

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators  
From: Nathan DeDino  
Date: June 23, 2017  
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #1716

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR***

Ohio's System of Payments (SOP) rule was approved earlier this week by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has also approved the rule. We are grateful to the many stakeholders who provided valuable input about the rule, and we look forward to your continued partnership as we implement the rule.

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

## ***PROGRAM UPDATES***

### **SFY18 Central Coordination Changes**

A memo from Directors Himes and Martin outlining changes to Central Coordination beginning in SFY18 was released yesterday. It is also posted here <http://ohioearlyintervention.org/program-updates>. DODD understands that stakeholders have many questions. As we obtain answers to these questions, we will be sure to communicate them. We also appreciate that these are significant changes, and we will be working with stakeholders to support them in implementing these changes.

### **System of Payments Rule**

JCARR and OSEP have now both approved DODD's proposed SOP rule. In addition, ODH is in the process of rescinding the existing rules governing Ohio's EI system of payments. The new DODD rule will have an implementation date of August 1, 2017. Trainings for service coordinators on implementation of the rule have been happening across the state and will be completed later this month. Katrina Busch will also be offering several webinar opportunities to walk through the rule text in detail. A version of the training for service coordinators will be recorded in July/August and available online. In addition, DODD will be preparing answers to the many questions we received during the in-person SOP trainings for service coordinators. In the coming weeks, updated forms and guidance about the SOP will be posted to the EI website on the System of Payments tab.

### **Credential Deadlines**

Please remember that service coordinators, service coordinator supervisors, and developmental specialists are responsible for monitoring their credential end dates and seeking renewal with sufficient lead time. *If a credential lapses, personnel will not be able to perform those activities*

*for which a credential is required.* In those cases, a different person with an active credential must be assigned to the family to provide services.

If you have questions about your credential, you can access additional materials on the EI website:

<http://ohioearlyintervention.org/credentialing>

### **Transition Baseline**

Activities related to the SFY17 Transition Steps and Services and Transition Planning Conference (TPC) baseline analyses are underway. County inquiries, including Steps Self-Assessments and missing data and verification requests (as applicable) were sent June 8 and are due back to DODD by the end of the day today, June 23. Please note that all 30 counties participating in the Transition baseline process need to complete and submit a Steps Self-Assessment. As a reminder, the Self-Assessment refers to “Specific steps or activities that will be taken to accomplish this outcome (including criteria & timeline)” in Section IX of the IFSP. See the e-mail also sent on June 8 titled, “Baseline transition inquiries - additional info” for more details about required submissions. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Courts at [melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov).

### **Service Coordination Agency Changes**

*Question:* My county is changing contracted service coordination agencies July 1. What do we do with the records? How long are we required to keep them?

*Answer:* Per OAC 3701-8-09(B)(4), all records must be retained on paper or electronically for six years from the date of last receipt of payment for services. If the FCFC administrative agent has chosen to change service coordination sub-contractors, a decision should be made locally about who will retain custody of the records (e.g., will the new service coordination agency get the originals or copies, will the administrative agent store them for the old agency, etc.). As long as they are maintained for the required time period, it does not matter which agency stores them. Please make sure exited families are aware of which agency to contact in order to gain access to their records. Administrative agents should consider covering this issue in their contracts with service coordination agencies. A memorandum of understanding between the service coordination agencies that covers transition, and other topics that arise when programs transfer, is also an excellent way of ensuring a smooth transition for all affected parties.

### **Early Track User Accounts**

As the start of SFY18 approaches, all Early Track System Administrators are asked to verify user accounts in their county and make any needed changes as soon as possible. Please be sure to verify first and last name, email address, and all roles associated with Early Intervention accounts. For instructions on how to edit or delete accounts, please see the document titled “3.15.16 How to Add-Modify an ET User” under the ET Info heading of Early Track. If you need a System Administrator account removed, please send an email to [ETDS@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:ETDS@odh.ohio.gov).

## ***RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES***

### **System of Payments Rule Overview**

Katrina Bush of DODD will provide an overview of the new “Early intervention services – system of payments” rule (5123:2-10-01) anticipated to take effect August 1, 2017. Interested persons may register for any one of the four (repeated) “GoToWebinar” sessions. These rule trainings are available to all—parents, EI providers, supervisors, and administrators. Unlike the training conducted by Traci Keesee (below) that focuses on how service coordinators will implement the new rule, these webinars will walk the participant through each section of the rule in detail and not focus on implementation strategies.

Participants will be learn about—

- Where to locate the rule and other pending SOP resources
- Definitions associated with this rule
- Which early intervention (EI) services are always provided at no cost to parents
- Which EI services *may* have a parent cost participation and under what conditions
- Process for determining parent inability to pay
- How and when public and private insurance may be used to pay for EI services
- Additional procedural safeguards associated with the system of payments

The two hour trainings will take place at the following dates and times:

- July 5, 8:30-10:30am
- July 5, 12:00-2:00pm
- July 11, 9:00-11:00 am
- July 11, 1:00-3:00pm

Please use the link below to register for any of the four sessions. After clicking the link, you will choose your preferred date/time from a drop-down list.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/3903173203423240705>

Registration is limited to 100 participants per session. Once registered, you will receive a unique link that allows you to join on the date of your session.

