To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators

From: Nathan DeDino

Date: November 19, 2021

Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2127

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

Earlier this autumn, we received responses from recipients of EI service coordination grant funds as part of their October program reporting. We learned a great deal about local programs' efforts to boost response rates to the annual family questionnaire, local EI outreach, activities to increase referrals of families with children diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome and elevated blood lead levels, and the licensure and certification of Ohio's EI evaluators and assessors. We are excited to share some summary results of the responses we received. Please be sure to check out the October Program Report Summary that accompanies this communication.

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

SFY22 45-Day Analysis (Group 2)

Activities related to the SFY 2022 45-Day analysis begin this month. DODD sent initial emails to notify applicable counties regarding their inclusion in the analysis on November 9. The analysis will include 45-Day timelines ending between July 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021. Counties included in the analysis have until November 30 to review and clean their data. DODD held a webinar on November 16 about the 45-Day baseline process. We will post a recording of the webinar to the EI website in the coming days.

CMS and OSHA COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

On November 4, 2021, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a Rule requiring employees of Medicare and Medicaid-participating health care facilities to be vaccinated for COVID-19. On the same day, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) mandating vaccination for COVID-19 of all employees of large employers (employers with 100 or more employees).

Both the CMS Rule and OSHA ETS have aligned compliance dates starting with a phase 1 date of December 5, 2021, with final phase 2 compliance required by January 4, 2022. CMS and OSHA, the agencies who promulgated the rules, will be solely responsible for the enforcement of these rules.

Because of the fast-approaching implementation dates and the significant penalties that may result from noncompliance, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities strongly recommends that every provider review the Rules and seek legal advice to determine if you are subject to one or both of the mandates and, if so, how to attain and maintain compliance with the requirements.

Rule:
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/05/2021-23831/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-omnibus-covid-19-health-care-staff-vaccination

Emergency Temporary Standard:
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/05/2021-23643/covid-19-vaccination-and-testing-emergency-temporary-standard

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development-IV Training

Registration is open for the Bayley training on December 8 from 8:30am to 4:00pm. You can register here:

https://pearson.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqcuqsqT8iH9N7euf4CW74wyQuXb1U0Ne_

Additional sessions will be held on the following dates in 2022: February 9, April 20, and June 9. Registration links will be forwarded when DODD receives them from Pearson.

New Training: Challenges in Sensory Processing and Integration

Research suggests that 10%-55% of children without a diagnosed disability are affected by challenges with processing and integrating sensations. This estimate increases to 40%-88% for children with various diagnoses. Please join Angela Bates, OTD, OTR/L, with Cincinnati Children's Hospital for an informative presentation regarding primary sub-types, common presenting problems, and strategies to help. This training will be held January 4 from 8:30-10:00am. You can register here:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4123213003737126671

CPDU applications are pending.

Physical Environment and Assistive Tools Suite

Physical Environment and Assistive Tools (PEAT) Suite, created by Suzanne A. Milbourne and originally published in 2018, is a comprehensive package of materials that helps service providers (educators, home visitors, therapists, etc.), families, and other stakeholders support the participation of young children with differing abilities in typical routines and activities. "PEAT's Suite online" was developed by Pennsylvania Early Intervention Technical Assistance with funding from the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning. PEAT's Suite

online is hosted by the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children. You can learn more and access materials here:

https://connectmodules.dec-sped.org/product/peats-suite/

Brazelton Trainings

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center is offering a variety of professional development opportunities in the upcoming year. Many of these trainings may be of particular interest to local EI programs using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support evidence-based EI practices. You can learn more here:

https://btc.talentlms.com/catalog

Revised Dates for Reflective Supervision Learning Collaborative

In Program Updates #2125, we announced a new learning community for exploring reflective supervision. The April and May dates for the learning community have changed. *The new dates are April 22 and May 13.* The time remains the same at 9:00-10:30am.

