32%	50%	20%	46%	73%	14%	23%
Percentage of outcomes meeting all six criteria	-	-	46%	60%	-	43%	67%	-	46%	69%	-	28%	-
Percentage of outcomes meeting five or more criteria	44%	78%	79%	97%	37%	76%	78%	91%	38%	78%	97%	4%	14%
Number of IFSP	201	187	151	108	211	249	209	262	181	168	108	-	-
Number of outcomes	101	100	111	109	116	141	108	111	102	109	118	-	-

Confidentiality & Email

DPH staff regularly receive emails requesting technical assistance, often with questions about a specific child related issue. Over the past months, we have noticed an increase in the number of emails that contain personally identifiable information (PII), sent via regular email and not through secure mail – names, dates of birth, insurance information, etc.



This does not happen often and we realize that this is not done intentionally, but as we all try to manage the volume of work and resolve issues as quickly as possible, sometimes mistakes are made.

Please consider using only the child's initials when making reference to a specific child in a regular email. If you must send information that contains specific personal information about a child or family, please remember to send via Securemail. If you do not have a secure mail account, please contact Jean Shimer jean.shimer@state.ma.us to obtain one.

Remember March is NCSEAM Family Survey Month



Service coordinators should be distributing surveys to eligible families now! Eligible families are those whose children have been enrolled in Early Intervention for at least six (6) months who did not complete a survey in October 2018. Families are asked to complete one survey per calendar year.

Each family receives a survey in their preferred language, a cover letter explaining the purpose of the survey, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which to return a completed survey. This envelope can be dropped in the mail or sealed, initialed and returned to the Service Coordinator.

Service Coordinators should encourage families to complete the survey and remind them that their opinions and voices are important and are used to improve EI services.

For information about the survey and why it is important or support in completing it go to www.eiplp.org or call the EI Parent Leadership Project at: 1-877-353-4757.



Forms & Materials

DPH Dropbox www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7gZ3fa?dl=0

MA Clearinghouse www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse



Specialty Services Updates

ABA Providers and Early Intervention

Over the past years as the number of children diagnosed with ASD has increased annually, the need for services has increased exponentially as well, both nationally and in Massachusetts. In response to this increased demand, a number of new ABA programs have opened across the state. The DPH receives inquiries on a regular basis from ABA programs interested in becoming an EI ABA provider. These come from established programs within Massachusetts and also from out of state companies planning on opening new programs here. Some of you have received emails, phone calls, invitations to meetings and solicitations to collaborate and make referrals to these new programs.

Please keep the following in mind:

- EIPs can only contract with DPH approved SSPs for Autism. DPH selected these programs through a RFR process, making sure that all the EI SSPs are highly qualified.
- Families do have choices and can obtain SSP Autism services directly through their insurance, bypassing EI.
- EIPs still can provide services even though the family is getting SSP services outside of EI.
- As many new ABA programs are opening across the state, center-based options for families are increasing. EI and EI SSP Autism services are home-based services. Families have more options and decision-making may be more complicated.
- Feel free to direct any inquiries you receive from outside ABA providers to Joan. joan.rafferty@state.ma.us

Documenting Specialty Services on the IFSP

In an effort to achieve consistency with documentation, guidance was sent to the field in 2017 regarding filling out the **Service Delivery** page for SSP Autism services.

Specifics can be found on pages 16 and 17 of the IFSP Handbook, which can be found on the Dropbox. Examples were provided both in narrative instructions and on the service delivery grid.

Recently, similar questions have come up regarding the documentation of other SSP services – Vision Loss and Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) SSP services as well as Regional Consultation Program (RCP) Services.

When services are paid for by DPH EI state and federal funds or public/private health insurance, then they **MUST** be documented on the IFSP Service Delivery grid.

For SSP Vision Loss (Perkins), SSP DHH and RCP services, documentation will be the same.

