

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers
December 2019



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 24, 2019: EI Webinar—CANCELLED

NEW LOCATION: January 9, 2019: ICC Meeting

DPH Office, 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA (Training Rooms 1020/1021)

- **9:30am—12:30am: ICC Business Meeting**
- **1pm—2:30pm: Committee Meetings**



DPH Updates

Early Intervention Transportation

Thank you all who were able to participate in the transportation webinar in October. The Transportation Standards, discussed on the webinar, are now located on the DPH Early Intervention website. All other related materials from the Transportation Standards Appendix, including the reformatted Transportation Request form and the new Early Intervention Transportation Brochure for families in multiple languages, are now available. Below is a list of all the materials that can now be accessed electronically at www.mass.gov/lists/early-intervention-transportation.

- Early Intervention Transportation Standards
- HST Service Area City/Town List
- EI Transportation Brochure
- EI Transportation Brochure in Arabic
- EI Transportation Brochure in Haitian Creole
- EI Transportation Brochure in Portuguese
- EI Transportation Brochure in Spanish
- EI Transportation Brochure in Vietnamese
- EI Broker/RTA Contact List
- EI Transportation Request and Instructions
- PT-1 Facts Sheet
- Affiliation Agreement
- EI Transportation Trip/Route Sheet
- HST Complaint Incident Form
- EI Transportation Safety Report

Family Engagement Framework Update

Another round of Family Engagement Regional Framework Stakeholder meetings has been completed. Thank you to all EI staff and families who participated! As you heard, we are close to a final version of the framework and hope to be able to share it soon. If you have questions about the Family Engagement Framework, please contact Roxanne Hoke-Chandler (roxanne.hoke-chandler@state.ma.us) or Suzanne Gottlieb (suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us) who are part of the State planning team.



New podcasts will be featured in this section as they become available. They are always available at <https://eionthefly.podbean.com/>.

About EI on the FLY: "As an early interventionist, you meet different families, work in homes and community settings, watch infants and toddlers grow and learn, and yes – spend lots of time in your car. This podcast is designed so you can easily listen between visits during your day. Each episode focuses on an important topic discussed by Dana Childress, PhD and Emily Webb, MS ED, two experienced EI professional development specialists who have also been service coordinators, service providers, and parents of children enrolled in EI. Listen often to learn, reflect, and hear a few good tips to add to your practices. *This podcast is a collaborative effort of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (through a contract with the Partnership for People with Disabilities/VCU).*"

[*Episode 1: What is Functional Assessment and Why Does it Matter?*](#)

[*Episode 2: Intentional Observation*](#)

[*Episode 3: Asking Meaningful Questions \(Emily's personal favorite!\)*](#)

[*Episode 4: Active Listening*](#)



Specialty Services Updates

Policy Update - Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) Credential

In a notification sent to all EI and Specialty Providers for Autism on November 22, 2019, DPH announced an additional option for the paraprofessional credential.

The RBT credential will now be accepted as one of four options for Provisional Certification for that discipline. All RBTs will provide direct service under the supervision of the licensed BCBA.

The RBT credential is administered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

From the BACB website - www.bacb.com

The Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.® (BACB®) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1998 to meet professional credentialing needs identified by behavior analysts, governments, and consumers of behavior analysis services. The BACB's certification requirements, examination content, and procedures undergo regular review according to established standards for organizations that grant professional credentials. All BACB requirements and examination content are developed by experts in the discipline.

RBT requirements:

- *Applicants must be 18 years of age, possess a minimum of a high school diploma or national equivalent, complete 40 hours of training, complete a background check, pass the [**RBT Competency Assessment**](#), and pass the RBT examination.*
- *RBTs have ongoing certification requirements which include receiving ongoing supervision and complying with the BACB's [**RBT Ethics Code**](#). RBTs must annually renew their certification, including passing the RBT Competency Assessment, and completing a renewal application.*
- *RBTs must have instruction and assessment in ethics and professional conduct as part of the eligibility requirements for the certification.*

For any questions about this new policy, please contact Joan Butterfield at joan.butterfield@state.ma.us or speak to the Specialty Providers your agency contracts with for Autism Specialty Services for more information.

EI Autism Specialty Service Providers RFR Timelines

On Monday, December 2, 2019, the field was notified of the timelines for the release of the RFR for Autism Specialty Services. The new timelines are as follows:

- ⇒ Spring 2020 – Release RFR
- ⇒ Summer 2020 – Award contracts to Autism SSPs
- ⇒ January 1, 2021 – Contracts begin

Included in the contract, in addition to other components, will be the requirement to access and submit service delivery data to DPH via the new EI web-based system, and communicate directly with insurance companies to obtain authorizations, submit claims and receive reimbursement.

Until the new contracts begin, it is important to remember that Specialty Services for Autism will continue to be provided in the same manner as they currently are provided, with DPH EI approved SSPs contracting with EI programs, EI programs submitting claims to insurers, and reimbursing SSPs.

Please contact Joan Butterfield (joan.butterfield@state.ma.us) with any questions.



Forms & Materials

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



Resources & Events

The Hanen Centre Opportunity for Professional Development

The Hanen Centre's workshop, SPARK, is targeted to a variety of early interventionists (E.g. physical & occupational therapists, nurses, teachers, psychologists, social workers, etc.) and is designed to help them learn to coach parents to apply responsive interaction strategies with their child. It is based on our It Takes Two To Talk® Program, and by attending SPARK, participants will receive a copy of our It Takes Two To Talk Guidebook and additional handouts. These are great resources which they will be able to use to enhance their work with families.

The Hanen Centre has reached out to see if your team would be interested in becoming SPARK trained and bringing this workshop right to your organization? They refer to this process as "hosting a Hanen workshop" and it's a great way to bring a Hanen training to your community since there is nothing scheduled in the area at the moment.

The hosting process is very simple and The Hanen Centre essentially covers all of the associated costs. We simply require your assistance in securing a venue and organizing the day-of logistics. I am attaching the SPARK flyer, which provides more information about the training. To learn more, please contact Sharon Minos, Workshops and Business Development Coordinator at The Hanen Centre. Her contact information is sharon.minos@hanen.org or (416) 921-1073 x240.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:
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