

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers August 2020



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

Note Time: August 11, 2020, 4p: EI Webinar

August 25, 2020, 3p: EI Webinar

September 8, 2020, 3p: EI Webinar

September 10, 2020, 9:15a: ICC Retreat, Virtual—Details to come



Welcome

Leah Smith, Kennedy-Donovan Center Greater Plymouth EIP

Welcome to **Leah Smith**, the New Program Director for Kennedy-Donovan Center Greater Plymouth Early Intervention Program. Leah graduated from UMASS Amherst and is a licensed Speech Pathologist. She has worked in outpatient pediatric services for 8 years when she began her career in Early Intervention 10 years ago. Leah has been at KDC since 2012 and has progressed her career from Service Coordinator to Team Leader and most recently Assistant Director since November 2018. **Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Leah to her new role as Director!**



DPH Updates

EI Client System

We appreciate all the work the field is currently doing at the program level training staff to get ready for the R-2 implementation. The R-2 implementation deadline has been extended to 12/31/20. Starting on that date, all programs will be required to ensure that all the R-1 and R-2 data requirements are being entered into the system. If data is not entered, the EI program will be at risk for having claims to DPH denied and will be out of compliance for data entry requirements. Just a reminder, the DPH EI Client System R-2 functionality continues to be available for programs to use now in the Sandbox and live system. Below is a list of the supports available to programs to support their planning and implementation of R-2.

Supports Available:

- The EICS Sandbox is still available to explore.
- The EI Client System user manual is available in the Help section of the Sandbox and Live system
- Agency Calls to discuss your R2 implementation plan can be scheduled by contacting your Regional Specialist. This allows you to organize your thoughts, create a timeline and customize a roll out that is individualized to your agency/program.

EI Client System trainings have been developed:

- ◆ An Introduction to the Early Intervention Client System (EICS) for Clinicians- Grab and Go PowerPoint training: This training could be used in whole or in part and broken up in sections for staff to be trained internally at programs. Please connect with your Regional Specialist on other ideas of how it could be used.
- ◆ An Introduction to the Early Intervention Client System (EICS) for Clinicians – Live training opportunities. The training is the same training that was created from the Grab and Go and its purpose is to have another modality to learn the material. It is an opportunity for a staff member to attend the training and see how they could use the materials themselves back at the program to train their staff.
- ◆ EI Client System (EICS) Sandbox Scenarios - Self-paced Learning Activity
- ◆ A self-paced learning activity that walks an EI clinician through each step to complete different scenarios of building a child within the EI Sandbox. This gives steps of what to do and what the results will be after each step so you know if you are on the right track. This helps different learning styles who do well with reinforcement and structure.
- ◆ Transition Crosswalk: A crosswalk of transition requirements in the EI Operational Standards to the EI Client System.
- ◆ EICS Coffee Chats: The Coffee Chats are a chance to focus more on a specific task within the EICS and ask questions.
 - ◇ Progress Notes
 - ◇ IFSP
 - ◇ Transition & Discharge

EI Regional Specialists are available to schedule an R-2 agency call to plan implementation as well as discuss any EI Client System questions you may have.

Here is what a program had to say about using the system:

"The Client System walks you step by step through the tasks of the IFSP process and prevents most mistakes by flagging missing information before a task can be completed. I have found the system to be very easy to use if you follow the guidelines of the IFSP process. When questions arise, our Regional Specialist has been very helpful in finding answers and addressing issues that arise."

Here is a quote about what a program had to say about completing an R-2 call:

"We had our R2 agency call in May and it allowed us to review our clinical flow and start planning for implementations. Due to various needs of staff and their comfort level we planned a timeline to give staff the appropriate amount of and support they need in order to be competent by December."



New podcasts will be featured in this section as they become available.

They are always available at <https://eionthefly.podbean.com/>.

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](#)

[Episode 5: Implicit Bias](#)

[Episode 6: Functional Assessment and the Initial IFSP](#)

[Episode 7: Ongoing Functional Assessment](#)

[Episode 8: What Functional Assessment Means to Supervisors, Practitioners, and Families](#)



Professional Development for EI Providers

DPH/EI Orientation FY2021

The Department of Public Health Early Intervention Orientation has been altered from 2 full-day, face-to-face Foundation trainings, to 6 live DPH Orientation trainings. Please check out this [handout](#) or the appendix to this Update.