All services should be entered on the IFSP Service Delivery grid, the same as other EI services:

EI Service/Discipline/Location/Frequency-Length/Intensity/Duration/Start–EndDates

Refer to page 14 of the IFSP Handbook.

There is one exception -

Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is not supported using Part C funds. Therefore, services should be entered only in the "Other Services" section of the IFSP Service Delivery Plan page. NO services should be entered on the service delivery grid.

Enter the statement below in the bottom left corner of the IFSP Service Delivery Plan page—"Other Services" Section.

Parent Infant Program services for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing provided as a community-based service by Horace Mann School for the Deaf.



Resources

CaptionCall - FREE Resource for Individuals with Hearing Impairment

We just heard about an amazing resource, CaptionCall phone and mobile app, and we would like to share it. For individuals with verified hearing loss, this is absolutely free!

Information from the source:

"By sharing this no-cost resource with families and children with hearing loss, you help them stay active and socially connected. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Robbins at srobbins@captioncall.com. You are also welcome to visit <https://captioncall.com/educators-program/> to view videos and access other resources. We look forward to helping your clients use the phone again, with confidence."

For more information visit the CaptionCall website: <https://captioncall.com/>

NEW - 1, 2, 3 GROW !!! Animated Caregiver Stories

Last year, the UMASS Medical School-Eunice Kennedy Shriver LEND Program and members of the Massachusetts Act Early program launched eight "[1, 2, 3, Grow!](#)" cable TV shows about early childhood development in multiple languages and cultures on YouTube and cable stations across Massachusetts. Most recently, the project team added three new short animated caregiver story videos and a discussion guide for training pediatric providers and other early childhood professionals based on family interviews from the cable shows.



- Each “1, 2, 3, Grow!” show includes a local pediatrician and program host who speak the language of their cultural audience: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Arabic, and Vietnamese, as well as a show that focuses on African-American community. The shows present video examples of healthy development and signs of concerns, as well as interviews with parents of children with developmental disorders from diverse cultures. Viewers receive contact information to local resources to obtain translated materials and referral information to local providers if needed.
- The three new “1, 2, 3, Grow! Animated Caregiver Stories” use audio from parent interviews and animate the stories for educational use in classroom or office settings. The short videos address the topics of cultural stigma and folk remedies, religious concerns, and the role of fathers as they relate to having a child with a disability.

A 10-question companion discussion guide facilitates rich discussions when used with the caregiver stories or the full cable TV shows.

For more information about “1, 2, 3, Grow!”, please visit <https://shriver.umassmed.edu/community-resources/cultural-resources/1-2-3-grow>. The videos can also be viewed on the [1, 2, 3, Grow! YouTube Channel](#).

For information and resources from the CDC “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” campaign, please visit www.cdc.org/actearly.

We encourage early childhood professionals to use the Animated Caregiver Stories as a teaching tool as well as to ask their cable providers to request the free shows for local broadcast. Please join us in disseminating the “1, 2, 3 Grow!” information broadly. If you are a member of the local cable TV station in your city or town, please ask the station to air the “1, 2, 3 Grow!” TV shows – one or all of them! Use the [attached template](#) to contact your local affiliate.

“To The Moon And Back, Inc.” (TTMAB) Children’s Grant—NAS Support & Grant

Please see the [attached application/grant opportunity](#) for Massachusetts families for uncovered expenses related to their child’s in-utero substance exposure. These children often have long term developmental needs that require treatment and equipment that is not always covered by insurance.

Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR) - All Babies Cry

Many families may benefit from receiving the “[All Babies Cry](#)” fact sheet. It is available in English, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Russian and Arabic. “This fact sheet provides helpful tips for parents and caretakers on how to soothe a crying baby. It includes information on what to do if a baby won't stop crying and strategies for managing caretaker stress during these situations. Highlights the importance of never shaking a baby and the dangers associated with shaking. It provides resources for parents and caretakers including local hotlines and websites.” (MA Clearinghouse)

IHR can provide technical assistance on particular families or issues, on the phone or in-person. Don’t hesitate to contact us to explore how we might be helpful to your program. We can be reached by email at karenwelling@healthrecovery.org or karengould@healthrecovery.org.



