

The Parent Leadership Project's *Parent Perspective*

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Early Intervention Information and Resources

October/November 2008

Planting the Seeds: Growing Parent Leaders

ICC Retreat: Parents, Community Provide “Opportunity for Change”

On October 2 and 3, the Early Intervention community came together for the annual Massachusetts ICC (Interagency Coordinating Council) Retreat. The retreat brings together families, providers and community partners interested in the future of the Early Intervention system in Massachusetts.

Parents whose children have received Early Intervention services bring a valuable perspective about how the system meets the needs of children and families. Parent representatives from across the state are invited to share their thoughts and ideas as part of the ICC, joining other key advisors to the Department of Public Health, lead agency for the Early Intervention system in Massachusetts.

Amy Young, ICC Co-Chair and parent, welcomed everyone to the retreat and shared highlights of the work done throughout the previous year by the “dedicated committees” of the ICC. Margaret Mahoney, ICC Co-Chair and provider, said that the retreat offered participants an opportunity to create a continuing “vision for Early Intervention in Massachusetts.”

Ron Benham, Acting Director of the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition at the Department of Public Health, spoke about the challenges and opportunities that face the EI system. With the anticipated increase in referrals due to early childhood and



ICC Parent Representatives, Left to Right: Jennifer DerBergosian, Northeast Representative; Joanne Williams, Boston Representative; Amy Young, ICC Co-Chair; Jack Harris, At-Large Representative; Kimber O'Connell, Central Representative.

behavioral health screening initiatives, Ron expressed the need for stakeholders to show “persistence and perseverance” and to recognize that, despite the economic and other challenges, “the opportunity is significant”. Among the topics of discussion was the opportunity to create a range of system models to serve children and families across the state.

Other speakers echoed his sentiment, including Legislative Consultant for the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium (MEIC) Mary Ann Mulligan, who said that this is a time of “opportunity, challenge and need” for the Massachusetts EI system. “We are fortunate to have the commitment of a dedicated EI community,” she said.

On the first day of the retreat, participants honored Sally Fogerty, retiring Director of the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, for her long-time support of children and families. To recognize her more than 25 years of service to the Department of Public Health, Sally was presented with gifts from the EI community. Thanking everyone, she said, “The true gift is in being able to help just one child and one family.”

To learn more about opportunities for involvement on the ICC and how you can participate, please visit www.eiplp.org and click on the link for the ICC or contact Darla Gundler, ICC staff, at 1-877-353-4757.



Retiring Bureau Director Sally Fogerty accepts a gift from the EI community.

NCSEAM Family Survey Information



Families, thank you for continuing to fill out and return your NCSEAM (National Center for Special Education Accountability and Monitoring) Family Survey. We now have over **1700** surveys returned.

When the data people gave us this latest number, everyone at DPH was very excited because it is so many more than were returned and analyzed last year. Then we sat down to figure out percentages and lost a little of our excitement. 1700 surveys, although a wonderful number, is still less than 15% of all the surveys distributed to families whose children have been enrolled in Early Intervention for at least six months.

OSEP, the federal Office of Special Education Programs, continues to ask hard questions about the importance and value of Early Intervention services. States are required to put in place a number of ways to measure the usefulness of EI for children and families. These measures include showing that outcomes families identify on their IFSPs are achieved, that families feel better able to help their children learn and grow and that EI is helping children reach milestones similar to all young children with or without special needs. Responses to the Family Survey are one way we can demonstrate that participation in Early Intervention services in Massachusetts is making a positive difference for children and families.

Family Survey Frequently Asked Questions

1. My friend's daughter is in Early Intervention at another program. She didn't have to fill out a Family Survey, so why do I?

Families receive their Surveys at the six month IFSP review. Children have to be enrolled in EI for at least six months before families are asked to fill out and return a Survey. Maybe your friend's daughter has not been enrolled in EI long enough yet. No matter what the reason, it is important for you to fill out your Survey and return it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope that came with it.

2. My neighbors are from Mexico and don't speak much English. I know that they can't read English. They have a two year boy in EI, but won't be able to fill out a Family Survey right?

The Family Survey is available in English and Spanish. Families may choose which language they are more comfortable using. In the future we hope to have the Survey in more languages.

Información sobre la encuesta familiar de NCSEAM



Familias: gracias por seguir completando y enviando la encuesta familiar del Centro Nacional de Supervisión de la Educación Especial (*National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring* o NCSEAM). Ya hemos recibido más de **1.700** encuestas.

setts están marcando una diferencia positiva para los niños y sus familias.

