



# *The Update:*

## News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

October 2011

Welcome to the October Edition of "The Update." This is a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This issue highlights IDEA Part C Regulations; Early Childhood Outcomes Data Sub-Group; Data Accountability Center (DAC) Pilot; Certification for Early Intervention Specialist (CEIS) Review Process; Exit Evaluation Clarification; EI Training Center Update; Regional Consultation Programs and Care Coordination EI Informational Sessions; Family Outcomes; and Reconciliation of the Annual Fee

### IDEA Part C Regulations



The new regulations for Part C Early Intervention were released on September 28, 2011. These final regulations are effective October 28, 2011. States will be required to update policies, procedures, descriptions, and methods to reflect the changes for the FFY 2012 Part C Grant Application which will be submitted by April 16, 2012.

The Department is currently reviewing the new regulations and will be attending the OSEP training on November 16. Changes to the Part C Application will be available for Public Comment by the end of January.

States will be required to implement the new federal regulations, and new state policies and procedures will be in place on July 1, 2012.

The Federal Regulations may be found at the follow-

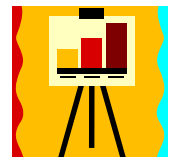
ing link <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-28/pdf/2011-22783.pdf>. An overview of the major changes to the Regulations that were provided at the ICC Retreat, is available on the Parent Leadership Project's website at [www.eiplp.org/icc](http://www.eiplp.org/icc).

To help States in their monumental task of implementing the updated regulations, the [Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\)](http://www.cec.sped.org), its [Division for Early Childhood \(DEC\)](http://www.cec.sped.org) and the [IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association \(ITCA\)](http://www.cec.sped.org) have released a side-by-side comparison of the final 2011 Part C regulations, published on Sept. 28, to Part C regulations from 1999. [http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PolicyAdvocacy/IDEAResources/Celebrating\\_25\\_Years\\_of\\_Early\\_Childhood\\_Programs/PartCRegsSideBySideFULL.pdf](http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PolicyAdvocacy/IDEAResources/Celebrating_25_Years_of_Early_Childhood_Programs/PartCRegsSideBySideFULL.pdf)

### Early Childhood Outcomes Data Sub-Group

The Department has established an Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Data Subgroup to analyze the Battelle data for federal child outcomes reporting, and make recommendations for methodology or measurement for reporting. Approximately 6 states are using the Battelle for outcomes reporting, and each state has uniquely defined the criteria for the OSEP progress categories. One of the tasks of the data subgroup will be to review the data collection methodology for each of the states. The ECO Stakeholders have reviewed the Florida methodology which defines each of the OSEP Progress categories using the raw scores in each of the sub-domains. The Early Childhood Outcome Center has developed a Crosswalk of items as they relate to the Child Outcomes.

This will be a short, time-limited commitment for those interested in participating in the ECO Data Subgroup. The group will meet on October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 1pm in Lobby Room #1, at 250 Washington Street, Boston. Please contact Patti at [patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:patti.fougere@state.ma.us) if you are interested in participating.



## Data Accountability Center (DAC) Pilot

Massachusetts has been selected by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to participate in the Data Accountability Center (DAC) Data Analytic Pilot. This is an effort to engage local providers to use available data in ongoing program improvement and decision making. The Department of Public Health (DPH) used the ICC Retreat as an opportunity to gather input and feedback from Stakeholders on the selection of a Topic/Priority Area for this effort.

The DPH provided data for review and discussion in the following five areas; Child Find, Clinical Judgment, Data Quality, Transition and Child Outcomes. The eligibility category of Clinical Judgment and its impact on Child Outcomes was selected as the priority area to be addressed through the DAC pilot.

The Department is actively recruiting 5 - 6 local programs to participate in this pro-active model. Local programs will be required to identify a representative team which includes administrators, program staff, parents, and community providers if appropriate. Local teams will be required to participate in an initial

webinar providing more detail about the model and in a two day face-to-face meeting scheduled on December 13 & 14, 2011 at the Best Western in Marlboro. The goal of the two day meeting is to review relevant data; conduct data analysis to generate a hypothesis; develop a Data Analysis Plan to collect and analyze additional data to test, hypothesize and determine root causes.

