

The UPDATE

News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers April 2021

Important Dates...Mark your Calendar!



CANCELLED: April 20, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EI DPH Webinar

April 22, 2021, 10:00am - 12:00pm: ICC Fiscal / Reengagement Committee

April 27, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EICS Tips Webinar

May 4, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EI DPH Webinar

May 11, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:00pm: EICS Tips Webinar



DPH Updates

EI Service: Co-Treatment Visit Guidance

As EI service providers have implemented the Early Intervention Client System (EICS) they are seeking additional information about documentation requirement/s. We have received numerous questions about co-treatment visits and do co-treatment visits need to be documented on the IFSP?

A co-treatment visit is an EI service like a weekly group or home visit and therefore it is required to be documented on the IFSP service delivery page and family must provide consent. Please check out the [guidance document](#) on co-treatment visits. It includes the definition of a co-treatment in our EI system and other common questions DPH has received from the field about co-treatment visits.

Transportation Services Survey

As the Commonwealth moves forward with the Governor's re-opening plan, transportation services through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Transportation Office may be necessary to ensure equitable access to services for all families. The Early Intervention Division and EOHHS Human Services Transportation Office are seeking your input about anticipated requests for transportation services in the next three months. Your responses to this forthcoming survey will help assess program-level needs for transportation services through the EOHHS Transportation Office. DPH anticipates sending this survey to providers during the week of April 12th or 19th. We appreciate the willingness of EI programs to complete this survey as quickly as possible in order to work with our partners at EOHHS toward ensuring access to transportation services.

EIPLP Universal Database Sign Up Form

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) is still accepting and encouraging all EI programs to share the [Universal Database Sign Up Form](#) with parents in your EI Program. This form allows the EIPLP to send them newsletters written by parents and caregivers in EI (either paper or electronic) and information about opportunities. Instead of mailing them in, we are requesting that you send them via secure email to liz.cox@eohhs-sfed.state.ma.us.

Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium (MEIC) Conference Parent Invites

This year's MEIC conference will be held on May 3rd and 4th. If your program has a Parent Contact, the EIPLP has already reached out to them with [their invitation](#) to attend this year. If your program does not have a Parent Contact, we would be happy to sponsor another parent or caregiver from your program.

As you know MEIC 2021 will be held virtually. EIPLP has been working hard to come up with new ways to engage with families during the conference. Some of the ideas we have come up with are mindfulness breaks, a BINGO night and a virtual Hospitality Room! We really hope that you will make sure a family from your program is able to take advantage of this awesome opportunity! Please email liz.cox@mass.gov with any questions.





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](#)

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program at Erikson Institute

Erikson Institute is one of the country's leading graduate programs in child development. [Our Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program](#) is an 18-credit hour graduate program designed for experienced professionals who want to deepen their practice with an infant mental health approach. This program is fully online and serves students from all over the country as well as international students.

Admission criteria for this program is a bachelor's degree and 3-5 years of experience working with infants, young children and families or a clinical degree and experience working as a mental health practitioner. Our students come from a variety of fields and backgrounds. They share a common desire to deepen their practice with an infant mental health lens.

[Scholarships](#) are available for the program through the Irving Harris Association. You can also find more information on Erikson's website [here](#).

Optimizing Outcomes for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

DESE, MCDHH and DPH are proud to offer a webinar "[Optimizing Outcomes for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#)" on May 12th from 4-5PM. This webinar will be presented by Dr. Barbara Hecht, Ph.D., from Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech and is for school-aged children. Dr. Hecht was one of the writers of [About the Guidelines – Deaf Education Guidelines \(deafedguidelines.org\)](#). The Guidelines will be reviewed and strategies for implementation will be discussed.

This webinar is free, but registration is required [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#). CART and ASL interpretation have been requested for this event.



Comments, contributions or feedback, please contact:

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