The Department of Public Health is offering Institute trainings for supervisors and PIWI champions this fall.

Reflective Supervision Institute

The Reflective Supervision Institute is a 3- day virtual Institute to learn and practice the elements of Reflective Supervision (RS). * must be a supervisor to attend this institute

Learning Objectives

- Plan for successful supervision with supervisees.
- Develop relationship with supervisor/supervisee which promoted the relationship between both the provider and the parent and the parent and the child.
- Learn ways to use RS during observations to support functional assessment and PIWI philosophy.
- Explore the barriers to providing RS and generate plans to overcome those barriers.

PIWI Learning Institute

The PIWI Institute is a 4- day virtual training that will provide an overview of Parents Interacting With Infants (PIWI) model, the "why" behind PIWI, strategies for successful implementation, and opportunities to problem-solve challenging situations. * must be a supervisor or a PIWI champion to attend this institute

Learning Objectives

- Apply the use of dyadic and triadic strategies to support parent/child interactions and progress toward achieving IFSP outcomes.
- Differentiate how each discipline in EI can support and promote PIWI using their individual experiences.
- Demonstrate how functional assessment supports PIWI in Massachusetts EI home visiting.

To Register: www.cvent.com/c/calendar/989eaea2-9183-43ca-9654-50e460d66645



Resources & Events

The **Division of Children & Youth with Special Health Needs (CYSHN)** has added new content to their web pages dedicated to emergency care planning for COVID 19 and beyond. When you visit the [CYSHN homepage](#) you will see a new Emergency Care planning button which will lead to the new pages. As the pandemic continues, it is important for families to consider having emergency care plans and back-up supports ready in case they are affected by COVID 19 and require assistance for their children with special health needs and other family members.

The web content includes:

- "Preparing for Caring during COVID 19" Webinar recorded on June 30, 2020 with Carrie Noseworthy of "A Safer Me" and Cheryl Ryan Chan of "Person-Centered Planning" along with their accompanying materials (Spanish version coming soon)
- Several fillable emergency care plans (also coming soon: MassHealth's new Emergency Care Plan - for which some of our DCYSHN team gave their feedback)
- Links to COVID and general emergency resources including articles, publications and COVID-related children's books



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

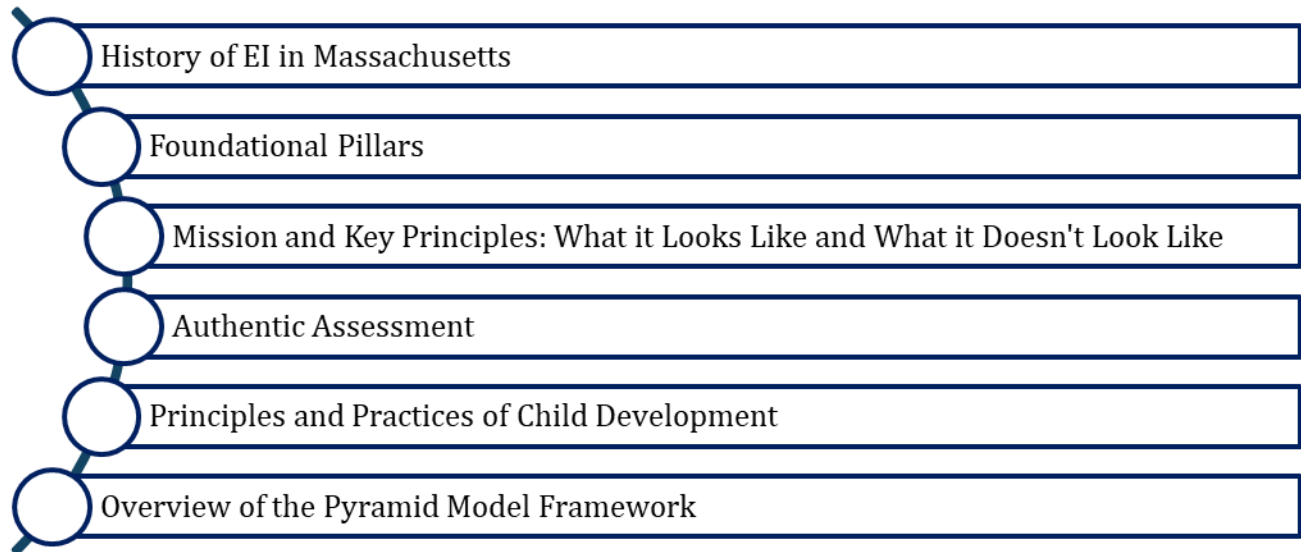
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DPH/Early Intervention Orientation FY 2021

