

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers February 2020



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



**February 25, 2020, 10a—11a: Monthly EI Webinar**—Topics include:

- **Onsite Monitoring**
- **Demo of Professional Development pages on [www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention](http://www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention)**

**March 12, 2020: ICC Meeting**, DPH, 67 Forest Street, Rooms 1020/1021, Marlborough, MA

- **9:30a—12:15p: ICC Business Meeting** (schedule subject to change)
- **1p—2:30p: Standing Committees and Task Groups**

**Early Intervention, Part C Application Public Hearings** (will be posted in Boston Globe on February 12):

#### Public Hearing Notice

##### **March 12, 2020**

DPH Marlborough Office  
67 Forest Street  
Marlborough, MA  
2:30pm—4pm  
(following Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting)

##### **March 13, 2020**

DPH Northampton Office  
23 Service Center Road  
Northampton, MA  
1pm—2:30pm

##### **Written comments may be sent until April 24, 2020; please address to:**

Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Early Intervention Services  
250 Washington Street, 5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108—4619  
Attn: Patti Fougere, Director, Division of EI



### DPH Updates

#### **New Professional Development for EI Providers' Section of the DPH Website**

As many of you are aware, we are in the process of streamlining how information is presented online. Last June we launched the new DPH/EI website. The first phase included many of the DPH forms, policies and documents used by providers. In the fall, we launched the online version of the Dispute Resolution System, updated Transportation materials, as well as other new materials. Part of this consolidation process includes taking down materials stored in other locations that are out of date or have been migrated to the new site. You may have seen recent changes to the EITC website, EIPLP, and the Dropbox. The end goal is to have one place for all of our information that is both comprehensive and easy to use. That does mean that these sites will eventually be taken down. We will continue to update you about the timing for any significant website changes.

In the February webinar, we will present a demonstration of the new Training and Professional Development Section of the DPH website. This includes many of the materials that were once stored on [eitrainingcenter.org](http://eitrainingcenter.org). It also includes links to Training on Demand (online modules and grab and go's) and Adcare ("c-vent" registration page for in-person trainings). The demonstration will also highlight the improvements to each of these sites.

If you have questions about where something is located or the plans for the website, please reach out to your regional specialist.

## Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI): 2020 Data Collection Information for EI Programs

In 2016-2017 the Department of Public Health (DPH) and early intervention programs began training and program level implementation of Parent Interacting with Infants (PIWI), an evidence based practice, as part of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The PIWI aligns with supporting the Massachusetts Mission and Key Principles. As part of our SSIP we are working on professional development that supports and ensures that “all children and families enrolled in the MA Early Intervention system will receive individualized interventions based on evidence-based practices and demonstrate improved social-emotional outcomes that are accurately measured and monitored over time.” (SSIP, 2017)

The implementation expectation of programs was that they would identify PIWI Champions who would support the implementation of PIWI program-wide; and all staff who attended PIWI training would be expected to use these strategies during home visits with a parent or caregiver.

Now that all programs, in all cohorts, have been trained and completed round one of data collection we will begin round two. The goal being to evaluate DPH supports for the implementation of PIWI at programs.

### PIWI Data Collection 2020

Each program will be required to observe two staff, once in May, and again in November. The observation must be of the same staff member. These observations can be done by the program’s PIWI champion or program supervisors . The observer will be required to fill out PIWI observation sheets, as well as an additional questionnaire stating who was the observer and who was observed. Observations do not need to be done with the same family. In addition, in November along with the two staff observations, program staff will be asked to complete staff surveys and there will be a family survey component. All data collected will be **due to DPH on December 15, 2020**.

### Timeline

May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Observe 2 staff and complete the PIWI observation sheet.</li></ul>
November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Observe those same two staff observed in May and complete the PIWI observation sheet (note you do not need to use the same family that was part of the May observation)</li><li>Complete additional questionnaire about observer and individual observed</li><li>Staff Survey</li><li>Recruit families for Parent survey</li></ul>
December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Submit all data collected to DPH</li></ul>

### PIWI Resources:

- PIWI strategies Grab and Go on the Training on Demand website (<https://hsmc.customers.my-lms.net/login/index.php>)
- PIWI strategies definitions sheet
- PIWI Institute
- Beyond Bubbles and Blocks past newsletters

[FY20—21 PIWI Data Collection Requirements’ Checklist](#)

[PIWI 2020 Additional Information Sheet for Data Collection](#)

\*These documents may become electronic in the future.

## Regional Transition Forums

Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Early Education and Care (EEC) is once again having **Transition Forums!** This year, the forums will be hosted and facilitated by the Regional Consultation Programs to highlight the "Transition from Early Intervention Programs to Early Childhood Special Education" best practices document (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisor/2019-1ta.html>).

This document has two purposes:

- (1) to promote best practices for helping eligible children and their families transition into Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and related services; and
- (2) to explain the roles and responsibilities of Early Intervention (EI) programs and school districts in that transition.

DPH, DESE and EEC continue to support collaborations between EI programs and school districts to ensure a seamless transition for children exiting EI and entering Special Education. The forums provide an opportunity to hear what each (EI and districts) is responsible for completing while offering strategies for collaboration. As always, this is an excellent way to network with your district staff to enhance transition practices.

