



# *The Update:*

## News and Information for MA Early Intervention Providers

August 2007

As you have undoubtedly noticed, there is a tremendous amount of information going out to EI providers from DPH. We decided to make this information available in a more user-friendly format. So.....welcome to the very first edition of "The Update." This will be a periodic newsletter focusing specifically on issues and information in MA Early Intervention. This first edition focuses on Local Determinations and Public Reporting. Some versions will be paper; some electronic. Please let us know how you like this format!

### Part C Determinations

The Department of Public Health presented information at the June 14, 2007 ICC on Part C Determinations. As part of the lead agency's ongoing monitoring process the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires that the lead agency makes "local determinations" on program performance. As you are aware, each state must have in place a State Performance Plan (SPP) that evaluates the state's efforts to implement the requirements of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004. The SPP is a six year plan, and each year through the Annual Performance Report (APR) the state must report on its progress in meeting targets.

In determining how well Massachusetts Early Intervention Programs meet the requirements of the IDEA, OSEP requires that we use the most recent APR data from four compliance indicators in the State Performance Plan. The four indicators are:

- Timely Services (Indicator 1)
- Initial IFSPs meetings within 45 days (Indicator 7)
- Early Childhood Transitions (Indicator 8)
- Correction of Non Compliance within 9 months (Indicator 9)

In addition to the compliance Indicators noted above, the DPH may take into consideration the following information in making local determinations:

- Timely and Accurate Data
- Complaint Management data
- Other Monitoring data (Focused Monitoring onsite visits, data verification process, historical data, etc.)

States must use the same four categories as OSEP in making determinations on the status of local programs. Categories include:

- ▶ Meets Requirements
- ▶ Needs Assistance
- ▶ Needs Intervention
- ▶ Needs Substantial Intervention

The DPH is currently developing the criteria for making local determinations and will be sharing additional information on what this means for local EIPs at the October ICC retreat. The retreat will provide an opportunity for feedback and comments on the process.

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## Public Reporting



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is required to have in place a performance plan evaluating the state's implementation of Part C, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and describe how the Department will improve such implementation. This plan is called the Part C State Performance Plan (SPP). The Department is also required to report annually its performance according to its SPP targets. This report is called the Part C Annual Performance Report (APR).

The MDPH is required to report annually to the public on the performance of each local early intervention program according to the targets in its SPP. The MDPH plans to make this data available through public means by posting the information on the DPH website. To ensure that this information is understandable to the public, the information will be posted in the following three formats:

- One report highlighting all the SPP Indicators for all Early Intervention Programs
- One report highlighting one SPP Indicator for all Early Intervention Programs And
- All SPP Indicators for one program

An extensive legend describing the Data Sources, Definitions & State Performance will accompany the reports.

The DPH is anticipating having this information up on the DPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention](http://www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention) under Program Reports shortly.

### Comments and questions to:

**Patti Fougere**  
**Director of EI Field Services**  
**781-774-6742**