

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: December 21, 2016
Subject: Help Me Grow Early Intervention Program Updates, #1625

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

As we approach the end of a very eventful year in Early Intervention in Ohio, I think it is important to reflect on the many changes. I would like to focus on just two. First, we want to thank everyone for the patience and can-do attitude brought to the transition of lead agency by our local partners and stakeholders. All of us at DODD are very appreciative to the many supportive words expressed over the past year. Most importantly, everyone pulled together to ensure that families had a seamless experience. Second, we are tremendously excited that nearly 90% of counties have now participated in the evidence-based Early Intervention training and coaching follow-up. As we continue with greater fidelity to evidence-based Early Intervention practices, we will improve outcomes for the families we serve. We thank all of you who have been able to make this journey with us to improve our practices.

The next year also holds much. We will continue to implement the change in lead agency (more on that in the questions below), stand up a new system of payment rule, carry on with our state systemic improvement plan (SSIP) work, and much more. We look forward to an exciting year!

I always invite your feedback. Do not hesitate to contact me at nathan.dedino@dodd.ohio.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Early Intervention Lead Agency Transition Questions

Can we still use the “Help Me Grow” name for Early Intervention?

Consistent with HB 483, during the course of this state fiscal year, DODD will be transitioning away from using the Help Me Grow name to refer to the Early Intervention program. Local EI programs will also need to transition away from using the HMG name. We understand the concerns that many counties have raised about confusion for referral sources about the name change. This issue was also discussed at our November Advisory Council meeting. DODD will continue to work with ODH to take steps to reduce this confusion.

In the coming months, DODD will be working with the Advisory Council and stakeholder group to decide on a new logo and look for the Early Intervention program. We will not be creating a unique name for the EI program. Counties can refer to EI as Ohio’s “Early Intervention system.” We know that we do not yet have all of the answers about this transition away from the HMG name, but we will engage with our stakeholders and local partners to smooth the transition

wherever possible. If you have specific questions, please contact your EI program consultant. For example, you do not need to destroy existing EI materials with the HMG name. Please continue to use those until your existing supply is gone.

What will be happening with Central Coordination?

ODH will continue to administer Central Coordination in consultation with DODD staff. ODH will be soliciting contractors to administer Central Coordination locally during the first half of 2017.

Will we continue to use Early Track?

ODH is building a new data system for Home Visiting programs. DODD plans to continue to use Early Track. We are aware that there are a number of changes needed to data collection and data access in Early Track. The many outages over the past year are also unacceptable. As part of the transition, DODD IT staff are evaluating Early Track to determine the ability to make these upgrades to Early Track once it transitions to DODD.

Since ODH is still administering Central Coordination, IT staff at both agencies will work to allow the two systems to “talk” to one another about new referrals so double data entry can be avoided.

What is happening with the HMG website?

DODD has contracted with an outside vendor to build an Early Intervention specific website. At our November Advisory Council meeting, we worked with stakeholders to decide on the general outline of the website and the most important content for the initial iteration of the website. The new website will be better organized with more accessible materials for the field. We anticipate launching the site in spring 2017.

Vocalink Telephonic Translation Services

Please remember that the Vocalink telephonic translation code (2202) we distributed last year should be used *only* for Early Intervention related activities. If you need telephonic translation from Vocalink for Central Coordination or Home Visiting activities, please be sure to use the code ODH has provided you for those activities.

Service Coordination Grant Mid-Year Program Report

This year’s mid-year program report will not be a formal written program update report. Instead, we are asking all service coordinators and supervisors of service coordinators to complete two brief assessments as part of a new TA initiative to support service coordinators in 2017. EI contract managers are not required, but are encouraged, to take these assessments. We are giving additional time to complete these assessments. They are due January 31, 2017 and not January 10 as specified in the grant RFP for the mid-year program report.

Please note: although OhioTRAIN will include a percentage of correct responses for each assessment. This is merely part of the OhioTRAIN scoring system; scores will just be used in the aggregate to inform the TA initiative.

