

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators  
From: Nathan DeDino  
Date: December 18, 2020  
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2030

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

As we approach the end of a year unlike any other, we wanted to share with you some of the results from the survey you recently completed about how you are providing EI services to families via technology. We are also sharing some of the trends the EI program consultants observed in their check-ins with counties this year and some of the themes from the family questionnaire completed this summer and autumn. All three of these sources of information underscore a single theme: during a year full of great challenges, Ohio's EI system stepped up in creative and diverse ways to support families. We know that this has required local partners to restructure their systems in record time and problem solve issues never previously confronted, all under the specter of personal and family concerns about health and safety. We can all be proud of the work our shared EI system has accomplished this year!

### *Virtual Service Delivery Survey Results - Autumn 2020*

Survey results from the autumn indicated that there were only approximately 150 evaluations on hold due to an inability to complete the evaluation when the service coordinator was in active contact with the family. This number represents a significant improvement from the spring and demonstrates local EI systems' commitment to finding ways to complete the eligibility process for children. The number of families actively involved in EI for whom there were difficulties providing services was similarly low, approximately 150 families. About 85% of families were receiving their EI services primarily through video. Of the families who received in-person visits during the early autumn, very few (approximately a dozen families) lived in an area where internet service was available, but the family lacked the resources—like a phone, tablet, or Wi-Fi—to access the internet. This is further evidence of local programs' efforts to ensure that families who could access the internet had the ability to do so.

### *EI Program Consultant Check-ins*

During the past nine months, EI program consultants have completed many check-ins with counties to learn more about the needs and successes of local EI systems. Despite the challenges this year, the pandemic also actually enabled many local programs to improve their practices. Some of the improvements we heard involved greater inclusion of team members in the evaluation and assessment process (e.g., the participation of multiple team members in the family assessment) as well as the better ability to observe families' routines. Technology also enabled parents to participate—and to participate as equal members—at quarterly team meetings. We heard firsthand about the efforts local programs made to connect families to the internet. Activities ranged from the more conventional (e.g., purchasing data cards for families to use, loaning tripods and stands

for video cameras, and providing tablets) to the more unusual. One program went so far as to use an agency IT staff member to help install a modem at a family's house!

### *Family Questionnaire*

This year's annual family questionnaire took place in the midst of the pandemic. Families made significant adjustments in how they received their EI services, and they recognized again and again the support from their local EI programs. Families appreciated the regular contact from their service coordinators in addition to their ongoing service delivery. Families expressed their thanks that services were able to continue during the pandemic, and some parents even noted that the virtual delivery was a better match for their family than in-person services. So many responses from parents noted the dedication of both families and providers in ensuring that children received what they needed. As one parent said, "COVID can't stop us. It can only cause us to make changes in how we work." Another parent wrote, "During these unprecedented times, Early Intervention has worked hard to help my son learn, grow, and thrive. Everyone has been so flexible, encouraging, and helpful."

As this year draws to a close, we want to thank everyone for their dedication in serving families in the midst of what are likely the most trying circumstances of professionals' careers. I have said many times over the past nine months that I am impressed, but not surprised, by this dedication and commitment to go the extra mile. Your work each and every day continues to be of profound value to the families you serve. All of us at DODD wish you the happiest and safest of holidays. We look forward to continuing to accomplish great things with you in 2021!

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***

### **SFY21 Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) Baseline**

Activities related to the SFY21 TRS baseline analysis are underway. Applicable counties had until December 8 to make any needed edits to data, including requesting deletions. Data for the analysis were extracted from the EI Data System (EIDS) on December 16. Verification requests and missing data inquiries will be sent to applicable counties by January 8 and are due back to DODD no later than January 27.

### **Battelle Verbiage Change in EIDS**

The version number has been removed from the Battelle on the Evaluation and Assessment pages in EIDS. This dropdown option now simply reads "Battelle Developmental Inventory" and can be used to document evaluations and assessments, regardless of which version was used to evaluate and/or assess a child.

## **Mid-Year EI Grant Reporting**

Mid-year EI service coordination grant reporting is due January 31, 2021. DODD sent a checklist of the requirements, including where to find related documents, on December 4 to all FCFC Coordinators and EI contract managers.

