

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers April 2019



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

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

- **9:30am—11:30am: ICC Business Meeting**
- **12pm—2pm: Committee Work: CEIS Stakeholder Advisory, Family Engagement, ICC By-Laws, Supervisory Training Pilot, Translation/Interpreter Pilot**

April 23, 2019: 10am—11am: EI Monthly Webinar—Topics: DPH Updates (Please note we will be using a new software—Webex)



May 14, 2019: 9am—5pm: DPH EI Web-based System Stakeholder meeting, Marlborough, MA
(Detailed agenda to be sent out closer to meeting date)

May 28, 2019: 10am—11am: EI Monthly Webinar—Topic: Autism Resource Center



DPH Updates

EI Web-based System

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Stakeholder meeting on April 3, 2019. It was helpful to begin the discussion about local program implementation of the Client System.

DPH is targeting the initial use of the Client System by local EI programs to begin in September 2019. In implementation planning, DPH is prioritizing the following:

- PV processing can be completed
 - Necessary data is in the Client System
 - No delay in adjudication for claims to DPH
- Decommission EIIS
- Decommission TSS
- Decommission Waiver database
- Decommission Personnel Database/Provisional Certification process
- Limit redundant data entry
- Improve efficiency in processes at the local programs
- Decrease the number of databases local program staff need to access
- Preparation for changes

DPH is seeking a name for the EI Web-based System! Please send your ideas to Noah at noah.feldman@state.ma.us.

Billing Units of Service

It has recently been brought to the Department's attention the need to provide clarification to the field regarding appropriate practice for billing and reporting units (15 minute increments) of service. The Early Intervention Program follows industry standards set by Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for billing. Per CMS rules, in order to bill one unit of a timed Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, you must perform the associated service for at least 8 minutes. If seven or fewer minutes have been provided, you will not be reimbursed for another full unit (15 minutes) and must drop the remainder.

EI providers must also follow requirements of insurers with regard to their rounding guidance.

MEIC Conference Reminder from Patti Fougere

Please remember to talk with your Parent Contact about the opportunity to attend the **MEIC Conference** coming up **May 6 & 7**. The Department of Public Health through the EI Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) sponsors one parent from each EI program to attend the two day conference. This includes an overnight stay, all meals and an invitation to the annual Parent Dinner.



This is a great opportunity for parents to gain a greater understanding about the EI system, learn new skills along with EI providers and meet other parents whose children are in EI.

A bonus for both providers and families is that **Craig Andrade, Director of the Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition** in which the EI program sits will be at the conference on Monday. Craig will be attending the Parent Dinner and looks forward to meeting and getting to know the families. We would like to see a big turnout of families to greet Craig.

For information or to register your program's Parent Contact, please contact Liz Cox at liz.cox@state.ma.us or by phone at 413-586-7525 x3116.



MEIC Conference: Parent Opportunity Details

The EIPLP supports your Parent Contact, or another parent from your program, to attend the MEIC Conference every year. This includes their registration (for one or two days), hotel for Monday night, and the Parent Dinner. As a reminder, childcare is not available at the conference. If a parent would like to bring their child, they are encouraged to bring a caretaker for them. We will provide their meals, we just need to know in advance.

Once you identify a parent who would like to attend, please have them get in touch with Liz at liz.cox@state.ma.us or 413-586-7525 x3116 with the following information:

- Name, address, telephone number, and email address
- EI Program Name
- Will they attend one day or two
- Workshop selections for each day (must be a full day of choices)
- Will they be attending the Parent Dinner (it is okay to invite a guest! Please provide the total number of guests & if you will need a highchair)
- Will they need a hotel room Monday night
- Will they be bringing anyone else with them to the conference (child/ren, caretaker, etc) who will need meals
- Are they vegetarian or gluten free

The conference brochure can be viewed here: https://meiconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MEIC-2019-Brochure_FINAL.pdf

We will let you know once we have registered a parent from your program. Thank you so much for your help making sure your EI Program is represented by a parent at this event!

BDI—2 SSIP Video Release Due **September 6th**

As you know BDI-2 SSIP videos are due to DPH on September 6th. This year we will be using a **different release** for the videos as UMASS Boston has agreed to assist in the coding. Please make sure you use the release saved as "**EI photo-video release form 2019.**" We are aware that the date on the bottom of this form is July 2014, this is the correct form.

Listening Sessions for the Human Services Transportation Office's Brokerage System

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will host public listening sessions for the Human Service Transportation Office's (HST) Brokerage System. The HST Office oversees non-emergency medical transportation for MassHealth members as well as transportation for Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), and Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) programs. MassHealth covers transportation for trips to medical, dental, mental health, or substance use disorder appointments as well transportation to Day Habilitation programs.

