

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers March 2021



Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!

March 23, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EICS Tips Webinar

April 6, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EI DPH Webinar

April 7, 2021, 2:30pm - 3:30pm: **Early Intervention Part C Application** Listening Session via WebEx—click [here](#)

April 13, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EICS Tips Webinar



DPH Updates

EI Client System (EICS)

Thank you for your hard work on the implementation of the requirements for the EI Client System (EICS). We understand the difficulty of meeting these deadlines while working remotely and apart from one another. A majority of EI agencies were able to meet the January 1, 2021 deadline for full compliance in entering required data into EICS. For those agencies that have requested extensions, DPH is devoting internal and SSG resources to ensure the success of these agencies meeting the requirements.

SSP Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) and Vision programs

The code updates for SSP DHH and Vision programs were completed the week of March 8, 2021. Once we have a “go-live” date for these mandatory changes, we will send more information on restarting the onboarding process for these programs.

Transition to 837 file for Claims to DPH

As you all know, the final step to the full transition to the EICS is to retire the SDR file and transition to the 837 file for claims to DPH. DPH will be setting a deadline for all agencies to have tested and accepted the 837 file. DPH staff are available to support all programs for this transition. Some agencies have begun the testing process already. Current documentation for the 837 file may be found in the EICS under the HELP tab: Early Intervention (maei.casetivity.com)

EMR Uploads

Agencies that are thinking about switching from direct use of the EICS to uploading data from their own EMR must contact their Regional Specialist, to notify DPH of this intent. Regional Specialists will share the most updated documentation and DPH will plan to allocate the resources necessary for testing and support.

EICS User Manual and Quick Reference Card updates

Based on Help Desk ticket themes, SSG worked with DPH to update some sections of the user manual. These updated materials have been posted in EICS under the Help tab. There is a new version of the user manual, version 3.0. The main update to the manual is an expanded progress note section. It now includes the topics; *editing a progress note*, *adding a progress note after discharge* and *reason for later visit tasks*. Additional tips and screen shots have been added to the progress note section as well. Three additional Quick Reference Cards were also created on the following topics and added to the Help tab in EICS:

- *Progress Note*
- *Reason for Late Tasks*
- *Accessing the EICS Sandbox*

Stakeholder Meetings/Enhancement Requests

DPH continues to meet with stakeholders identified by the MEIC Board to represent the EI agencies in determining additional EICS enhancements.

Please note: if you have a suggestion or request for a change to the system, please email it to the Help Desk: maei-support@ssg-llc.com. DPH is monitoring these enhancement requests.

NCSEAM Family Survey - March 2021 Distribution is ONLINE!

REMINDER: March is NCSEAM Family Survey Distribution month!

Please share the link to the NCSEAM Family Survey and an individual log in code with eligible families!

It's March, and we hope that you are sending out this link: maeifamilysurvey.com to eligible families. Remember to send each family an individual log in code along with the link.

At the March 2 webinar, there were several mentions in the chat that programs would find it helpful to have the flyer that accompanies the paper survey. These flyers may be sent to families with the link and their individual login code.

The flyers in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Haitian Creole are attached.



Family flyer
English.docx



Family flyer
Spanish.docx



Family flyer
Portuguese.docx



Family flyer
Vietnamese.docx



Family flyer
Haitian Creole.docx

The flyers explain what Family Outcomes are and remind families that these Outcomes are collected from their completed Surveys.

Please let us know how survey distribution is going and if you or the families in your programs are experiencing any difficulties. Your input will help to identify problems and glitches that can be fixed before the next Survey dissemination.



Professional Development for EI Providers

Reflective Supervision Institute for Supervisors & Team Leaders

April 15, May 15, June 17

[View/print flyer](#)

9:00am - 2:00pm - Virtual

Registration: <https://www.cvent.com/c/calendar/989eaea2-9183-43ca-9654-50e460d66645>

The Reflective Supervision Training (RS) is a 3-day training for supervisors in Early Intervention. The RS Training is an introduction to developing a reflective supervisory practice. This training will focus on:

- The use of reflection and the parallel process to promote the EI Specialist's relationship with parents and caregivers in support of the parent/caregiver's relationship with the child.
- Reflective thinking will also be used to enhance the EI Specialist's use of the PIWI philosophy during home visits.
- Participants will learn the elements of RS and have opportunities to practice applying the elements of RS to their ongoing supervisory practice, both through in field observations and during follow up supervisory sessions.
- Participants will explore possible barriers to providing RS and generate plans to overcome those barriers.
- Opportunities to integrate the content and experiences with using RS practices will be offered through small and large group discussions.