Preguntas comunes sobre la encuesta familiar

1. La hija de una amiga mía está en otro programa de Intervención Temprana y no tuvo que completar una encuesta familiar, ¿por qué que yo sí?

Cada familia reciben su encuesta cuando se hace la revisión de su plan individualizado de servicios a los seis meses. Los niños deben haber estado inscritos en Intervención Temprana durante al menos seis meses para que a la familia se le pida que complete la encuesta. Tal vez la hija de su amiga no ha estado inscrita en IT durante el tiempo suficiente. Sea cual sea la razón, es importante que usted complete su encuesta y que la envíe de vuelta en el sobre provisto con franqueo y dirección de destino.

2. Mis vecinos son de México y no hablan demasiado inglés. Y sé que no lo leen del todo. Tienen un hijo de dos años que recibe servicios de Intervención Temprana pero entonces no van a poder completar una encuesta familiar, ¿no?

La encuesta familiar está disponible en inglés y español. Las familias pueden completarla en el idioma que prefieran. En el futuro, esperamos tener la encuesta disponible en más idiomas.

Al enterarnos de este último número, el Departamento de Salud Pública se entusiasmó mucho porque es mucho más alto que el del año pasado. Pero después, cuando nos sentamos a calcular los porcentajes, nuestro entusiasmo disminuyó un poco. Aunque 1.700 es un número bastante alto, es menos del 15% de las encuestas distribuidas a familias de niños inscritos en Intervención Temprana durante al menos seis meses.

La Oficina Federal de Programas de Educación Especial (*Office of Special Education Programs*, OSEP) sigue haciendo preguntas difíciles sobre la importancia y el valor de la Intervención Temprana. Los estados tienen la obligación de medir de diferentes maneras la utilidad de los servicios de Intervención Temprana para los niños y sus familias. Estos indicadores incluyen mostrar que los objetivos identificados por las familias en sus planes individualizados de servicios se han cumplido, que las familias se sienten más preparadas para apoyar el aprendizaje y el desarrollo de sus niños, y que la Intervención Temprana está ayudando a que éstos alcancen metas de desarrollo similares a las de otros niños pequeños, con o sin necesidades especiales. Las respuestas a la encuesta familiar son una forma de demostrar que los servicios de Intervención Temprana de Massachu-

Parent Leaders in the Community:

Growing Parent Leaders from the Ground Up: Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

What does Parent Leadership mean? How can parents and families take on leadership roles in their Early Intervention programs and in their own communities? What are some of the ways that parents and families build connections and grow the skills that support them to become leaders? In this and following issues of the newsletter, we'll be exploring these questions and highlighting the process of grassroots leadership development.

Families in Early Intervention are often looking for support and information. Some of that support is gathered through interactions with EI providers as they work with families to develop the IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) and promote family-centered services. Many families are also interested in meeting and sharing experiences with other families of children in Early Intervention. They may want more information about topics relating to parenting challenges or available community resources. They may also be interested in developing their own leadership skills, perhaps through fundraising activities or organizing events where families can have the opportunity to meet and share ideas.

The Massachusetts Early Intervention system supports parent leadership at all levels. The EI Operational Standards describe the requirements of community EI programs and incorporate the core values of the Massachusetts EI system. The Operational Standards Family Participation section states that: "Families are encouraged to be active participants in every component of the Early Intervention service system" and that "Family members may choose to participate in advisory functions as a group or as individuals." Joining or starting a PAC is one way that parents can build connections, develop leadership skills and act as advisors to their Early Intervention programs.

What is a PAC?

A PAC – Parent Advisory Council – is a group of families, staff and community members interested in young children who come together with a common outcome in mind. This is a formal group that meets to provide support, share information and advise the Early Intervention program on ways it can continue to meet the needs of families. Amy Caggiano, parent of an EI graduate, was the PAC Liaison at her Early Intervention program for nearly two years. She says that a PAC is "a critical bridge between parents and staff" and that the opportunity to be involved was important to her.

Amy got involved in her EI Program's PAC by first receiving information from the EI staff which was shared with each new family enrolled in the program. Amy says she was "curious about how things ran, and I wanted to know more about my rights and responsibilities as a parent."

What Does a PAC Do?