Additional face-to-face meetings and webinars will occur January – June 2012 to share successes and challenges, implement the plan, and evaluate progress.

The DAC will support the cost of travel and accommodations and DPH will provide space and food for the local teams.

Please share the pilot information with your programs and consider participating in this opportunity to impact local and state programmatic and policy decisions. Interested programs should contact me directly at [pattifougere@state.ma.us](mailto:pattifougere@state.ma.us) or 617-624-5975.

## Certification for Early Intervention Specialists (CEIS) Review Process

The DPH staff and CEIS Stakeholders presented a draft version of the *CEIS Portfolio Instruction Manual* at the October ICC Retreat. The PowerPoint is available on the Parent Leadership website at <http://www.eiplp.org/documents/CEIS2011.pdf> and will also be posted on [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org).

The presentation highlighted the streamlining of Entry 1 to include 16 competency indicators; increased participation by supervisors in Entry 2 via a Supervisor Assessment; revised format of Entry 3 which now includes narrative responses, an IFSP, two additional work samples and an IFSP checklist; and the addition of 2 work samples in Entry 4.

Roll-out teleconferences will be held **November 29** (9-11 a.m. for Central and West Region; 1-3 p.m. for Northeast and Southeast Regions), and **November 30** (11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for Boston and Metrowest Regions). Program directors and supervisors must register between November 1 and November 23 at [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org) to participate. (There is no limit on the number of participants per program.) Copies of the revised CEIS manual will be mailed to each program in preparation for these teleconferences.

The final printed version of the CEIS manual will be available in January 2012. It will be distributed by mail to each program; at BAC; at ICC; at the MEIC conference; and will be available in a paper version from EITC and electronically at [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org). Individuals interested in applying for Certification via the revised process should use the instructions in the final manual available in January 2012, not any of the draft versions before that time.

New Certification portfolios will be accepted beginning July 1, 2012. As of January 1, 2014, all portfolios must be submitted in the new format. Decisions about whether to apply using the current or revised process will be made by individuals in consultation with program directors and supervisors. Staff hired after January 1, 2011 may wish to consider submitting their portfolio utilizing the new CEIS process.

EITC will provide other supporting materials including online PowerPoints "How to Complete a CEIS Portfolio in 3 Years" and "Completion of the Supervisor Assessment."



## CEIS Review Process Continued...

During the time period of the roll-out conferences, the EITC will also be recruiting Portfolio Review Panelists for the revised process. Interested parents, peers, and administrators should contact Holly Newman at [holly.newman@state.ma.us](mailto:holly.newman@state.ma.us). Panelist training will take place in Spring 2012.

Please make sure that Supervisors and Team Leaders in all programs are aware of new information regard-

ing the revised CEIS portfolio process.

**Note:** There has been a recent influx in portfolio submissions over the last several months which has impacted the timeliness for getting the portfolio's out to review panels. Please inform staff who may have recently submitted their portfolio that the review process may be extended a few months.

## Exit Evaluation Clarification

Questions arose at the ECO Stakeholders meeting during the data discussion regarding the requirement for exit evaluations for federal outcomes data. The Stakeholders recommended the Department clarify the requirement for exit evaluations.

Guidance is as follows: children eligible for early intervention based on a non-asterisked established condition will need an exit evaluation as close to discharge as possible (guidance - within 3 months), for child outcome reporting; children eligible based on developmental delay, environmental risk, and/or clinical judgment do not require an exit evaluation. The Department will continue to



report child outcomes data on children who receive six months or more of services through a comparison in the percentage of improvement in functionality between entry and final evaluations.