### Regional Transition Forums

Region/RCP Director	Date	Time	Location
<b>Southeast/Sonia Amaral</b> <a href="mailto:samaral@meetingstreet.org">samaral@meetingstreet.org</a> Phone: 508-742-6443	Thursday, March 5	9:30a-12:30p	Taunton EEC Office 1 Washington St. Taunton, MA
<b>Northeast/Rachel Daniels</b> <a href="mailto:rdaniels@thepccd.org">rdaniels@thepccd.org</a> 978-475-3806 x 242	Wednesday March 18	9:00a-12:00p	The Professional Center for Child Development, 32 Osgood St., Andover, MA
<b>Central/Andrea DellaCroce</b> <a href="mailto:adellacroce@criterionchild.com">adellacroce@criterionchild.com</a> 508-473-3422 x322	Tuesday, March 24	9:30a-12:30p	Criterion-Valley 375 Fortune Blvd, Milford, MA
<b>Boston/Mary Sarin</b> <a href="mailto:msarin@thomchild.org">msarin@thomchild.org</a> 617-383-6207	Tuesday, April 7	9:30a-12:30p	Campbell Welcome Center 1216 Dorchester Ave. Boston, MA
<b>Northeast/Rachel Daniels</b> <a href="mailto:rdaniels@thepccd.org">rdaniels@thepccd.org</a> 978-475-3806 x242	Thursday, April 9	12:00p-3:00p	First Presbyterian Church Abrahamson Hall 346 Broadway (Rte.97) Haverhill, MA
<b>Central/Andrea DellaCroce</b> <a href="mailto:adellacroce@criterionchild.com">adellacroce@criterionchild.com</a> 508-473-3422 x322	Wednesday, April 15	9:30a-12:30p	EEC Central Ma Office 324-R Clark Street Worcester, MA
<b>Metrowest/Kathy Haran-Kovacs</b> <a href="mailto:kharanko@aspirehealthalliance.org">kharanko@aspirehealthalliance.org</a> 617-774-1048	Thursday, April 16	9:30a-12:30p	Aspire Health Alliance, 500 Victory Road, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor Training Center, Quincy, MA
<b>Boston/Mary Sarin</b> <a href="mailto:msarin@thomchild.org">msarin@thomchild.org</a> 617-383-6207	Tuesday, April 28	9:30a-12:30p	Campbell Welcome Center 1216 Dorchester Ave. Boston, MA
<b>West/AmyClark</b> <a href="mailto:aclark@thomchild.org">aclark@thomchild.org</a> 413-783-5500 x116	Monday, April 6	12:30p-3:30p	The Berkshire: Athenaeum 1 Wendell Ave Pittsfield, MA
<b>West/AmyClark</b> <a href="mailto:aclark@thomchild.org">aclark@thomchild.org</a> 413-783-5500 x116	Thursday, May 7	9:30a-12:30p	Chicopee Library 449 Front St. Chicopee MA
<b>Southeast/Sonia Amaral</b> <a href="mailto:samaral@meetingstreet.org">samaral@meetingstreet.org</a> Phone: 508-742-6443	Monday, May 11	10:30a-1:30p	Plymouth Library - Otto Room 132 South St. Plymouth, MA
<b>Metrowest/Kathy Haran-Kovacs</b> <a href="mailto:kharanko@aspirehealthalliance.org">kharanko@aspirehealthalliance.org</a> 617-774-1048	Wednesday, May 13	9:30a-12:30p	Thom Child and Family Services Natick Crossings Suite 33, 251 West Central St, Natick, MA

## Certified Early Intervention Director (CEID) Update

After meeting with representatives from the field, it was decided that there will be some changes in our CEID due dates.

Craig Andrade, our Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition Director, frequently reminds us all that you need to put something down in order to pick something else up.

With the rollout of the new web based system, CEID can be one of the things we put down for a bit.

So what does this mean for you? If you were here for the launch of this process and your **due date was April 30, 2020** you will now have an **extension until March 1, 2021**. You can always submit prior to this as well if you would like.

For those directors who came to their position after our launch, and were **due anytime in 2020, you will also have an extension until March 1, 2021**.

Those who were **due on or after January 1, 2021 will follow the original timeline of 3 years after your start date as a director**.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sue Grossman [susan.grossman@state.ma.us](mailto:susan.grossman@state.ma.us) if you have any questions about these new dates.

## NCSEAM Family Survey

Here are the 2019 NCSEAM Family Survey results:

- **13,542** surveys distributed in March and October 2019.
- **4,719** completed surveys returned giving Massachusetts the following which measure the "percent of families participating in Part C who report that Early Intervention services have helped the family in three areas."
  - ⇒ **87.4%** Know their rights
  - ⇒ **84.9%** Effectively communicate their children's needs
  - ⇒ **93.9%** Help their children develop and learn

Be on the lookout for your Program Specific Report coming in the mail from DPH!

