

# The UPDATE

## News and Information for Massachusetts EI Providers



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

May 18, 2021, 2pm—3pm: EI DPH Webinar

May 25, 2021, 2pm—3pm: EICS Tips Webinar

May 27, 2021, 10am-12pm: ICC Fiscal/Re-engagement Subcommittee Meeting

June 1, 2021, 2pm—3pm: EI DPH Webinar

June 8, 2021, 2pm—3pm: EICS Tips Webinar

June 10, 2021: ICC Meeting, Virtual



- 9:15am—11:15am: Fiscal Subcommittee and Re-engagement Subcommittee Meeting
- 12:00pm—2:00pm: 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



### Early Intervention Division Updates

#### Opportunity to Participate in the Onsite Monitoring Pilot of Questions

DPH has been working on revising and creating a meaningful Onsite Monitoring Process for Agencies and EI Programs. At this time, we have designed a pilot project to collect data on questions we would be asking during Onsite Monitoring visits. In the data we are collecting we want to make sure that the questions asked make sense, are clear, and questions are understood by all types of staff, families, as well as those in agency roles.

We would like to recruit staff from multiple programs to participate in this part of the pilot. We need a cross-section of program size, location, discipline, length of time in program/field to be able to gauge the appropriateness of questions in this process.

- We will be conducting interviews in all question areas including staff, supervisor, agency, program director, and caregivers. All interviews should take 1 hour or less and will include time for feedback on the interview items.
- We will be piloting surveys for staff and families with questions similar to the interviews.
- We are also looking for supervisors who would be willing to use an observation tool during a home visit and answer a few questions about the tool.

If you or your staff are interested in participating, please fill out this short survey with your contact email and if you would like to participate in an interview, survey, or observation <https://forms.gle/dgEyYF4CYeLYFvu27> by May 31, 2021.

If you have questions, please contact Faith Bombardier at [faith.bombardier@mass.gov](mailto:faith.bombardier@mass.gov). Thank you for your help with this process.

#### Transition to 837 File for Claims to DPH-implementation Deadline Set

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 is setting a deadline for all agencies to have a tested and accepted 837 file by **September 30, 2021**, so that October claims will be submitted using the 837 file. DPH staff will be offering supports and training to all programs for this transition. Some agencies have begun the testing process already. Current documentation for the 837 file can be found in the EICS under the HELP tab: [Early Intervention \(casetivity.com\)](http://casetivity.com)

#### BDI-2 Scoring Booklet

DPH is planning on completing BDI-2 scoring booklet orders this year using the same process as in the past. We will be ordering from the publisher and having them shipped directly to programs. NOTE: This process usually takes a couple of months to complete. Please contact Susan Breen at [susan.breen@mass.gov](mailto:susan.breen@mass.gov) if there are any changes to your shipping address or if you have any questions.

## NCSEAM Family Survey Update

We are excited to let you know that our first effort to move our NCSEAM Family Survey distribution and response to a web-based application was very successful. In March 2021, EI programs distributed 8,152 unique log-in codes to eligible families, those whose children have been enrolled in EI for at least six months. 131 paper surveys in English, Spanish and Portuguese were also distributed.

As of May 1—2,431 web-based responses and 18 paper surveys have been received by Piedra Data Services.

We are very interested in hearing your feedback on the process and will be inviting you to join us on **Wednesday, May 19, 10 am—11 am** to share your thoughts about the benefits and challenges of the new methodology. You will be receiving an invitation from the Parent Leadership Project with details of how to join. We look forward to your input.

<https://statema.webex.com/statema/j.php?MTID=mc9dbd94d69528d511ee2fcfc71413760>



## ***Resources & Events***

### **Update for VIRTUAL: Making the Most of Virtual Visits (free training)**

**Description:** This webinar and interactive discussion, presented by Jeanna Capito, The BUILD Initiative, will focus on strategies for family engagement in virtual connections, using protective factors frame partnered with the important roles families and staff play in this process. The content will include a discussion on the different types of platforms used for communication, how to set limits and boundaries, and how to address privacy concerns during virtual connections. Information on best practices for virtual interactions will be shared along with facilitated discussion across participants to learn from each other on strategies you have used to engage in virtual interactions with families.

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase understanding of family engagement and using a strengths-based approach with families
- Describe the roles of the family support professional and families in virtual visits
- Acknowledge the need for addressing limits, boundaries, and privacy concerns and explore strategies to address these

**Date:** May 25, 2021 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/e6922c02-b57b-4b7a-ade3-d1a77e6cb605/summary>

### **May is Better Speech and Hearing Month**

All babies receive a hearing screen at birth, but this screen is a snapshot in time. Any child who demonstrates delayed auditory and/or communication skills development, even if he or she passed the newborn hearing screening, should receive an audiological evaluation to rule out hearing loss. Appropriate diagnostic testing centers can be found [here](#). The [Individualized Family Service Plan Handbook](#) includes (page 29) questions to ask families and risk indicators for late-onset or progressive hearing loss.

### **Survey for SLP's offered by Bilingual Language Development Lab at George Washington University**

#### **This survey must be completed by the end of May**

The Bilingual Language Development Lab at the George Washington University directed by Cynthia Core, Ph.D., is conducting a survey of beliefs about bilingualism for SLPs working with multilingual families. Participants should be SLPs serving families with children less than 5 years old who use a language other than English (or in addition to English) in the home. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and your participation will help improve clinical services for bilingual families. Please follow this link to complete the questionnaire: <https://cri-datacap.org/surveys/?s=383XCNMWXN>



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*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).*



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

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