

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers January 2021



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

January 19, 2021, 2p—3p: EI Webinar

January 26, 2021, 2p—3p: EICS Tips Webinar

February 1, 2021: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report—Due to OSEP

February 2, 2021, 2p—3p: EI Webinar

February 9, 2021, 2p—3p: EICS Tips Webinar

March 11, 2021: ICC Meeting, All Virtual

- 9:30a—11:30a: ICC Committee and Task Force Meetings
- 12:00p—2:00p: Meeting (quorum necessary to vote)
- Please contact Mary Dennehy-Colorusso ([mary.dennehy-colorusso@mass.gov](mailto:mary.dennehy-colorusso@mass.gov)) for a link to participate virtually in any ICC activities



### Welcome

#### Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition Director



**Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, DrPH, MIA** brings over 20 years of development, implementation and management experience across large scale initiatives that aim to improve workforce capacity and delivery of evidence-based services to optimize the health and wellbeing of children and families. In recent years, she has led national centers in support of Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) programs, served as the director for a national initiative aimed to build policies and programs to reduce infant mortality, using collective impact, collaborative learning, and improvement science. She led the Texas statewide Breastfeeding Learning Collaborative aimed at improving breastfeeding outcomes in partnership with WIC and birthing hospitals. She led a breastfeeding improvement effort with Boston Healthy Start Initiative aimed at improving breastfeeding outcomes among Black and Latinx women. While pursuing her doctorate in public health from Boston University School of Public Health with a focus on Infant and Early Childhood Development, she served as a clinical supervisor for a randomized clinical trial working with Massachusetts based early intervention programs building up provider capacity to support mothers reduce depressive symptoms using Positive Support Education (PSE). During that time, she worked closely with EI providers using reflective supervision to build provider capacity and confidence to support mothers at risk of maternal depression. She earned her master's in international affairs, focusing on children's rights and economic development from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science from the United States Coast Guard Academy. She is also a U.S. Veteran, having served as an officer with the United States Coast Guard. Elaine is the mother of four-year-old who also benefited from early intervention services here in Massachusetts. She is an advocate and a champion for children and families, especially our youngest and most vulnerable. **Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Elaine to her new role!**

#### Emily White, Division of Early Intervention (EI) Director



**Emily White, MEd, BCBA, LABA**, has spent more than 15 years' supporting children with special needs and their families. She has extensive experience designing and overseeing home-based intensive behavioral intervention, as well as consultation to public and private schools. More recently, she has worked in professional credentialing and high-stakes testing designed to promote consumer protection and high-quality practice. Additionally, she has served as adjunct faculty at multiple graduate training programs for behavior analysis and special education. Her research and professional interests include professional credentialing, early intensive behavioral intervention, interdisciplinary collaboration, objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE), and practitioner training. Mrs. White earned her master's in Behavioral Education from Simmons College teaching social skills and facial expressions to young children with autism; she also holds a bachelor's degree in English Education from Boston University and is passionate about promoting literacy. She is grateful for the opportunity to support

families and our most vulnerable residents across the Commonwealth. **Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Emily to her new role!**

## Elizabeth Small, New Director of KDC South Central EIP

Welcome to **Elizabeth Small**, the new Program Director for Kennedy-Donovan Center South Central Early Intervention Program located in Southbridge. Elizabeth is a licensed speech-language pathologist and she is also certified in the Hanen: It Takes Two To Talk program. She has worked either part or full time in Early Intervention since 2000. During her part-time years, she also worked as a speech-language pathologist in the school system, a rape crisis counselor and in a domestic violence shelter. She started working for KDC in 2009 and has progressed in her career from service coordinator to team leader/supervisor/transition coordinator. **Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Elizabeth in her new role as Director!**



## DPH Updates

### NCSEAM Family Survey Distribution will resume in March 2021 as an Online Version

#### Same Survey—New Distribution Methodology



**The NCSEAM Family Survey has not changed**, however it has been converted to a web based application accessible on any device including phone, tablet, laptop and desktop. It is built on a secure platform that will require families to log in with a discrete, one-time use code linked to their EI program.