Requirements to attend the RS training include: a commitment to attend all 3 trainings, use of RS with an EI Specialist during supervision once/week over the 3-month period, observe two EI Specialists during a home visit and document each of the triadic strategies used, and to share examples from supervision during the training. All RS trainings will be virtual and will utilize a variety of modalities to support the learner, including lecture, videos, discussion, and reflective activities.

EICS Tips: Live Virtual Training: Topics are determined by trends in Help Desk questions.

Grab and Go: Self-paced learning packet. Introduction to the EICS for Clinical staff.

Regional Specialists: Contact for any EICS support needs.



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](#)

Pyramid Model Annual Summit

[View/Print Flyer](#)

The Pyramid Model Annual Summit will be held virtually this year, following a different format.

This year the Summit will be a series of 3 two-hour sessions, held in April, May and June.

Join Dr. Rosemarie Allen to explore issues around equity and trauma.

Dr. Allen is a respected international expert, presenting on Implicit Bias, Racial Equity, Inclusive Practices,

Culturally Responsive Practices, Cultural Competence, Micro Aggressions, Disproportionality, Privilege, Power and Intersectionality.

Please see the attached flyer for registration information!

Registration for event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ma-equity-and-the-pyramid-model-tickets-142004235491>

Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health (MassAIMH)

Infant and Early Childhood Endorsement® Opportunity

Do you work with or on behalf of children 0-6?

Are you interested in learning more about the Infant and Early Childhood Endorsement® for culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice?

We are launching Endorsement® office hours twice a month. An opportunity to learn more about the what, the why and how to seek Endorsement® as a professional development journey!

Office hours will be offered on the first Thursday and the fourth Wednesday of each month. This month's office hours are scheduled for: **Wednesday, March 24th from 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

We look forward to chatting with you!

Jayne Singer, PhD, IMH-E®
Infant Mental Health Mentor-Clinical
President, MassAIMH

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8141086893?pwd=SCtrRGt0ZVgzaDE0UkFsdFgvUmdpUT09&mc_cid=1fd123d697&mc_eid=fbfab09a60#success

Military Families Learning Network Early Intervention Team (MFLN)

[Military Families Learning Network Early Intervention team \(MFLN\)](#) is a grant project at the University of Illinois. The MFLN produces web-based professional development for professionals working with both military and civilian families.

Webinars in this series will discuss evidence-based strategies used by early interventionists (EI) and early childhood (EC) professionals that promote child development through caregiver-child interactions. These strategies, referred to as [triadic strategies](#), focus on the interactions between three individuals: the child, caregiver, and EI/EC professional (McCollum & Yates, 1994).

Each webinar, presented by Tweety Yates, PhD, is free and open to the public but specifically targets those working with children ages birth to 5 (early interventionists, early care providers and early childhood special educators). CE credits (1.5h Intervention) are offered free of charge from the [Early Intervention Training Program \(EITP\) at the University of Illinois](#).

April 14, 2021 at 11:00am - 12:30pm EDT

Title: *Strategies for Supporting Caregiver-Child Interactions That Enhance Development*

Event Page Website: <https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/event/95065/>

Description: Triadic strategies focus on the interactions between three individuals: the child, caregiver, and EI/EC professional. These strategies help us think about what we do, what caregivers do, and what we do together. Triadic strategies recognize and strengthen caregiver and child competence, confidence, and mutual enjoyment. Part 1 of this two-part series will provide an overview of the triadic strategies which include: 1) arranging the environment to increase the probability of enjoyable caregiver child interactions; 2) affirming parenting competence; 3) focusing attention; 4) providing developmental information; 5) modeling; and 6) suggesting. Each strategy will be explained with examples given across roles and settings.

June 10, 2021 at 11:00am - 12:30pm EDT

Title: *Ideas for Implementing Triadic Strategies: Putting it Into Action!*

Event Page Website: <https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/event/95069/>

Description: Triadic strategies focus on the interactions between three individuals: the child, caregiver, and EI/EC professional. This webinar will discuss ideas and resources for implementing the triadic strategies, discussed in Part 1 of this two-part series. A primary focus will be on the use of triadic strategies to share developmental information with families of infants, toddlers and preschoolers in a meaningful and engaging way.

Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:
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