

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: March 31, 2017
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #1708

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

DODD submitted Ohio's write-up of the Phase III, Year 1, efforts for the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) yesterday. As we have for the past two submissions, we worked extensively with the federal TA centers in drafting this submission. Since this is the first year of implementation, it is also the first year in which Ohio reported on activities that were completed as part of the SSIP. We at DODD are very appreciative to all of you who have provided valuable feedback on the many activities completed over the past year. We know that all of you are very busy, but, the fact that so many of you give so generously of your time in providing feedback about new trainings and guidance, updates to program processes, draft rules, and more speaks to your dedication to achieving the best outcomes for families served in Early Intervention. We thank you and look forward to our continued work together to implement Phase III in Years 2 and 3.

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

Ohio Phase III, Year 1 SSIP

Ohio has completed and submitted its Phase III, Year 1 SSIP. As a reminder, Ohio's state-identified measurable result (SIMR), or area of focus, is the following child outcomes indicator: *Substantially increase the rate of growth in the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved acquisition and use of knowledge and skills.*

After much collaboration with stakeholders, the following three improvement strategies were chosen to move work related to Ohio's SIMR forward:

- **(I)** Increase the quality of child and family assessments to develop meaningful initial and exit COS statements
- **(II)** Improve the quality of IFSP outcomes to address family priorities related to child's acquisition and use of knowledge and skills
- **(III)** Increase access to and delivery of needed evidence-based services

Phase I of Ohio's SSIP included data and infrastructure analyses, identification of the SIMR, selection of improvement strategies, and development of a Theory of Action (submitted in 2015). Phase II involved infrastructure development, identification of supports for programs in

implementing evidence-based practices, and development of an improvement and evaluation plan, including short-, intermediate, and long-term outcomes, and specific activities and steps needed to achieve the identified outcomes (submitted in 2016). Phase III spans multiple years, and involves implementation of activities within the plan to achieve outcomes, as well as evaluating progress in achieving the state's intended outcomes.

Throughout year one of Phase III, Ohio completed numerous activities related to achieving short-term outcomes in each of the three improvement strategy areas. Activities to achieve short-term outcomes were primarily designed to help the state further identify areas of need and to increase access to useful resources. The full SSIP report, as well as all referenced appendices, have been posted on the Data and Monitoring section of the EI website on the "Federal Reporting and Postings" tile. A more comprehensive summary is being compiled and will be sent in the coming weeks.

SFY17 45-Day Baseline

Activities related to the SFY17 45-Day baseline analysis are underway. Missing data inquiries and verification requests were sent to applicable counties March 1 and were due back to Melissa Courts by March 16. Verification and final analyses will take place in the coming weeks and results memos are expected to be sent in late April.

New Monitoring Resources Added to Website

Additional resources have been added to the "Data and Monitoring Resources" tile in the Data and Monitoring section of the EI website. You will now find the SFY16 EI One page summary distributed several weeks ago (with a very slight update to the referrals section), a description of Ohio's EI baseline analysis process, and a document used in the Data and Monitoring Road show that includes instructions for completing some commonly used Excel functions, formulas, and procedures, as well as some more specific to the Program Referrals Extract Report and EI Services Report.

Informed Clinical Opinion

DODD has received several questions during recent months about the use of informed clinical opinion (ICO) in making eligibility determinations. The use of ICO is necessarily individualized to the unique circumstances of the child. Thus, DODD has no set maximum percentage of children made eligible via ICO for counties. You can read more about ICO, its purpose, and appropriate application here:

<http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/pubs/nnotes28.pdf>

If you have additional questions, please follow up with your program consultant.

New EI Website

Please continue to visit the new EI website at <http://ohioearlyintervention.org/> and let us know if we are missing anything from the HMG website or if there are additional materials you would like to see. We are continuing to work to build out the Family section and should have that complete later this year. Please also consider linking our website on your website so everyone has better access to the materials on the EI site.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Principles of Service Coordination

Our next Principles of Service Coordination training is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12 at the Delaware County Board of DD. This training is required for new Service Coordinators and is appropriate as a refresher for experienced Service Coordinators and Service Coordinator Supervisors. Participants will explore the Service Coordinator's role on the IFSP team, including the following:

- Facilitating activities in the 45-day timeline,
- Ensuring timely receipt of services,
- Monitoring ongoing IFSP implementation, and
- Participating in the transition process.

Please register by noon on April 10. Click [here](#) to register on OhioTRAIN. (Course # 1047684)

We do not yet have the minimum number of participants and will have to cancel the session if it is not met by April 10.

For questions, please contact Lori Myers, EI Training Coordinator: lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

Building Blocks for Early Intervention: Addressing Behavior and Communication Challenges in the EI Setting

This course provides the necessary tools to be effectively help children meet their goals, and as well as the tools to helping family members and caregivers confidently fulfill their roles as the child's primary educators and communication partners. Attendees will learn how to work as part of a team in order to enhance the child's language, cognition, academics, behavior, and mental health. You can learn more and register here:

<https://www.vyne.com/events/detail/12302/building-blocks-for-early-intervention-addressing-behavior>

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 eight 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. You can access the modules here: <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.