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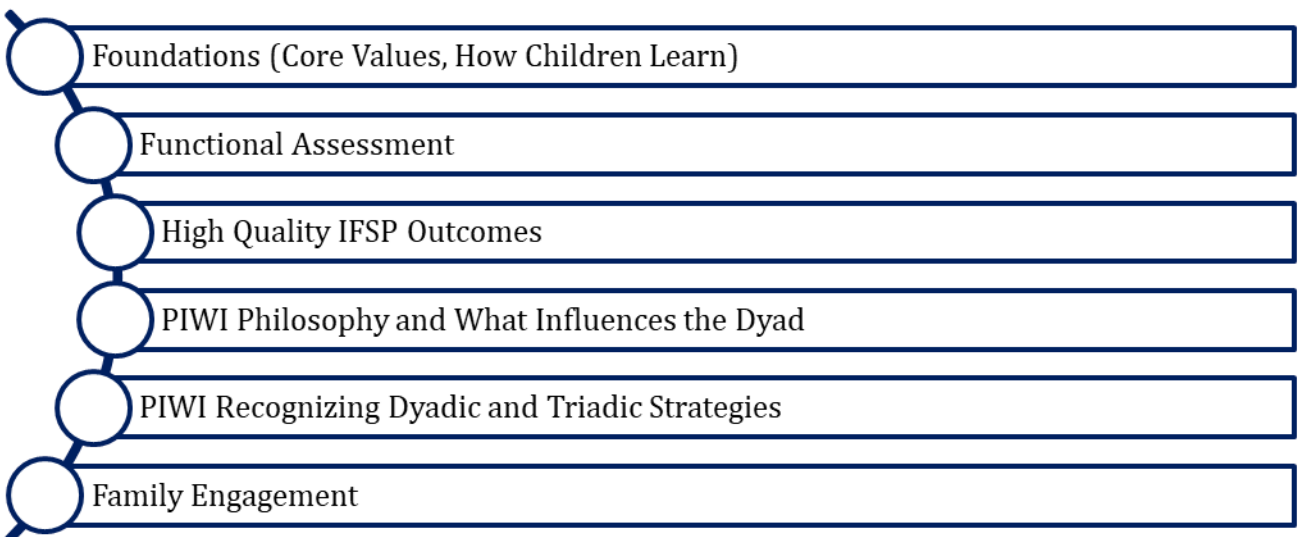
Prerequisites:

- Prerequisites to the trainings are located on Training on Demand. This includes:



Live Trainings:

- These six online modules will be followed by the following live trainings. The live trainings are scheduled every other week for 12 weeks. Each training is 2.5 hours long. These trainings include:



Supporting Materials for Programs and Requirements for Attending Live Trainings:

- These 6 trainings are all the components that would be found in Foundations 1 and Foundations 2.
- There will also be 6 Grab and Go's with the same material as the live trainings.
- The Grab and Go's' will be available for program directors and supervisors to use to support their staff with the curriculum.
- We often hear from programs that they don't remember the material that is being trained to new staff. Now all programs will have access to the material.
- However, the new program staff for FY 21 will be required to attend the live online trainings as part of DPH orientation.
- Supervisors of staff attending the trainings will be expected to attend a monthly Community of Practice (COP) for 3 months while their supervisees are registered for the above trainings.
- The COP are one time a month for 2.5 hours for supervisors.

Registration:

- For those individuals that have attended Foundations 1 and only need Foundations 2, they can email Laura Guida when registration is open to be placed in training # 4 through 6.
- Registration for all the trainings will be available at the end of August.
 - <https://www.mass.gov/professional-development-for-ei-providers>