We invite consumers, MassHealth members, and other stakeholders to attend, to share their experiences with the program, and to make suggestions for improvement. Comments and suggestions made at the listening session may be used to inform program design and procurement going forward. We appreciate your help spreading the word to your networks.

MassHealth also intends to release a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit written input from all interested parties on an array of topics under consideration including improvements to consumer experience, integration of additional service levels, and inclusion of ride hail services in the future. Additional information about the listening sessions will be posted on the HST website at <<https://www.mass.gov/human-service-transportation>>.

The details of the listening sessions are listed below. Please note that these sessions are open to all members of the public.

Monday April 29, 2019

1:00-2:30pm

State Transportation Building
Conference Rooms 1-3
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116

Wednesday May 8, 2019

1:00-2:30pm

Chelmsford Public Library
McCarthy Meeting Room
25 Boston Rd, Chelmsford, MA 01824

Monday May 6, 2019

2:00-3:30pm

Springfield Public Library
Mason Branch Community Room
765 State St, Springfield, MA 01109

If you have further questions or need to request accommodations, send an email to HSTINFO@MassMail.State.MA.US. Occupancy may be limited and will be available on first come basis.



EI Training Center Updates

Foundations Training

If you have staff that will need to attend a foundations training please encourage them to sign up. We have trainings scheduled through June and **will not** be offering additional trainings until the end of September.

Online Modules

We have been getting a lot of feedback from providers about accessing our online modules. We have heard the feedback and are looking into steps to simplify the process of accessing the EITC online modules.



Specialty Services Update

Autism Specialty Providers Contracting Change Timelines

DPH will be contracting directly with Autism Specialty Providers. This will require a formal process through Purchase of Service (POS) to contract directly with Autism Specialty Service Providers (SSPs). This process will occur in two parts – the release of a Request for Information (RFI) followed by the release of a Request for Response (RFR). The RFI will define the requirements of contracting with the DPH for Autism SSP services and identify which providers can cover specific catchment areas, provide home-based services, meet capacity needs and utilize the new Client system. DPH has been monitoring capacity to provide Autism SSP services for the past several months and has decided to open the RFI/RFR to include qualified providers, both current EI approved SSPs and other interested agencies. This will be a competitive bid process.

The timelines are targeted as follows:

Release RFI – **May 1, 2019**

Release RFR – **September 1, 2019**

Award Contracts – **January 1, 2020**

Contracts Begin – **July 1, 2020**

What will this look like for EIPs and SSPs?

For the present time and until the Autism SSP contracts become active, EIPs and SSPs will continue to work together to implement the current insurance authorization and billing procedures, following existing contracts between EIP and SSP programs. As timelines get closer, transition and implementation plans will be formulated and discussed with the field. Please contact Joan Butterfield (joan.rafferty@state.ma.us) with any questions.



Data Manager Update

Increase in American Indian/Alaska Native Population

The Child Count report is one of several federal reports submitted to OSEP and used by OSEP to determine if Massachusetts meets its requirement for timely and accurate data. This year there is a significant increase of the American Indian/Alaska Native population from 33 on 10/1/2017 to 110 on 10/1/2018. In communicating with several EI programs, it appears that when the race categories were alphabetized on the January 2018 EIIS forms, some clinicians selected the first box under race, thinking that they were selecting “White” when, in fact, the racial category had been updated to “American Indian/Alaskan Native.”

Please make sure that all clinicians using the EIIS Referral form are mindful of this update when selecting the child’s race. In the meantime DPH will be contacting programs to ensure that the American Indian/Alaskan Native selections for the Child Count report are correct or need to be updated.



Forms & Materials

DPH Dropbox www.dropbox.com/sh/cpewylr7bcoefyv/AAA89_dDxWMwa0mb7Jj7qZ3fa?dl=0

MA Clearinghouse www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse



Resources

MA Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Development Resource Guide 2018

This Guide is the result of the collaborative work of the Early Childhood Professional Development Workgroup of the Young Children’s Council, which is led by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s project LAUNCH funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in partnership with the MassAIMH Competency Guidelines® Task Force. The Guide includes more than 100 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) professional development activities statewide from over 20 agencies. Opportunities for both para- professionals and professionals with a variety of educational backgrounds are included, from trainings for individuals with associate’s degrees to offerings geared towards advanced- practice clinicians with master’s and/or doctoral degrees.

Check it out here <http://www.ecmhatters.org/ForProfessionals/Documents/MA.IECMH.PD.ResourceFall2018.pdf>.

Institute for Health & Recovery—Postpartum Depression

This downloadable brochure on [postpartum depression](#) is available in English, French, Khmer, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

As always, please contact [Karen Welling](#) or [Karen Gould](#) for training and technical assistance needs on a variety of topics, and to get your hand-delivered (brief training included) Trauma-Informed Tip sheets.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

Patti Fougere

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