Events

Spring Early Learning Network Meetings

The **Department's Early Learning Team** and teams from the **Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)** will host three regional networking opportunities in April. Teams that include a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement coordinator, **Early Intervention representative**, Head Start representative, community-based early education and care representative, and public school early childhood coordinator, special education coordinator, elementary principal or district administrator are invited to attend.

The meetings will run from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on:

Wednesday, **April 3** in the Western region (Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke);

Friday, **April 5** in the Greater Boston region (EDCO Collaborative, Bedford);

Wednesday, **April 10** in the Cape/Islands region (Falmouth Public Library, Falmouth).

[More information and registration](#) are available online. Anyone with questions can contact a member of the Early Learning Team at 781-338-3010 or achievement@doe.mass.edu.

Perkins Conference – Registration Open

Registration is open for providers and families to attend [Perkins School for the Blind 36th Early Connections Conference!](#)

April 27, 2019 ~ 8am – 3pm

Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA

Cost: \$45 includes lunch

Perkins will provide free childcare and lunch for attendees.

Activities and childcare will be provided by counselors who will be assigned according to each child's age, disability and special considerations.

Questions? Please call Teri Turgeon at 617-972-7331 or email Teri.Turgeon@Perkins.org.

For families, scholarships and housing may be available should they need that.

Families wishing for assistance in arranging overnight accommodations should contact Vincent Pagano at 617-972-7432 or email Vincent.Pagano@Perkins.org no later than April 23, 2018. A limited number of rooms are available on campus on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration OPEN – MA Act Early Spring Summit

Please join the MA Act Early State Team for this full day conference for early childhood providers from all delivery systems. Learn about the extensive inventory of CDC Act Early materials and resources and how to access them, hear about current research, preview Watch Me Grow! modules, and network with colleagues. Break-out sessions will examine sharing difficult information with families, implementing developmental surveillance and Act Early material, accessing available resources in the community, and communicating with other stakeholders and agencies.

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ 8am to 4:30pm

Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA

Cost: \$20 includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials

For more information: www.maactearly.org/

Register online at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9rq5mOlQdu3fvdEmI7quMrHTHWA1TjpGAY-gRGV_QVMtduQ/viewform

Mobilizing Community Systems to Bridge Research to Practice

Improving Early Detection and Access to Evidence-Based Early Intervention for Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Amy M. Wetherby, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Friday April 5, 2019

Autumn Street Auditorium (NEW VENUE)

Boston Children's Hospital

1 Autumn Street

Boston, MA 02115

[More details including Course Description](#)

7th Annual MA Pyramid Summit

Kristin Tenney-Blackwell, MA, LLP, IMH-E

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

9am—4pm

Holiday Inn & Suites

265 Lakeside Avenue

Marlborough, MA

[More details](#)



ASHA Online Conference – Birth to Three: Working Together to Serve Children and Their Families

May 1 – 13, 2019

Infants and young children are a unique population that requires special knowledge, skills, and experience.

This online conference will address key principles that guide the implementation of speech-language pathology and audiology services in early intervention. These services play a critical role in helping infants, toddlers, and their families address a developmental delay or disorder that can affect development and learning.

Topics related to serving pediatric populations from birth to age 3 and their families will include navigating Part C of IDEA, understanding different service delivery approaches and settings, building family capacity, and assessing and treating complex communication and swallowing needs in low-incidence populations.

For more information: www.asha.org/events/birth-to-three/

Save the Date - Specialty Summits

A reminder to Save the Date for the Specialty Summits coming in June – [Flyer](#)

12:30 to 3:30pm, The Learning Center for the Deaf, Framingham, MA

- June 19 for Vision Loss/Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- June 20 for Autism

Agenda and more information coming soon!



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

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