

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

February 16, 2021, 2p—3p: EI DPH Webinar

February 23, 2021, 2p—3p: EICS Tips Webinar

March 2, 2021, 2p—3p: EI DPH Webinar

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

March 11, 2021: ICC Meeting, Virtual

- 9:30a—11:30a: ICC Breakout Groups
- 12:00p—2:00p: Meeting (quorum necessary to vote)
- Please contact Mary Dennehy-Colorusso (mary.dennehy-colorusso@mass.gov) for a link to participate virtually in any ICC activities



Welcome

Migdalia Rivera-Flores, The Lipton EI Program Director

Migdalia Rivera-Flores has been promoted to Program Director at The Lipton Early Intervention Program since December 2020. Migdalia graduated from the nursing program at Atlantic Union College in 2004. She worked at Emerson Hospital as a medical-surgical pediatric Registered Nurse (RN) for 3 years and Nashoba Regional School District for 13 years prior to taking a position at Community Health Link (CHL) in 2016. At CHL, she progressed her career from RN Service Coordinator, to Clinical Supervisor, to Assistant Director, and most recently as Director. **Please join us in welcoming Migdalia to her new role!**



DPH Updates

NCSEAM Family Survey—March 2021 Distribution is ONLINE!

Same Survey—New Distribution Methodology

The NCSEAM Family Survey content has not changed. It is now 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 be receiving a list of eligible families and a list of login codes by secure email from DPH next week. You will be able to cut and paste a one-time-use login code, into an email or text to eligible families.

Families will be able to select one of the following languages in which to complete the Survey: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Haitian Creole.

The landing page will provide 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.

Doing the Survey on-line is not required

If you have families who do not have access to technology or a comfort level with doing an on-line Survey, you may provide them with a paper survey and stamped self-addressed envelope in which to return it. Program Directors have let us know they have some paper surveys in their offices that can be mailed to families. DPH also has paper surveys available that can be sent to your program if you need extras.

We will be going over the Survey distribution methodology on the February 16th Webinar. Please contact Suzanne Gottlieb at suzanne.gottlieb@mass.gov with any questions.

Transition as Part of the IFSP

Is the transition part of the IFSP?

A transition from Early Intervention (EI) will occur for every child receiving EI services. When it's time to plan for the child's discharge from an EI program, planning for transition occurs jointly with families as part of the IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan). A transition plan reflects the individualized activities necessary to ensure smooth transitions for children and families exiting from EI services. Each infant or toddler exiting EI services will have a transition plan developed as part of his/her IFSP. Transition plans are developed in concurrence with the family and individualized based on the family's interests. Transition plans will identify the steps, services, supports, timelines and the person(s) responsible for ensuring that transition activities occur.

How do we know if the meeting should be done as part of an IFSP meeting or not?

As our Operational Standards tells us, the transition plan will identify timelines and the person(s) responsible for ensuring that transition activities occur and should be guided by family interests. Meetings to prepare for transition out of EI might include...

- Review the child's services and development
- Discuss possible options for supports and services once the child exits Early Intervention
- Establish or review transition activities.

The IFSP transition plan is complete when the activities (steps) or services that the IFSP team determines necessary to support the smooth transition of the child out of Early Intervention are documented on the appropriate pages of the IFSP.

How do we document transitions activities in the EI Client System (EICS)?

If you have specific questions about documenting transition activities in EICS, please contact your Regional Specialist.

Documentation Guidance Progress Notes: A Resource for Programs

Programs have reached out to DPH asking for clarification in what is required to be in a record, and how detailed it should be. They are finding that staff sometime put in sensitive information about a family. We understand that staff are working so hard at learning EICS that sometimes they are just forgetting simple clinical things they know such as being careful about documentation. For example: a staff writes in the record about a mother's recent diagnosis on a progress note but it is not something that the family has said is ok to put in the child's record.

In 2014 DPH developed a Guidance document on documentation in progress notes that has been released a few times over the years in issues of The Update. We recently updated it.

[This document](#) details requirements stated in the Early Intervention Operational Standards (EIOS) as well as tips for writing good quality notes that can be easily understood by families. It also includes guidance on who the audience can be for progress notes and things to think about when writing content.

The document can be used in training staff or provided for staff as a reference if they have questions about documentation. Programs are also encouraged to consult with their legal department when they are faced with individual situations as to how detailed documentation should be.

This information pertains to if you are capturing the whole progress note in the record in EICS or are documenting the narrative of the progress note in another location such as paper or an alternative electronic medical record. There is also helpful information about documenting sensitive information that can be generalized to other parts of the client record.

Happy 30th Birthday, EIPLP!

Please join us in wishing the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) a Happy 30th Birthday!

30 years of supporting family leadership and the family voice at the table; supporting parents and caregivers by promoting lifetime advocacy, leadership skills and subject-matter knowledge.

Be on the look out for opportunities to celebrate on our social media!

EARLY INTERVENTION
PARENT LEADERSHIP PROJECT

EIPLP

Established 1991



Identifying a Parent Contact—Opportunity to Attend FCSN VOC 2021

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 20 Parent Contacts** to attend the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN), **Visions of Community (VOC) 2021** virtual conference on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**, with 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 to update us.

Finding Your Footing (FYF): Using Your Family's Experience to Inform System Change

On Saturday, January 30, 2021, the EIPLP virtually celebrated the graduation of our first cohort of families that participated in the FYF. Please join us in congratulating Allison, Casandra, Crissy, Heather, Karen, Jack, Jen, Jennifer, Johanna, Marie, Pamela, Stefanie, Stephanie, Vicki ...our parent leaders extraordinaire!



