



# *The Update:*

## News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

April 2009

Welcome to the Spring Edition of "The Update." This is a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This issue will highlight important information and upcoming trainings and opportunities.

### *Save the Date!*

## **Massachusetts Part C Transition Policy Teleconference: April 29, 10am - Noon**



**Save the Date!** The Department of Public Health will be holding a teleconference on **Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 10am – Noon**. The conference call will provide guidance to providers regarding the Transition Policy; The Information about the Local Education Agency (LEA) Notification And Parent Option to "Opt Out" form; Written Prior

Notice; and appropriate transition activities and service coordination when a child and family no longer meet the State's eligibility criteria. The DPH will respond to questions and concerns raised at the Part C Public Hearing on February 27<sup>th</sup> and during the open comment period at the March ICC meeting.

The DPH has reserved the conference call for 75 phone lines so

please utilize only one line per program. Participants will be asked to give their name to the operator upon entering the call. The following is the call in information:

**Dial In Number: 888-917-8042**

**Participant Passcode: DPH**

Please forward any specific questions that you would like addressed on the call to Patti Fougere, [patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:patti.fougere@state.ma.us) or Mary Dennehy-Colorusso, [mary.dennehy-colorusso@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.dennehy-colorusso@state.ma.us) by April 22, 2009.

## **Certification for Early Intervention Specialists (CEIS)**

The Certification for Early Intervention Specialist (CEIS) state-wide process to review the competency indicators is completed and new competency indicators were approved by the ICC in February 2009. To continue the review of the certification process as required in the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), the DPH will convene a community-wide CEIS process Stakeholders' Group. This group will make a recommendation as to how the new competencies will be met in the CEIS process.

The goal of the review process is to review and revise the CEIS process so that it continues to:

- Embody core values of MA Early Intervention
- Provide an opportunity for applicants to demonstrate competency in all 53 revised competency indicators
- Provide the applicants with an opportunity to highlight their work by means of an equitable submission and review process

- Provide documentation of the applicants' service coordination practice.

Stay tuned for future correspondence from the DPH announcing the next steps and the recruitment process for the Stakeholders Group.



## FY08 Annual Report/Self Assessment Follow-Up

The DPH thanks providers for the timely completion of the FY08 Annual Report/Self Assessment. This information is used for federal reporting requirements of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and is used in identifying areas of noncompliance and in making Local Determinations.

The DPH is offering providers an opportunity to clarify or correct the data the State reported in its FFY 2007 SPP/APR. The Regional Specialists will be following up with all programs below 100% for Timeliness of Services and IFSP Meetings within 45 days of referral to correct non-compliance or demonstrate compliance prior to the DPH issuing a finding. This is the program's opportunity to show program practice or highlight policies and procedures to avoid issuance of a corrective action plan.



As stated at the March ICC meeting, the DPH would like to convene a small task group to discuss the data collection methodology for the Timeliness of Services and Transition Indicators of the SPP/APR. Currently this information is collected through the Annual Report/Self Assessment. The goal of the task group is to collaborate with providers to strategize and develop a more efficient way to capture this information.

A tentative meeting date for this discussion has been scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2009 from 10am – Noon at 250 Washington Street in Boston.

Anyone interested in participating in this discussion should contact Patti Fougere at [patti.fougere@state.ma.us](mailto:patti.fougere@state.ma.us) or 617-624-5975.

## Out of Catchment – Summer Services



entitled to IFSP services provided within the community in which they are enrolled.

During the summer months many families are vacationing outside of their service/catchment area. Early Intervention Providers are not required to provide IFSP services to chil-

Just a reminder as we move full swing into summer that Early Intervention Programs are responsible for providing individualized services to families as outlined in the IFSP, and families are

dren and families from out of the catchment area in which they reside.

Programs may choose to service children from out of the catchment during the summer months if they have the capacity to meet the individual needs of the child and family. Consistent with current DPH policy, services provided by a secondary program would require a waiver. Programs may also share additional community resources with families in the vacationing area. If families choose to pursue services outside their catchment area, they would be responsible for investigating funding sources with their insurance provider.

## Make a Difference for a Child with Hearing Loss

The Partnering for Success of Children with Hearing Loss Task Force is committed to improving access to appropriate intervention for infants and toddlers with hearing loss.

One of the recommendations of the Task Force is to identify a staff member at each EI program who would become the point person for information for children with hearing loss. Interested individuals would be able to take advantage of the following opportunities:

- Specialized training offered through the EITC

- A dedicated list-serve that will provide you with up-to-date information and resources
- Opportunities to meet with others who share your interests

For more information, contact Tracy Osbahr at [tracy.osbahr@state.ma.us](mailto:tracy.osbahr@state.ma.us)

**Comments and questions to:**  
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