Please remember that March is the next NCSEAM Family Survey distribution month. Lists of eligible children and families, those who have been enrolled at least 6 months and did not complete a Survey in October 2019, were sent by secure mail last week. If you did not receive your list, please [contact Linda Mosesso \(linda.mosesso@state.ma.us\)](mailto:linda.mosesso@state.ma.us).



## Specialty Services Update

### Specialty Summit Update

A decision has been made to suspend the Specialty Summit 2020 to the Spring of 2021. The priority of implementation of the new client data system will require a significant amount of time for both DPH staff and EI and SSP staff. It is hoped that the steps forward that have been made in communication and collaboration will continue as the entire field works through this system change.



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

[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](#)

[Episode 5: Implicit Bias](#)

DPH Update, February 2020





## **Resources & Events**

### **Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program Winter Webinar—February 25, 2020**

#### **Trauma Informed Care: a brief overview for EHDI providers**

Experience shapes who we are and who the people we work with are. Every relationship has the potential to be therapeutic (supportive, nurturing, healing, insightful) ...or not. A Trauma Informed approach to the provider-patient relationship has the potential to have a significant impact on parent – child relationships and in turn the positively impact the child's overall development. This session will cover the basic principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and BEGIN to introduce the ways in which EHDI providers can think about becoming trauma informed providers. Because individuals are harmed in relationship and healed in relationship, the way that you approach, work with, and communicate with clients influences the way they integrate the diagnosis of hearing loss, approach parenting, and work with and communicate with their child.

Presenter information:

**Elizabeth Seeliger, AuD**, has worked as a clinical audiologist in a variety of settings, guiding and supporting families through the process of hearing screening, diagnosis and early intervention. Dr. Seeliger specializes in culturally attuned, relational, family centered clinical care. As the Director of the Wisconsin Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program, Dr. Seeliger has played a leadership role in the development of a web-based data, tracking and referral system, developed educational resources for hospitals, audiologists, and families, and facilitated the development of a comprehensive, interactive resource guide for families of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. As a professor of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Dr. Seeliger taught the course on Infant and Adolescent Language Development and advised students on the merits of careers in pediatrics and early childhood fields.

She served as Audiology Faculty on the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) Infant Hearing Systems Learning Collaborative and currently serves as Quality Improvement Advisor and Region V Coordinator with the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management. Dr. Seeliger was a key advisor on the Wisconsin Early Intervention Birth to 6 re-design project and was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Wisconsin Assessment of Early Intervention Outcomes (AEIOU) Project, specifically looking at the communication, social-emotional and primary relationship development of children 0 to 3 years of age who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf blind. Dr. Seeliger is also to founder of Global Impact Audiology, consulting with health systems, working to improve early hearing detection systems and services in Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands and throughout the continental United States. She is the co-creator of the international Guide By Your Side Program and served on the board of directors for Hands & Voices Headquarters. Dr. Seeliger is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Certificate Program.

Hosted by Sarah Stone

Tuesday, Feb 25, 2020 12:00 pm | 1 hour | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 640 426 534

Password: HSNq3YnY

<https://statema.webex.com/statema/j.php?MTID=m0e72a7689933263ec8da0282e69ee665>

Join by phone

+1-203-607-0564 US Toll

+1-866-692-3580 US Toll Free

Access code: 640 426 534

### **Pyramid Model Spring Summit—Registration Open! April 7, 2020—Marlborough, MA**

[Flyer link](#) with registration details.

### **Act Early Spring Summit—Save the Date: April 16, 2020—Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA**

Look for registration information coming soon!

## Spring Summit on Improving the Care of Mothers, Infants and Families Impacted by Perinatal Opioid Use—Registration Open: May 13, 2020—Norwood, MA

Registration for the spring summit on Improving the Care of Mothers, Infants, and Families Impacted by Perinatal Opioid Use is now open! The summit will be Wednesday, May 13th, from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood. There is no registration fee, but advanced registration is required. Registration link is here: [www.cvent.com/d/3nqnd/](http://www.cvent.com/d/3nqnd/). The save the date and more information can be found on our website: [www.pnginma.org/pop-spring-2020-summit](http://www.pnginma.org/pop-spring-2020-summit).

## Oral Health Equity Summit—Save the Date: May 15, 2020

Agenda and registration details coming soon! [Save the Date flyer link](#).

# SAVE THE DATE!



**Please Join Us For**  
**The Oral Health Equity Summit**  
May 15, 2020 9AM to 4PM  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science  
10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA 01608

**The Oral Health Equity Summit aims to:**

Provide a forum for discussions on oral health equity	Share lessons learned from the Oral Health Equity Project	Identify best practices to develop an oral health equity plan
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**Agenda and registration information to follow.**

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or a person with a disability who requires reasonable accommodations please contact Oanh Bui (contact details below) by May 1, 2020.



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For questions, please contact Oanh Bui at [oanh.t.bui@state.ma.us](mailto:oanh.t.bui@state.ma.us).

## Coronavirus Resources

The Department of Public Health has updated their website with the latest information on the Coronavirus [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus), please share with staff and families. We will keep local programs updated as further information and guidance is available.

Additional information and guidance is available on the CDC site: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html).



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

**Patti Fougere**

**[Patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:Patti.fougere@state.ma.us)**

**617-624-5975**