Additional details about the assessments and the new TA initiative are provided in the flyers that accompany this bi-weekly communication. If you have questions about the assessments please contact your DODD EI Consultant. If you have questions about accessing the assessments, please contact Lori Myers at Lori.E.Myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

DODD Grant Personnel Changes

Many of you have worked with Tiffany Harlan in fiscal at DODD to resolve your service coordination grant questions and issues. Tiffany will be leaving DODD December 22 for a new opportunity. Until there is a permanent replacement for Tiffany, please direct your questions to Jacob Foskuhl at jacob.foskuhl@dodd.ohio.gov.

Early Track Child Search

To avoid creating a duplicate record for children who already have assigned ETIDs in Early Track, it is important to perform a thorough search when adding a new contact. Searching for a child's record should include a search by the child's birthdate as well as by caregiver name. It is also helpful to run a search using the first two or three letters of the child's first and last name. This may bring up a longer list, but allows the comparing of similar names, birthdates, addresses, and caregivers that may make a match before a new record is entered erroneously.

Reminder – Missed Deadlines Due to Inclement Weather

As we move into the season of snow and other potential inclement weather, remember that, if a deadline is missed due to weather-related closures, you should be sure to maintain appropriate documentation in the child's record to support the non-compliance reason (NCR).

Division for Early Childhood Family Council Openings

The national Division for Early Childhood (DEC) exists so that young children with disabilities and other special needs participate as full members of families and communities and benefit from competent, informed, and connected professionals, families, and policy makers to the extent that justifies the overall cost-benefit ratio. A critical component to achievement of these ends is an active Family Council.

DEC is currently recruiting members for the Family Council. The following six members-at-large positions must be filled:

1. Member-at-large - Higher Ed
2. Member-at-large - Direct Service Provider (EI)
3. Member-at-large - Direct Service Provider (ECSE)
4. Member-at-large - Parent of Child/children currently receiving services

5. Member-at-large - Parent Child/children no longer receiving services
6. Member-at-large - Non-specified Parent

The DEC Family Council will function as a necessary and significant arm of the DEC Executive Office. These individuals serve the purpose of providing strategic direction and proposed recommendations for DEC's policy and advocacy efforts. To learn more or to apply by **December 30**, please review the following link:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/26d620c6301/f483be80-73ae-4813-a1cd-a93ac8c263ea.pdf>

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction to Early Intervention Video

The Introduction to EI video is a useful and concise resource you may wish to use when orienting new staff or introducing EI to new families. You can access the video here:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/IndividualFamilies/MYday/Pages/Education-and-Development.aspx>

State-Sponsored Training Opportunities

Ongoing trainings available through OhioTRAIN:

- Coaching in Early Intervention self-paced webinar (1063890)
- Early Intervention Mission and Key Principles self-paced webinar (1061264)
- Family-Centered Practices self-paced webinar (1064739)
- IFSP Form self-paced webinar (1028661)
- The IFSP: It's All about the Process self-paced webinar (1066899)
- Introduction to Early Intervention self-paced webinar (1061260)
- Natural Learning Environments self-paced webinar (1063888)
- Principles of Service Coordination in-person training (1047684)
- Using a Primary Service Provider Approach to Teaming self-paced webinar (1064737)

Other Trainings:

- Child Outcomes Summary: Your state team encourages county teams to use the online COS modules developed by the DaSy Center. Each participant must register for the online modules. You will then receive an email with a direct link to access the online modules. There are six modules. Here is the link: <http://dasycenter.org/child-outcomes-summary-cos-process-module-collecting-using-data-to-improve-programs/> If your team needs additional support after completing the COS modules, please contact your program consultant. NB: Credentialing hours are not available for these trainings since there is no way currently to verify attendance.
- Overview of Evidence Based EI: This training is accessed through your program consultant, and is designed to support teams with learning about the key components of EB

EI practices including a review of the Mission and Key Principles, Coaching, Teaming, and Natural Learning Environment practices.

- Documentation: This training is available through your program consultant and supports teams with learning what type of activities need to be documented.