Questions? Please contact Lori Myers, Training Coordinator at [lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov)

### **System of Payments Trainings for Service Coordinators**

In anticipation of the new System of Payments (SOP) rule going into effect in August 1, 2017, DODD is offering *Early Intervention System of Payments* training in June. The training will be

facilitated by EI Resource Coordinator, Traci Keese. Participants will learn about—

- Changes to the rule,
- New forms and procedures that simplify the System of Payments process, and
- Steps Service Coordinators will take to assist families in the process.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of funding in Early Intervention and of how to explain the process to families and providers. All service coordinators and their supervisors are strongly encouraged to attend a training.

Below is a list of available sessions. Each date (except the last one) has a session from 9:00am to noon and a session from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. *Participants need attend only one session to complete the three-hour training; the morning and afternoon sessions are identical.*

For more details and to register, click the link for your preferred date/time.

Please contact Lori Myers at [lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov) if you have any questions.

**Monday, June 26: Summit County**

AM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E5110274427836>

PM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E5111483527273>

**Tuesday, June 27: Guernsey County AM:**

AM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E511154827427>

PM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E51120552760>

**Wednesday, June 28: Allen County**

AM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E511049172712>

PM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E511214172783>

**Thursday, June 29 Wood County**

AM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E5110582527327>

PM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E511242627822>

**Friday, June 30: Franklin County**

AM: <http://www.planetreg.com/E511121727452>

PM: n/a

## Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) Project Resources

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) has released a number of new resources for the PLAY Project.

- NEW! PLAY Looks Like/Does Not Look Like – If you're familiar with the NECTAC 7 Key Principles, then you know where this one is headed! This one is unique to PLAY in Ohio and gives a broad summary overview of how PLAY should be implemented within Ohio EI. <https://nextcloud.ocali.org/index.php/s/gBM1CFhubMyKxmB>
- NEW! PLAY Implementation Checklist – we just unveiled this at the Advanced Training at the end of May, and are encouraging all consultants to make use of it as a means of self-reflection and evaluation. County board supervisors are likewise encouraged to use this as a tool when having conversations with your Consultants about how to best implement PLAY. <https://nextcloud.ocali.org/index.php/s/o2IpZan7u3iboOe>
- FAQs on PLAY Consultant's Role as either PSP or SSP – this is a compilation of notes from the EI Program Updates, as well as some general notes on how PLAY fits within the PSP model. <https://nextcloud.ocali.org/index.php/s/5x1AD3aHBJWuJz>
- PLAY and the IFSP webinar – this webinar was released back in January and gives a general overview of PLAY and the IFSP process. The webinar is approximately 30 minutes long and can be accessed via OhioTRAIN, course ID 1068610.

### NEW! Motivational Interviewing Training

Beginning this summer, Robert Gallen, PhD will provide training on Motivational Interviewing in Early Intervention. Entitled, "*Tough Conversations: Making the Most of Difficult Situations*," Dr. Gallen's training is designed to build the confidence and competence of service providers and service coordinators in supporting families. The training will address difficult situations families may face, such as mental illness, addiction, homelessness, and coping with a child's diagnosis. Dr. Gallen will offer strategies for communicating with families in these challenging situations. The training will be offered as a *facilitated webinar* on July 13, 2017 and an *in-person training* on September 7, 2017 and September 8, 2017 in Columbus (it is only necessary to attend one session).

Dr. Gallen is a Licensed Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology. He has served as an EI provider since 1998 and teaches graduate level courses in Assessment and Family Therapy. He is a Regional Trainer for the Battelle Developmental Inventory-2 and has completed research projects on the early identification of child psychopathology. He teaches Reflective Supervision and Childhood Trauma for Ohio's Early Intervention and Home Visiting staff.

To register for the webinar (July 13, 9:00-10:30am), please click this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4480443195091191811>

Registration for the face to face trainings (September 7 or September 8) is on OhioTRAIN (Course ID # 1071449.) Please note that there is a morning and afternoon session available on both days.

For questions, please contact Lori Myers at [lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov)

### **Practitioner Volunteers Needed for New Child Outcomes Summary Resource**

Would you like to help meet a great need in the early intervention and early childhood special education community by furthering the development of a national Child Outcomes Summary (COS) process training resource? The DaSy and ECTA Centers are recruiting practitioners who participate in the COS process to field test the new COS Competency Check (COS-CC). The COS-CC is an online tool intended to assess practitioners' understanding of the essential knowledge and skills needed to reach accurate ratings of child outcomes using the COS process.

Why is the COS Competency Check important?

Practitioners must have the necessary knowledge to accurately assign COS ratings, such as knowledge of the 7-point COS scale and age-expected development. Until the COS-CC, there has not been a tool available to states/local programs to reliably differentiate between practitioners with sufficient knowledge and those with too little. Ensuring that practitioners are capable of assigning accurate ratings is a critical factor in improving the quality of child outcomes data obtained through the COS process. Having high-quality child outcomes data allows programs to better use those data to make informed decisions about services and supports for families and children.

What is the purpose of the field test?

The field test will give DaSy and ECTA an opportunity to test the assessment system in actual conditions with intended users, and to gather initial data on the validity and reliability of the assessment items. Following the field test, the tool will roll-out for national use in September 2017.

When will the field test take place?

The COS-CC field test will take place from approximately July 24-August 18, 2017. Volunteers can work on the assessment at their own pace during that 4-week timeframe, and therefore, do not have to be available during the entire window. More information will be provided in a follow-up email to those practitioners who express interest in participating in the field test.

Field test volunteers who complete the COS-CC to the best of their ability will be eligible to win a \$100 Amazon gift card! A drawing will take place by September 1 to select six winners.

For more information, complete this online form:

[https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4UG7YkwY6xRLjH](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UG7YkwY6xRLjH)

## 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.