Data Manager Update

2021 Annual Family Income Grid

A family's annual income is required by DPH to be collected and is reported by having the family use the Annual Gross Family Income grid. This grid is a tool used by clinicians to collect and report income in a more anonymous and less uncomfortable way for both the family and the clinician. The [2021 Annual Family Income Grid](#) is now available and is included as an attachment to this document. The EI Client System will be updated with the new grid on February 22nd. Clinicians should use the 2020 grid for all initial appointments through 2/21/21 and then begin using the [2021 Annual Family Income Grid](#) for all initial appointments that occur on or after 2/22/21.



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](#)

[Episode 4—Communicating Openly and Honestly](#)

[Episode 5—Helping One Another Learn and Grow](#)





Resources & Events

12-month Reflective Consultation Opportunity

MassAIMH and MSPCC are very pleased to announce a **12-month Reflective Consultation opportunity** comprised of web-based group reflection experience with an Endorsed®/vetted practitioner, with built-in support throughout the process. Timeline of offering: March 2021 to March 2022

Four specific groups offered with 6 participants/ group:

- Group 1: Spanish speaking group
- Group 2 and 3: A mixed group of direct care staff and supervisors in various fields who are in a role of supporting others, however do not have access to reflective consultation at their workplace*
- Group 4: Individuals who have never had access to reflective consultation; example individuals working in policy, administration, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Reflective Consultation Offering

What ?
A 12-month Reflective Consultation opportunity comprised of web-based group reflection experience with an Endorsed®/vetted provider, with built-in support throughout the process.

Who can participate?
Anyone doing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health PROMOTION or PREVENTION work- including:
 • Home Visiting
 • Early Care and Education
 • Head Start and Early Head Start
 • Child Welfare
 • Early Intervention
 • Child Development
 • Family and Peer Support
 • Policy and Administration
 • Pediatrics
 *NO previous experience receiving or providing reflective supervision is necessary

This opportunity is offered at NO COST to the participants
Want to learn more, see our [website!](#)

What it Entails:
 • You will meet once a month for two hours with colleagues and an Endorsed® provider for web based group reflective consultation.
 • Duration March 2021 to March 2022
 • Monthly hours that participants receive will meet the requirements for reflective consultation for USCMH Endorsement®

Interested? Click [HERE](#) to apply
Application Deadline: February 19, 2021

Who can join: The program is designed for anyone doing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health promotion or prevention work– including, but not limited to, staff working in the following sectors:

Home Visiting	Early Care and Education	Head Start and Early Head Start
Child Welfare	Early Intervention	Child Development
Family and Peer Support	Policy and Administration	Pediatrics

More details in attached flyer or at <https://massaimh.org/reflective-supervision/reflective-consultation-offering/>

Deadline for registration: **February 19th, 2021**

This project is made possible with support and funding from Boston Children's Hospital Office of Community Health.

Please [share this flyer](#) with providers in your network, specifically who are in the promotion and prevention scope of service in the infant and early childhood field.

Save the Date: An e-Health Program to Support Parent Hearing Aid Management

The traditional winter webinar hosted by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program will occur on **March 18th** at 12:00. Hopefully by then, it will look more like spring, but we'll stick with the name. We will be welcoming Dr. Karen Muñoz to present "An e-Health Program to Support Parent Hearing Aid Management".

Karen Muñoz is department head and a professor of audiology in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Education at Utah State University. Her research focuses on person-centered care in audiology, factors that influence patient/caregiver engagement in hearing treatment and developing interventions that support health behavior change for parents of young children who use amplification.

A link to register will be provided later, but mark your calendar! This webinar will be open to all, so please share with colleagues.

Massachusetts Family Sign Language Program is still here!

Northern Essex Community College continues to provide classes, to families who have a child who is D/deaf or hard of hearing, remotely through the pandemic and will continue to do so until it is safe to resume in-person classes. While we are remote, our classes are once a week for 45 minutes. It's not the same as in-person, but many of our families and tutors are enjoying the opportunity to continue to learn and provide communication access in their homes. We currently have no waiting list, so families can start right away. Please continue to refer families that are interested in the program.

Email: astevens@necc.mass.edu

Intake form: <https://www.necc.mass.edu/wp-content/uploads/programs/family-sign-language-program/FSLP-intake4.pdf>

Brochure: <https://www.necc.mass.edu/wp-content/uploads/programs/family-sign-language-program/FSLP-brochure2.pdf>

Resources from Massachusetts Act Early

The mission of MA Act Early: *Massachusetts Act Early aims to educate parents and professionals about healthy childhood development, early warning signs of developmental disorders including autism spectrum disorder, the importance of routine developmental screening, and timely early intervention whenever there is a concern.*

The Fall 2020 Conference that was held virtually was recorded, and is available for viewing. After viewing the four presentations, complete the post-test and receive a **certificate of completion!**

FREE Webinar Series (is also available!)

Upcoming Events 2021

- Jan. 28th & 29th "Learn the Signs. Act Early" – recorded and available on the website
- Feb. 25th & 26th Early Childhood Developmental Monitoring, Screening, Referral and Milestones
- March 25th & 26th Motor and Cognitive Milestones for Children
- April 29th & 30th Social & Speech Milestones for Children
- May 27th & 28th Attachment and Complex Trauma

For this and more information, or to join the mailing list, logon to www.maactearly.org/



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:
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