Each PAC and their activities should be individualized to meet the needs of the families and the Early Intervention Program. As PAC Liaison for the Criterion Stoneham EI Program, Amy organized monthly discussion groups as well as annual events to bring families together. An Annual Summer Picnic provided an opportunity for current and alumni families to meet each other and for program staff to share information. A Valentine's Winter Party also allowed families to come together and have fun while building connections. Monthly discussion topics included a talk presented by a local author of a children's nutrition book, information on potty training, and "Turning Three", a workshop provided by the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Several Hausslein Parent Leadership Award recipients have been parents involved in the PAC at their local program. Some PACs can also be involved in fundraising activities. For example, the PAC at Family Support Early Intervention recently raised funds for a climbing structure for the children.

Program Support for PACs

Early Intervention Programs can provide support to the PAC in a variety of ways. They ensure that information about activities is distributed to families enrolled in the program and encourage activities that are responsive to the cultural and linguistic diversity of the program.

Amy worked closely with her EI Program Director and other staff to share ideas about PAC activities. Through monthly emails and other communication, the PAC and EI Program came together to meet the needs of families.

How Can I Get Involved?

Talk with your program staff to see if a PAC already exists in your program. If so, attend a meeting or event where you can share your ideas and meet other families. If your program does not currently have a PAC, you can express interest in starting a group, survey other families for topics of interest, and share your thoughts with program staff.

The EI Parent Leadership Project is available to offer information to existing PACs and to support the development of new PACs as well. To learn more, contact the Parent Leadership Project at 1-877-353-4757, email eiplp@yahoo.com, or visit us on the web at www.eiplp.org.



Cómo formar padres líderes desde las bases: Consejos Asesores de Padres

¿Que significa ser un padre líder? ¿Cómo pueden asumir papeles de liderazgo los padres y las familias en sus programas de Intervención Temprana y en sus propias comunidades? ¿Cómo pueden relacionarse y desarrollar habilidades que los ayuden a convertirse en líderes? En este número del boletín y en los próximos exploraremos estos temas y examinaremos el proceso de desarrollo de líderes desde las bases.

Las familias que reciben servicios de Intervención Temprana (IT) suelen buscar apoyo e información. Parte del apoyo se obtiene en las interacciones con los proveedores de IT al trabajar conjuntamente para desarrollar un Plan Individualizado de Servicios Familiares y promover servicios centrados en la familia. A muchas familias también les interesa reunirse y compartir experiencias con otras familias de niños que reciben Intervención Temprana. Pueden desear más información sobre temas relacionados con la crianza de los niños o los recursos disponibles en la comunidad. O quizás estén interesados en desarrollar sus propias habilidades de liderazgo, por ejemplo, mediante actividades de recaudación de fondos u organizando reuniones para que las familias tengan la oportunidad de conocerse y compartir ideas.

El sistema de Intervención Temprana de Massachusetts apoya el liderazgo de los padres en todos los niveles. Las normas de funcionamiento del programa de IT (*El Operational Standards*) describen los requisitos para los programas comunitarios de IT e incorporan los valores centrales del sistema de IT de Massachusetts. La sección sobre participación de la familia establece que «Se alienta a las familias a participar activamente en todos los componentes del sistema de servicios de Intervención Temprana.» y «Los familiares pueden elegir participar como asesores tanto en grupo como individualmente». Unirse a un Consejo Asesor de Padres es una manera en que los padres pueden conectarse, desarrollar habilidades de liderazgo, y servir como asesores a sus programas de Intervención Temprana.

¿Qué es un Consejo Asesor de Padres?

Un Consejo Asesor de Padres (PAC, por sus siglas en inglés) es un grupo de familias o miembros de la comunidad interesados en el bienestar de los niños pequeños, que unen fuerzas con un objetivo común. El Consejo es un grupo formal que se reúne para brindar apoyo, compartir información y asesorar al programa de Intervención Temprana sobre cómo satisfacer las necesidades de las familias. Amy Caggiano, madre de un niño graduado del programa de IT, se desempeñó como enlace del Comité asesor de su programa de IT durante casi dos años. Dice que el Comité Asesor de Padres es «un puente fundamental entre los padres y el personal» y que la oportunidad de participar fue importante para ella.

Amy comenzó a participar en su Consejo Asesor de Padres

cuando el personal de IT le dio la información que se da a las familias que se acaban de inscribir en el programa. Dice que «tenía curiosidad por saber cómo funcionaba y quería saber más sobre mis derechos y responsabilidades como madre».

¿Qué hace un Consejo Asesor de Padres?

