

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers September 2019



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

**September 19, 2019, 9am—4pm: ICC Retreat**, Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA

- Registration is available on the EITC website. **Please register to attend by September 13, 2019 to ensure we have adequate space.** <http://www.cvent.com/d/4yqvpw>

**September 24, 2019, 10am—11a: EI Webinar—Topics include:**

- **Update from Human Services Transportation—Standards and Forms**

**September 27, 2019, 11:30a: EI Rate Public Hearing**, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA

- Below is the Notice of Public Hearing for September 27, 2019 which includes Early Intervention and the link to the supporting materials.
- [www.mass.gov/event/101-cmr-34900-rates-for-certain-early-intervention-services-2019-09-27t113000-0400-2019-09](http://www.mass.gov/event/101-cmr-34900-rates-for-certain-early-intervention-services-2019-09-27t113000-0400-2019-09)



**October 16, 2019, 12p—2p: Reminder: Webinar- Engaging and Supporting Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders**

- [Register here](#)



### Congratulations

Please join us in congratulating both Noah Feldman and Emily Webb in their new positions within the Division of Early Intervention.

Noah has been approved as the Assistant Director, Division of Early Intervention effective July 21, 2019. Noah possesses excellent communication and facilitation skills as well as management and leadership skills. She has been overseeing the business side of the development of the new EI Web-based system as well as providing administrative oversight to the EI Training Center (EITC) and professional development offerings. Noah is an extremely motivated, organized, dynamic, articulate and creative individual. She has effectively worked with diverse staff and families to build solid relationships within organizations and throughout the Commonwealth.

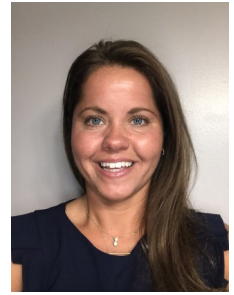
Emily has been approved as the Coordinator of General Supervision for the Division of Early Intervention also effective July 21, 2019. Emily brings a wealth of experience and knowledge working in the field of Early Intervention as a Service Coordinator, Supervisor and most recently providing oversight of the professional development arm of the EITC. Emily recently completed the MasSP Supervisor Training and has enhanced her skills as a leader within the EI team.

We are excited to have both Noah and Emily supporting the EI team in moving forward with our ongoing internal strategic planning of improving outcomes for young children and their families.

## Welcome

Please join us in welcoming Melissa Wenderoth as the new Program Director at the Pernet Early Intervention Program. Melissa holds a Master's in Education and a Bachelors in Sociology both from Keene State College. Melissa began working at Pernet Early Intervention, a program of Pernet Family Health Services, in January of 2017 as a Developmental Specialist. She became a Team Leader in 2018.

Melissa's experience includes working in early childhood education where she managed Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten programs, taught preschool and school-age classrooms in public, corporate-based and private schools. As a new Program Director, Melissa is passionate about supporting her team in working with children and families in Early Intervention to assist in making positive changes in their daily lives.



## DPH Updates

### Agency Closure

The Cape Cod Child Development Agency closed **effective August 30, 2019**. The Department of Public Health issued an emergency contract to the Kennedy Donovan Center to provide early intervention services on Cape Cod & Islands.

The official name/contact info for the program is below:

#### **Kennedy Donovan Center – Cape Cod & Islands Early Intervention Program**

80 Pearl Street  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
Contact: Barbara Prindle Eaton, OTR/L, Program Director  
Phone: 508-775-6240  
Fax: 508-437-0335  
Email: [bprindle-eaton@kdc.org](mailto:bprindle-eaton@kdc.org)

### DPH EI Client System

Thank you to everyone who participated in our User Experience Sessions on 9/5/19 and 9/9/19. We were able to get valuable feedback from folks in the field who will be using the Client System. **UPDATED timeline** (changes in **RED**):