Programs may do an exit evaluation for the purpose of child outcomes reporting closer to the child's third birthday (regardless of eligibility category). This evaluation does not need to be completed by a multidisciplinary team as it is not a determination of eligibility and the scores would be entered in the EIS discharge form. The parent should be informed of the intent of the evaluation and provide written consent.

## Early Intervention Training Center Update

### Battelle Implementation – Training, Mentoring, and Support

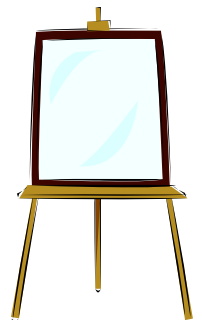
The EITC continues to provide many activities to support the implementation of the Battelle Developmental Inventory - 2.

**Battelle Training:** Training of trainers was completed this summer. The EITC is offering a Mentor Training to build a cadre of mentors who can go back to their programs/regions and provide coaching and support. An on-line "overview training" on Battelle is currently being developed. The EITC is also developing a Series of Webinars/Conference calls on a variety of topics that will provide more in-depth discussion on the tool. A total of 29 program mentorships have been provided by Noah Feldman, through the EITC. Noah will be the principal developer for the Battelle online training which will cover key concepts and critical components of the Battelle.

**Social Emotional Tools:** The EITC is offering Social Emotional Tools training on October 25, 2011 at the Massachusetts Hospital School. This workshop will

examine infant mental health research, theory and widely used screening tools that will promote relationship-based approaches in early intervention. Specific information related to the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Greenspan's Social-Emotional Growth Chart will be reviewed. Two additional sessions will be scheduled before April 2012.

**Reminder to program staff and supervisors:** As of September 2011, successful completion of the on-line module "History of Massachusetts Early Intervention" is required of all staff prior to their attendance at Building a Community Part I. Successful completion of "Connecting the Dots: Early Childhood Transition" is required prior to attendance at Building a Community Part II. Registration for both modules is available at [www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org). Click on Calendar/Registration for registration information.



## Regional Consultation Programs/Care Coordination EI Informational Sessions

The RCPs provide consultation, training and support services for young children with complex care needs, their families, Early Intervention Programs and other community providers who support them. Care Coordination establishes links between families, various state programs, schools & other providers to maximize the child's potential.

The RCP directors and Care Coordination staff will be contacting EI programs to schedule informational sessions highlighting the supports and services RCPs, Care Coordination and other Children with Special Health Care Needs Programs provide. Please set aside 30 – 45 minutes at an upcoming staff meeting to learn more about this valuable resource.

## Family Outcomes



The Department would like to reconvene the Family Outcomes Task Force to discuss the development of a coordinated, comprehensive systemic process to embed family outcomes in day-to-day practice. Another recommendation was to update and revise the Universal IFSP to include Child & Family Outcomes language. Please contact Suzanne Gottlieb at [suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us](mailto:suzanne.gottlieb@state.ma.us) or Patti Fougere at [patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:patti.fougere@state.ma.us) if you are interested in

participating. Additional information will be forthcoming.

October is NCSEAM Family Survey distribution month. Please continue to encourage families to complete and return their Surveys in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided. The results of the survey will be analyzed and used for FFY 10 federal reporting. Thanks for your ongoing contribution and support of this process.

## Reconciliation of the Annual Fee

The Department has reviewed the Annual Fee Survey data and compared it to the information in EIIS. There are considerable inconsistencies between the two sources and wide variation from program to program. DPH staff have communicated with a couple of providers to get a better understanding of why there is such a high level of disparity. It appears that errors and incomplete data in EIIS are part of the problem, as well as how providers are completing the survey based on different interpretations of what information should have been provided. As a result, the Department has decided to recover the amount collected by each program as reported on the Fee Survey, less 15% for the allowance for collection costs.



The Department will be developing a new survey tool and more explicit directions to allow for the collection of more accurate data. The results noted above are also an important reminder for providers to ensure the submission of correct and complete data via EIIS.

**Comments and questions to:**  
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