Programs will receive a list of eligible families and a list of login codes from DPH in February. This information will need to be distributed to these families along with the web address where the Survey can accessed. **Because the October Survey distribution was suspended the list of eligible families will be longer than usual.**

Programs will be able to cut and paste a login code into an email or text to eligible families.

When the family accesses the website they will be able to select one of the following languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Haitian Creole.

The landing page will provide them with instructions about the purpose of the Survey and how to complete it. When the family has finished the Survey, there will be a **SEND** button that will deliver it directly to Piedra Data Services for recording and analysis.

Each returned Survey will be linked to the EI program serving the family. Families completing the Survey will continue to be anonymous.

Program Directors have informed the Department that most, if not all families have access to some form of technology.

We are very excited about this new methodology. Not only does it provide a safe, non-contact way to distribute the Survey but will hopefully increase the number of families who complete it. **However, doing the Survey on-line is not required.** For the few families who do not have access to technology or are not comfortable doing an on-line Survey, directors should provide them with a paper version (previous survey) of the Survey which you have available at your program. If needed, DPH can provide paper surveys to programs.

We would like to thank the Program Directors who participated in a focus group to share their input about how best to implement the NCSEAM Family Survey during this difficult time.

A follow up email with more information from Noah Feldman and Suzanne Gottlieb will be coming shortly. Please reach out to [suzanne.gottlieb@mass.gov](mailto:suzanne.gottlieb@mass.gov) with any questions.



## Parent Contact Opportunity to Attend FCSN Visions of Community 2021 Conference



The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) provides opportunities to Parent Contacts that they may not otherwise know about or have access to. We are pleased to be supporting up to **15 Parent Contacts** to virtually attend the **Federation for Children with Special Needs, Visions of Community 2021** conference on **Saturday, March 6, 2021** (and the opportunities for sessions leading up to it). The EIPLP has reached out to the Parent Contacts we have on file. If you haven't identified a Parent Contact or if your Parent Contact has changed, please email us at [eiplp@live.com](mailto:eiplp@live.com) to update us.



## Professional Development for EI Providers

### **New Module on Training on Demand: Racial Justice in Early Intervention**

This module was developed by Julie Longpre and Roxanne Hoke-Chandler, Division of EI staff on the Racial Equity Steering Team within the DPH Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition. It aligns with the Bureau's priority of Racial Equity and mirrors the trainings available to DPH staff while incorporating Early Intervention Mission and Key Principles.

This module is intended to be a combination of a training and discussion on Racial Equity with EI providers. In this module, we explore historical structural racism, discuss key concepts such as equity versus equality, explore a groundwater approach and racial justice re-framing, and connect racial equity principles to our work in Early Intervention. While this module can be taken individually, to get the most out of this training, staff should use it as a tool to facilitate conversations at their programs. We hope to further engage the provider community and discuss how the conversation on race plays into our day to day as EI providers.

### **DPH/EI Trainings Through June 2021 Available for Registration!**

The FY21 DPH/EI Trainings that run through June 2021 are all available for registration. Check out the [calendar here!](#)

The Reflective Supervision Institute and the PIWI Institute both have openings for supervisors and begin in February. These two Institutes will eventually be requirements for all supervisors to attend to support their staff with the new I-CEIS.

The Child Development Institute is geared to any EI Specialist. [This document](#) includes a list of all of the trainings that are currently being offered with a description of each training. Registration for the trainings can be completed through <https://www.mass.gov/professional-development-for-ei-providers> and by clicking on the virtual trainings.



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 1**

[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](#)

#### **Series 2**

[Episode 1—Understanding the Team's Shared Purpose](#)

[Episode 2—Sharing Common Tasks & Understanding Unique Roles among Team Members](#)

[Episode 3—Valuing and Respecting Team Members](#)



## **Resources & Events**



### **Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN) Visions of Community (VOC) Conference**

Visions of Community (VOC) is FCSN's annual conference for parents and professionals caring for children with special needs. The day includes intensive workshops on topics such as, IEPs and other special education issues, impact of trauma, self-care, health services and benefits, and transition planning, offered in English, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Learn more about this great event and register at [www.fcsn.org/voc](http://www.fcsn.org/voc).



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