Date:	Activity:
August 16, 2019 <b>COMPLETE</b>	Release of the EMR Requirements Overview and DPH Companion Guide
August 19-September 20, 2019	Optional Agency meetings with DPH staff <b>Sign up for meetings will close on FRIDAY 9/13/19</b> <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA8A729AAF49-dpheiclient1">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA8A729AAF49-dpheiclient1</a> <b>(1 sign up per agency)</b>
September 5 and 9, 2019 <b>COMPLETE</b>	Small group stakeholder opportunities to inform training planning
September 23, 2019	Release of training resources, including: -User manual -Video clips -Quick reference cards
September 26, 2019 September 30, 2019 <b>October 2, 2019-date pending-waiting for location confirmation</b>	Presentation for Agency Leads/Program directors on the Client System -Summary of training materials -Overview of Client System application -Review of the implementation plan
September 30-October 17, 2019	Face-to-Face training of front desk staff to prepare for GO-LIVE <b>Dates and locations will be finalized this week.</b>
September 30, 2019	'Sandbox' open for EI provider use and practice in the application.
October 18, 2019	Client System application GO-LIVE PHASE I implementation
October 31, 2019	Provider deadline to decide on EMR or Client System use. If providers choose the Client System, EMR upload functionality will not be available again until October 2020

## PIWI/Reflective Supervision PILOT opportunity ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Public Health is excited to share they will be bringing together two of our initiatives over the next year. We will be connecting Reflective Supervision with PIWI implementation.

Based on the feedback from the SSIP Stakeholders, information from the ICC Program Planning, supervision supports and data from the Reflective Supervision Pilot, a PIWI/Reflective Supervision Pilot has been created.

The purpose of this PIWI/Reflective Supervision Pilot will be:

1. To determine the impact of Reflective Supervision on the implementation of PIWI at early intervention programs
2. To evaluate the impact of the Reflective Supervision training on supervisors and supervisees activities.
3. To inform DPH on the need for program support for supervision.



This is a unique opportunity for supervisors to attend the Reflective Supervision Training this fall and continue to practice reflective supervision with additional activities from January 2020 to July 2020. The requirements:

- The supervisor completes all requirements of the DPH Reflective Supervision Training that are being offered in Taunton and Marlborough.
- The supervisor will be required to provide Reflective Supervision at least twice monthly for the 6 months to staff that will be observed for PIWI data collection. (more information to come on PIWI observations for 2020)
- The supervisor and supervisee must have completed either PIWI training at their EI program (EITC facilitated) or Foundations of MA EI, part 2: PIWI to participate in this pilot.

As part of the pilot, the DPH will provide reimbursement to the program for the Reflective Supervision sessions. (HV rate for 12 – 60 minute supervision meetings).

There is limited space in the pilot and programs will be required to submit an application to DPH to participate. Applications will be available in the next few days and will be sent out to Program Directors as soon as it is available. Programs who already have an Individual registered for the Reflective Supervision training can apply for this pilot.

### EIPLP at ICC Retreat

The ICC is pleased to welcome parents to the ICC Retreat on September 19 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel. If you know a parent that would be interested in learning more about the ICC, please reach out to Roxanne Hoke-Chandler ([roxanne.hoke-chandler@state.ma.us](mailto:roxanne.hoke-chandler@state.ma.us)). This is a great opportunity for families to become involved above and beyond their IFSP process and help to inform DPH as part of system change.

### Finding Your Footing (FYF)—September 21, 2019

This month's FYF session will be talking about Emergency Preparedness (September is Emergency Preparedness Month!), Care Mapping and Self Care. FYF is a great skill building opportunity for families. We will begin recruiting the next cohort of parents in the next few months! If you know of a parent or caregiver that may be interested in this training, please reach out to Liz Cox ([liz.cox@state.ma.us](mailto:liz.cox@state.ma.us)) to learn more.

### Battelle Scoring Booklets

The Department of Public Health placed an order for **BDI-2 scoring booklets** with Houghton Mifflin Hartcourt (HMH) Publishing in July 2019. Unfortunately because HMH Publishing is no longer an entity, Riverside Insights must respond to the open procurement in order for DPH to contract with them and order scoring booklets. Riverside Insights is in the process of registering in COMMBUYS and we hope to be able to ship the scoring booklets to EIPs by mid to late September. **Thank you for your patience in this process.**





## EI Training Center

### **Foundations of MA EI**

Foundations 1 and 2 of Massachusetts Early Intervention are being scheduled and posted on the training center website. We will continue to offer two trainings per month through June. Please remember these trainings are a requirement for anyone working 20 or more hours, and for those who also fill the role as service coordinator. These trainings fill up fast so if staff are unable to attend, please have them email Laura Guida ([laura@adcare-educational.org](mailto:laura@adcare-educational.org)) at AdCare, so that she can fill the vacant spot.