El Consejo y las actividades que lleva a cabo deben adaptarse para satisfacer las necesidades de las familias y del programa de IT. Como enlace del Consejo Asesor de Padres del programa de IT de Criterion Stoneham, Amy organizaba grupos de discusión mensuales así como celebraciones anuales para unir a todas las familias. El picnic anual de verano daba a las familias la oportunidad de conocer a otras familias que se han graduado del programa y de recibir información. Y la celebración cada invierno del Día de San Valentín también daba a las familias la oportunidad de reunirse, divertirse y relacionarse. Los temas mensuales de conversación incluyeron una charla por un autor local de un libro sobre nutrición infantil, información sobre cómo enseñarles a los niños a ir solos al baño y un taller de la Federación para Niños con Necesidades Especiales titulado *Turning Three* («Los tres años»).

Varios de los que recibieron la distinción a padres líderes *Hausstein Parent Leadership Award* han sido padres que participaron en el Consejo Asesor de su programa local. Algunos Consejos participan en actividades de recaudación de fondos, por ejemplo, el Consejo Asesor de *Family Support Early Intervention* recaudó recientemente fondos para una estructura de juego para niños.

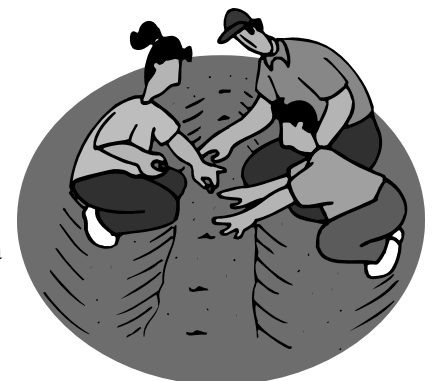
Apoyo del programa al Consejo Asesor

Los programas de Intervención Temprana pueden apoyar al Consejo Asesor de varias maneras, por ejemplo, asegurando que las familias inscritas reciban información sobre las actividades y promoviendo actividades que respondan a la diversidad cultural y lingüística del programa.

Amy colaboró estrechamente con el Director y el personal de su programa de IT y para intercambiar ideas sobre las actividades del Consejo Asesor de Padres. A través de mensajes mensuales por correo electrónico y otros medios de comunicación, el Consejo Asesor y el programa de IT unieron fuerzas para responder a las necesidades de las familias.

¿Cómo puedo participar?

Comuníquese con su programa de IT para ver si ya tiene un Consejo Asesor de Padres. Si hay uno, vaya a una reunión o actividad para compartir sus ideas y



Family TIES of Massachusetts: *Together In Enhancing Support*

As the school year gets underway for children across the state, I thought I'd follow the news article format of my favorite English teacher. Following is the WHAT-WHO-WHERE-WHEN-WHY of Family TIES.

WHAT is Family TIES of Massachusetts? Our program is a network for families of children with special health care needs. We are a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, with funding and in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition.

WHO are the people at Family TIES, and **WHO** calls Family TIES? Our staff is made up of 9 parents of children with special needs. Our experiences provide us with deep insight into the everyday circumstances of caring for children with complex needs. Any parent needing information about resources for children with special health care needs is welcome to call.

WHERE do I find Family TIES? Our Regional Coordinators are located in DPH Regional Offices across the state, which allows them to have immediate access to information about programs and resources in your area. Periodically the staff provides presentations and workshops for parents. You can reach us with just one, easy-to-remember toll-free number: 800-905-TIES (8437) or visit our website, www.massfamilyties.org, to learn more about our program, identify and contact individual staff members, or send an email to join our mailing list.

WHEN should I call Family TIES? Whenever you are looking for information about programs and resources to support your child and family, or just want to speak with someone who truly understands the challenges of raising a child with special needs. As parents of children with special needs, our staff realizes the power of support and know-how that is

available from other parents. By sharing information, we provide family members with knowledge and skills that help to improve children's opportunities.

WHY would you contact Family TIES? Parents and professionals supporting children with special needs and their families call for a variety of reasons. Calls may focus on questions such as where to find Early Intervention services (which we provide as the Central Directory of Early Intervention programs in Massachusetts), where might I turn for questions about childcare or after-school/summer/recreation activities for my child, what resources are available on the topics of assistive technology or adaptive equipment, how will our family afford expenses related to my child's special health-care needs, or can you help me to find someone who truly understands how my child's needs affect our family? Our Parent-to-Parent Program is especially helpful for this last question, as we are able to help parents make telephone connections with our trained volunteer staff of Support Parents. Perhaps you would consider joining that corps yourself? Contact Linea Luck Pearson, our Parent-to-Parent Coordinator (508-792-7880), for more details.