## **FFY19 APR Posted for Public Comment**

A draft of Ohio's FFY18 Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was posted on the EI website November 30. You can access the draft here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/federal-reporting-and-postings>

Per federal requirements, the APR is posted for at least 60 days prior to submission to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and DODD must accept any public comment for at least the first 30 days. DODD will accept public comment until December 30, and the APR will remain posted until January 29. If you would like to make any public comments, please send them to Nathan DeDino at [nathan.dedino@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:nathan.dedino@dodd.ohio.gov) by December 30.

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

### **Routines-Based Interview (RBI): Training Clarification**

In the last Program Updates, we announced dates for training on the Routines-Based Interview. This virtual training consists of a series of three webinars. Participants must attend all three sessions to be trained on the RBI and receive a completion certificate. Sessions are limited to 30 participants. To register, please access the links in Program Updates #2029 or the Trainings page of the Ohio EI website. If you have questions, please contact Lori Myers at [lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov).

### **Principles of Service Coordination: Overview for EISC Supervisors and EI Contract Managers**

This webinar on January 19 from 8:30-9:30am will cover details of the Principles of Service Coordination (POSC) Modules with a target audience of EISC supervisors and EI contract managers. These eight modules are designed to promote on the job learning for the EISC to ensure they are knowledgeable regarding state and federal requirements and the EISC role in the EI Process.

While the EISC works through the course, a supervisor's involvement is key in determining EISCs' understanding and ability to implement the knowledge they are gaining. The POSC will become self-paced starting in January 2021. Therefore, it is important that the EISC Supervisor is aware of course content, structure, format, and timelines for these modules. You can register here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2400442101710709264>

## **Doughnuts with Di: Nutrition**

Registration is open for our facilitated webinar on February 9 from 8:30-10:00am about nutrition in infants and toddlers. The presenter is Kim DeDino, Registered Dietitian with the Ohio Department of Medicaid. Kim will present the latest research on feeding behaviors and food allergies and discuss nutritional interventions related to NAS and elevated blood lead levels. If you have questions, please contact Lori Myers, [lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov). You can register for the webinar here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4331964072588957964>

## **Joint Statement on EI Service Coordination**

The Division for Early Childhood and the Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association have issued a joint statement on the importance of EI service coordination and the expertise and training most needed for EI service coordinators. You can learn more and access the statement here:

<https://www.dec-sped.org/position-statements>

## **New Devereux Materials in Spanish**

The Devereux has released two new materials in Spanish related to ways for promoting resilience in two age groups. You can access the Spanish resources here:

*Infants and Toddlers:* <https://centerforresilientchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/Activities-to-Promote-Resilience-in-Infants-Toddlers-all-PFs-Spanish.pdf>

*Preschoolers:* [https://centerforresilientchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/Activities-to-Promote-Resilience-in-Preschoolers-all-PFs-Spanish\\_FINAL.pdf](https://centerforresilientchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/Activities-to-Promote-Resilience-in-Preschoolers-all-PFs-Spanish_FINAL.pdf)

# THE ASSOCIATION FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENTING (TASP) PRESENTS: **2021 FREE Webinar Series**

Designed to share information about parenting with I/DD and supporting parents with I/DD.



Do you want to learn more about supporting parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities? Do you like learning from both parents and professionals? Join us for our FREE Webinar Series. These webinars are designed to give you an introductory overview in the topic area, and are geared towards anyone working with parents with I/DD who want to expand their knowledge and better meet the needs of parents with I/DD.

**Find out more and register [HERE](#)**

**January 20, 2021** Effective Support Strategies for Parents with Cognitive Difficulties

**March 13, 2021** Peer Navigation Support for Parents with I/DD

**May 12, 2021** Competence-Based Parenting Assessments

**July 14, 2021** Self-Advocacy

**September 8, 2021** Building Support Networks to Reduce Isolation

**November 10, 2021** History of Disabled Parenting and Tips on Raising a Toddler and a Newborn

\*schedule and topics subject to change

The Association for Successful Parenting (TASP) is a leading nonprofit committed to successfully supporting families when parents have a cognitive difficulty.

**[www.achancetoparent.net](http://www.achancetoparent.net)**



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