**New** this year we are going to be offering **ASHA CEU's for Foundations 1 and 2**. We plan to offer these CEU's effective January 2020 for the 2020 calendar year. You may have SLP's that might want to hold off until January to take advantage of this opportunity.



## Forms & Materials

Please note: Most forms and materials from the Dropbox have moved over to the new DPH website at [mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention](http://mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention). Please use the website to find materials, including brochures.



## Specialty Services Update

### **Specialty Services Information Now Available on State Website!**

Over the past several months, the DPH Division of EI has been working on transferring information and materials to the state website at [mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention](http://mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention).

Now, Early Intervention Specialty Services information and resources are readily available. The mass.gov search engine will quickly bring you to the Specialty Services landing page where you can find individual tabs to Vision, Hearing, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Regional Consultation Programs. Within each section is a Table of Contents with sections that include service description, provider directory, provider documents (\*Starting Points for Service Coordinators\*) and links to state or national resources.

Autism Spectrum Disorder provider documents have additional materials such as the Reimbursement Policy Manual, and the Referral, Notification, and Service Request forms used by EI programs to communicate with SSPs for Autism about referral and insurance authorization details.

Check out the related resources tab for quick links to other services and supports offered by other state agencies that can be shared with families receiving Specialty Services.

\*Starting Points for Service Coordinators\* documents were created by the ICC Specialty Subcommittee for each of the low incidence conditions eligible for Specialty Services. Each easy to read one-page document follows the same format and should be part of any packet of information as a resource to your staff working with any of the low incidence conditions. Starting Points goes through the Referral Process, First Steps and Resources that can be shared with families. These step by step guides will help new service coordinators and seasoned staff alike to address the unique needs of the child with a low incidence condition.

Information on [mass.gov](http://mass.gov) is now readily accessible from your laptop, tablet or phone!

Please share this resource with all your staff!



## **Resources & Events**

### **Save the Date: FALL MA Act Early State Team Training and Research Updates SUMMIT**

**We are going West this time to UMass in AMHERST**

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

**UMass Amherst, MA**

**8am-4pm**

This is a whole training day conference of the MA Act Early State Team 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. Breakout sessions will be included in the afternoon. This conference is designed for and will benefit early childhood educators, early childhood providers in EI, WIC, DCF, Head Start, EEC, health care providers and allied health care professionals working with young children.

Details to follow soon!

### **Building Inclusive Communities in Early Childhood—October 21, 2019, 9a—3:30p**

The Departments of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) invites Special Education Directors, Early Childhood Coordinators, Teachers, Early Care and Education Directors, Head Start Disabilities/Education Coordinators, Family Services Coordinators, Commonwealth Preschool Partnership grantees, Early Intervention providers, Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grantees and Community Partners

Join us to:

- Hear from renowned, national experts on inclusion - Rich Villa and Dr. Jacque Thousand
- Learn about regulations, polices, and best practices to create quality inclusive early childhood services
- Ensure services are grounded in access, participation and supports for children with and without disabilities
- Receive leadership strategies to support inclusion
- Learn support strategies to engage families around inclusive practices
- Hear about an opportunity to participate in the second cohort of the BIC initiative.

Learn more, [flyer](#).

### **Pediatric Low Vision: Helping Our Little Ones See Their Potential—September 27, 2019**

The event will feature keynote speaker **Anne Fulton, MD**, director of the Pediatric Medical Retinal Service at Boston Children's Hospital and professor at Harvard Medical School.

7:30a—2p

Providence Marriott

To learn more about or to register for this opportunity being hosted by the Division of Ophthalmology at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital, see their [flyer](#).

### **When Children Won't Eat: Picky Eaters Versus Problem Feeders—October 21-24, 2019**

The SOS (Sequential Oral Sensory) Approach to Feeding workshop is a trans-disciplinary program for assessing and treating children with feeding difficulties and weight/growth problems from birth to 18 years. It integrates posture, sensory, motor, behavioral/learning, medical, and nutritional factors to comprehensively evaluate and manage children with feeding/growth problems. Learn more [here](#).



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

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