Wishing you a smooth transition into the new season, with a reminder that Family TIES is here to provide information and referrals, parent trainings, and parent-to-parent connections – call us!



Cómo formar padres líderes desde las bases: Consejos Asesores de Padres

conocer a otras familias. Y si todavía no lo hay, puede plantear su interés en empezar un grupo, conversar con otras familias para ver qué temas son importantes para ellos, y compartir sus ideas con el personal del programa.

El Proyecto Padres Líderes puede ofrecer información a los

Consejos Asesores existentes y también apoyo para el desarrollo de Consejos Asesores nuevos. Para más información, comuníquese con el Proyecto Padres Líderes (*Parent Leadership Project*) llamando al 1-877-353-4757, escribiendo a eiplp@yahoo.com o visitando nuestra página web: www.eiplp.org.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Parent Consultant Training Institute — Beginning October 21 at SCAN 360 in Springfield, The Parent Training and Information Center at the Federation for Children with Special Needs is offering an opportunity for parents and professionals to learn more about state and federal Special Education laws and processes. An application is required for this training, and limited scholarships are available to family members. For more information, visit the website at www.fcsn.org or call 1-800-331-0688.

Assistive Technology Fall 2008 Conference and Exposition — October 29 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Leominster. This is a one-day seminar designed to provide awareness around assistive technology through workshops and exhibitors. There is a registration fee to attend this event. More information can be found www.eastersealsma.org or contact Eileen McDonal at 508-751-6309.

Building a Community — November 6 at Criterion Valley in Milford from 9am to 4pm. This orientation for EI specialists provides an overview of the Massachusetts EI system and is presented by a team of three facilitators, including EI Training Center staff, a family member and DPH staff. Families are welcome to attend. For more information or to register, visit the website at www.eitrainingcenter.org or contact Laura Guida at 508-752-7313.



Annual Regional Western MA Early Intervention Conference — November 14 at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Holyoke from 12 to 4:30pm. This year's conference, "When, Why and Where To Go: A Developmental Approach" will bring together professionals from Baystate Children's Hospital Behavioral and Developmental Programs to address the red flags of young children's development and where to go for help. Registration is required for families and providers. The event is free to families enrolled in the Thom Western Regional Consultation Program. For more information, contact Karen Cassidy at 413-783-5500 ext. 16.

Basic Rights — December 10 at Aldrich Head Start Program in Fall River from 9-11am. This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under state and federal special education laws. The workshop is held at various locations throughout the state. For more information, visit the Federation for Children with Special Needs website at www.fcsn.org or call 1-800-331-0688.

An IEP For My Child — December 10 at the Professional Center for Child Development in Andover from 7-9pm. This workshop takes parents step-by-step through the development of the IEP and is held at various locations throughout the state. For more information, visit the Federation for Children with Special Needs website at www.fcsn.org or call 1-800-331-0688.

Opportunity Knocks

Joining Voices Conference

Joining Voices, a conference to support families in advocating for children and youth with special health care needs, will be held on November 5 at Indian Meadows in Westborough.

This annual conference is hosted by the Massachusetts Family-to-Family Health Information Center & Mass Family Voices at the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

This *free*, day-long event offers parents and family members the opportunity to share resources, exchange information, and learn advocacy skills to improve health care services for all children and youth with special health needs.

Dr. Charles Homer, CEO of the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality will give the keynote speech, "A Vision for Children's Healthcare in the 21st Century." Afternoon workshop topics include information on sharing your

story, tips on working with your school system, becoming a professional parent partner, and supporting your child's medical needs in the hospital and community, along with other topics of interest.

The full conference agenda and directions to Indian Meadows are available online at www.massfamilyvoices.org. For more information or to register, please contact Beth Dworetzky at 1-800-331-0688 ext. 210 or register online at www.massfamilyvoices.org.

MASSACHUSETTS
FAMILY VOICES

Working Together — Northeast

South Bay Early Intervention in Lowell will be offering a six-week Baby Yoga series for children (pre-crawling) and their parents this fall. Through a combination of song and gentle baby yoga poses, yoga helps babies sleep longer, improve digestion, stimulate neuromuscular development, and gain relief from fussiness and colic. Caregivers build confidence, reduce anxiety and stress, and gain a special activity to share with their child. Community parents are welcome!

On October 24th, children, parents, siblings and staff will once again gather for the Annual South Bay Halloween Party. Dinner will be provided and activities will include face painting, family photos, ball play and Halloween arts and crafts.

