

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers
December 2020



Wishing You and Yours a happy, healthy holiday season!

Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

December 15, 2020, 3pm: EI Webinar

December 22, 2020, 3pm: EICS Tips & Tricks Webinar

January 14, 2020: ICC Meeting, Virtual

- 9:15a—11:15p: ICC Business Meeting (schedule subject to change)
- 12p—2:pm: Standing Committees and Task Groups



Congratulations on Retirements

Steve McCourt

Steve McCourt, our EI Fiscal Manager, retired on December 1, 2020. Steve has been with Early Intervention for almost 28 years and has led the team in managing the DPH EI budget and claims to DPH as payer of last resort and has led us in the development of positive relationships with local insurance companies to ensure a diverse system of payments. Steve has been committed to ensuring that our new Client System will give us the same processing and reporting that he has developed over the years. Steve is looking forward to spending time with his family! Please join us in wishing Steve well.

Please contact Virgie White moving forward: virgie.white@mass.gov

Lorraine Sanik

Lorraine Sanik, of the Thom Charles River Early Intervention, will be retiring at the end of December. This is a huge loss for the program, agency and the entire EI community. Lorraine certainly deserves all the best in her retirement after decades of service to infants, toddlers and families. In addition, Lorraine has been an active contributor to MEIC and been involved in numerous statewide initiatives.

Lorraine Sanik has been a steadfast advocate for children and families in Waltham, Watertown, and Belmont. In fact, she was the founding director of the early intervention program, originally operated out of Deaconess Waltham Hospital, and now operated by Thom Child and Family Services. In total, Lorraine has been the director of this program, Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program for over 43 years! **Please join us in wishing Lorraine well!**

With Deep Sympathy

With great sadness, we wanted you to know that Gail Gentile, the Early Intervention IT Program Manager at DPH, and a friend and mentor to many of us, passed away peacefully in her home on Monday. We will greatly miss Gail's leadership, knowledge, humor and heart.

Welcome

Chrissy Kammel

Christina (Chrissy) Kammel has been promoted and will assume full program director responsibilities once Lorraine leaves her position at Thom Charles River. She's been a Physical Therapist at Thom Charles River EI for over 10 years and has been an emerging leader there for quite a while and is currently a supervisor at the program. Chrissy also holds DPH CEIS status. **Please join us in welcoming Chrissy to her new role!**



DPH Updates

EI Client System and “Reason for Progress Note Late” Task Guidance

What is the “Reason for late progress note” task?

The “Reason for late home visit progress notes” task is designed to provide justification when services added to the IFSP are provided past the timely services requirement of 30 days.

Why am I seeing the “Reason for late home visit progress note” task?

Information from the IFSP Service Delivery Page has been migrated into the system from EIIS and programs have been inputting information from the IFSP Service Delivery Page into the EI Client System (EICS) as part of Release 1 requirements. Now that programs are implementing Release 2 requirements in EICS they are completing the “assign IFSP services” task.

When the services on the IFSP Service Delivery page are now assigned, there are no progress notes completed in EICS and it is more than 30 days past the start date for that service on the IFSP you will receive the “Reason for late home visit progress notes” task on your task list. The first progress note showing the timely service may be on paper in the paper file since progress notes are not required to be entered into EICS until the Release 2 implementation deadline of 12/31/20.

What do I do with the “Reason for late home visit progress note” task if it really was not late it is just on paper and not entered in EICS?

Option 1- Ignore the task

Option 2- Enter the information from the paper progress note in the record into the EICS progress note to indicate service was provided with the date the first service was provided. This will be in the past, ensure you enter the same date from the paper record and change the pre-populated dates in the EICS.

This could potentially have implications if you are running the EICS billing extract for that time frame.

Why can't I just choose one of the options available in the drop down list in the “Reason for late progress note” task?

Visit Adheres to IFSP (Quarterly, etc.)- this only applies when a service is listed on an IFSP and the provision of this service is appropriately after 30 days, for example a quarterly service.

Extreme Conditions- this applies to significant weather related conditions that are one time events.

EI Services and Telehealth

The EIPLP created this short video for families, entitled EI Services & Telehealth (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqlhP_LKimg&t=5s). Please check out how the REACH program shared this video in their family newsletter below (Thank you, REACH EIP!). Please consider sharing it in yours!

“Since March, REACH has been providing all our regular services through Zoom, FaceTime, and other platforms in a process known as telehealth. The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project has developed the following short video to explain to families what telehealth is and how it works. Check it out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqlhP_LKimg”



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).

Series 2

Episode 1—Understanding the Team’s Shared Purpose

Episode 2—Sharing Common Tasks & Understanding Unique Roles among Team Members



Resources & Events

Federation for Children with Special Needs is looking for Early Childhood Presenters!

The Federation for Children with Special Needs invites presenters to submit workshop proposals for consideration for our virtual VOC Conference to be held in March 2021. Workshops should advance the knowledge and skills of parents of children with disabilities and professionals to help strengthen partnerships, better support children's educational and medical needs, and improve opportunities for children and families to fully participate in their communities. We plan to offer workshops in 3 lengths to meet the needs of virtual participants. All proposals must be received no later than Friday, December 11, 2020 (extension granted until Wednesday, December 16, 2020) for consideration by the Conference Planning Committee. Due to space and balance in programming, proposal acceptance is not guaranteed. Questions? voc@fcsn.org

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vbC1_rPOskCVD77QghekaEiPqPDVeaJBgRwYWMqtfbpURFVKVzIIOVVWTTVQOjk4WkVOQU5PSjNGUC4u

Please spread the word!

Massachusetts' Act Early Campaign

[Massachusetts' Act Early Campaign](#) has received a grant from the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD), in association with the centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support the implementation of **CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early"** program throughout the state of MA. Dr. Kate Barlow, the CDC's MA Act Early Ambassador will be providing a series of **five, free online webinars focused on child developmental monitoring, milestones, and the MA referral system. These webinars will be offered twice a month, January – May 2021.**

The webinars target an interagency cross-sector collaboration and attendance from Early Intervention, Head Start and Early Head Start, Early Education and Care Childcare providers, Home Visiting, Family Support Specialists, and Special Education Preschool programs. The WIC program will also be participating in some of the sessions as part of their initiative to incorporate developmental monitoring into the WIC program.

Please see the attached Save the Date notification for the training dates and details, course description, learning objectives, and registration information. Please forward this opportunity to your programs and networks. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email Dr. Barlow (Kate.Barlow@aic.edu). As soon as the registration link is announced information will be forwarded.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:
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