Family Support Early Intervention held its 10th annual Summer Barbeque in August. The weather cooperated nicely, the program director was at her usual spot at the grill, and the play yard was full of families getting to know each other and children climbing on the play structure. The climbing structure was purchased with money raised by the PAC at the Spring Fling Family Event. The Spring Fling and fund raiser was a new addition to the traditional Family Event gatherings that include a Halloween, Winter Holiday and Valentine's Party.

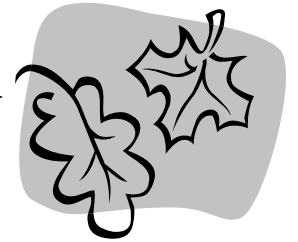
This year, parents not only met to plan the events, but they also got together before each event to prepare crafts. One talented dad drew a six foot mural for every event that the children could decorate. Another parent sewed adorable, lush, hooded puppy bath towels that were a popular item at the silent auction fundraiser. PAC meetings will be held throughout the year.

The Professional Center for Child Development (PCCD) held a grand opening of the Accessible Playground and Sensory Garden in September. Several of the children in the EI program were on hand to join in the celebration. The new playground includes swings for children of all abilities, a hill slide, mural, walking/riding pathways, sensory play panels and garden. On October 17th, the program held their 16th Annual "Trots for

Special Tots" event. The road race/ fun walk fundraiser is followed by a costume parade and cookout! Children were happy to explore the new playground and enjoy the day at this fun family event.

The Professional Center Regional Consultation Program (Northeast RCP) and the PCCD Program are offering a variety of workshops and support groups for families. A new support group for families of children with Down syndrome will be held once a month at the center. Baby and Non-Walker Massage (for parent and child) series will be held in October and November, and "An IEP for My Child" workshop will be held on December 10 from 7-9pm. For more information about these programs, please contact Ellen Wadill at 978-475-3806 x217.

The Educators at the **Professional Center for Child Development**, Developmental Day School received national recognition as a "2008 Models of Excellence in Education" from Exceptional Parent Magazine. PCCD is the only school from Massachusetts recognized with this distinction. Exceptional Parent Magazine wrote of the program: "Parents find the devotion of the staff at the Professional Center for Child Development's Developmental Day School to each student and family extraordinary. Many student in the school have multiple developmental and complex medical needs. The educators are challenged each day to provide an innovative, specialized and stimulating educational environment. They exhibit creativity and compassion in even the simplest tasks. Parents appreciate the ingenuity of the educators working to provide individualized complex care in a group setting. Compassionate support and communication with family members are key to the continued success of the teachers at PCCD. The educators say that without such dedicated parent involvement much of what is accomplished during the school day could be lost." (*Exceptional Parent Magazine, September 2008*).



Public Hearing Notice

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council, will hold a hearing on the State's Early Intervention Transition Policy (Section IX: Transition and Discharge of Early Intervention Operational Standards) under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The hearing will be held from 2:00 to 4:00pm on:
Thursday, November 13, 2008
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
181 Boston Post Road West
Marlboro MA.

Members of families with young children, professionals who

serve young children and families, and officials from any state agencies with responsibilities for services to children and families are encouraged to come and speak on the issues.

Written comments may be sent until December 19 and should be addressed to:
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 Early Intervention Services
 250 Washington St., 5th Floor
 Boston MA 02108-4619

For more information about the public hearing, please visit the Early Intervention Parent Leadership website at www.eiplp.org or call 1-877-353-4757.

THE PARENT LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The Parent Leadership Project was created to support parents whose children receive early intervention services. The Project's main goal is to promote lifetime advocacy, leadership skills and the development of an informed parent constituency, which will encourage early intervention services to be increasingly family centered. The Project is a parent driven endeavor, which continually seeks family involvement and input regarding the needs of families enrolled in Early Intervention and is implemented by parents whose own children have received EI services. The Project staff consists of a Statewide Director, a Communications Coordinator, an EI Program Focused Monitoring Parent Coordinator, Education Coordinator and Collaboration and Outreach Coordinator. Please feel free to contact any of them with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns.

Statewide Director:

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NEXT DEADLINE: We welcome your input and suggestions for resources and articles. The next deadline is **November 14**. Please call our toll-free number (877) 353-4757 or email the newsletter editor at Brenda.allair@state.ma.us.

The *Parent Perspective* newsletter is produced six times a year by the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, through funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