As a reminder, the criteria for participation are as follows:

- Completion of Dr. Gallen's Reflective Supervision training
- Openness to variety of learning styles and willingness to actively provide and receive reflective supervision
- Interest in growing reflective supervision practices

The registration information is the same as was communicated earlier:

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:
https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/tJAoc-qhrj8jEtQt-j0eQflGQD4BHgQc5wES/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCsqz8pE9SRuRGHRowIGY-gb_PziClEj7dsiFLvUyViZA_RB8YWEJp4IduF

Join Zoom Meeting
https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94543904980

Meeting ID: 945 4390 4980
One tap mobile
+12678310333,,94543904980# US (Philadelphia)
8778535247,,94543904980# US Toll-free

Dial by your location
        +1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)

877 853 5247 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 945 4390 4980
Find your local number: https://pitt.zoom.us/u/afkbOTn0K

Join by SIP
94543904980@zoomcrc.com

Braille Santa Letters

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) will again be sending letters from Santa in Braille to children with vision impairments. Responses are available in both English and Spanish. You must request the letter by December 17. To learn more about this opportunity and how to request a letter from Santa in Braille, visit the NFB website here:

https://nfb.org/programs-services/early-childhood-initiatives/santa-letters

October Program Report Summary

DODD thanks all local EI programs for completing the October Program Reports. Information provided by local programs has helped the DODD state team better understand methods counties are using to engage families in the annual family questionnaire, innovative local EI outreach efforts, ideas to increase referrals for children with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs), and some basic demographic information about evaluators and assessors. In the sections below, we outline some of the key findings.

Family Questionnaire Engagement Ideas

Last year, the state's overall response rate on the family questionnaire was 12.02%. This year, the state's overall response rate was 20.08%. While an increase of eight percentage points may not seem significant, it is an increase of 73% compared to last year. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) continues to focus on states' response rates, and DODD will continue to support counties to improve their response rates in future years.

DODD looked at the top quarter of counties with the highest response rates on the family questionnaire to learn more about effective engagement strategies. Some of these strategies included the following:

- Contacting families via phone, text and email initially and then again before surveys were due
- Ensuring the survey was provided in the family's native language
- Offering technology and/or access to Wi-Fi and in-person support if needed
- Providing the survey link and the child's EIDS number directly to families
- Sharing at weekly team meetings which families were on the list to receive a survey
- Ensuring strong oversight leadership by requiring documentation that families were contacted using multiple methods

Innovative Outreach Ideas

All 88 counties provided feedback about ideas they are using for outreach. In general, feedback underscored the importance of building relationships with primary referral sources and community partners like doctors' offices, hospitals, birthing centers, county Job and Family Services (JFS) offices, local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), local health departments, United Way, YMCA, libraries, daycares, and school districts. Local EI outreach is of great importance as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. In SFY22, DODD restored the full $1M in funding to local EI programs for their outreach efforts, and we will continue to monitor local EI programs' efforts in outreach. Some of the more innovative local outreach activities included the following:

- Collaboration with local teaching hospitals providing pediatric residents with information on EI and the opportunity to observe team meetings and visits
- A community-wide scavenger hunt
- Community drive through food and resource fair
- Paid advertising in local newspaper, radio, Ohio Parents Magazine, and billboards
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), including paid online advertising
- Community baby shower for new and expecting moms
- Family engagement events and activities at county fairs, parades, and farmers markets

Increasing NAS/EBLL Referrals

Many counties used general outreach activities as strategies to increase NAS and EBLL referrals. Local programs that engaged in more specific activities related to NAS and EBLL found creative ways to reach families with children with these diagnoses:

- Distributing the NAS and EBLL flyers (links below) to community partners and discussions about these diagnoses at community events
- Using social media posts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) during Lead Awareness week
- Engaging in Recovery Rallies, drug/alcohol addiction groups, domestic violence shelters and juvenile courts

As only a small percentage of EBLL and NAS referrals resulted in IFSP development, this will continue to be an area of focus across the state. Of the 1,019 EBLL and NAS referrals from ODH made to Central Intake, 324 resulted in an EI referral and only 14% of those resulted in an IFSP. DODD is partnering with Bright Beginnings to engage in statewide outreach targeted at boosting referrals of children with NAS and EBLLs, and we will also be looking for opportunities to coordinate this work with local EI programs. See the table below for additional details.

EBLL and NAS Referrals to EI
April 21-September 21

Referrals	Total	Initial IFSPs	Percent
NAS	33	6	18%
EBLL	291	39	13%
Total	324	45	14%

The NAS referrals referenced in this report are the referrals central intake and referral receives from ODH. These NAS referrals are only for children whose NAS diagnosis has been verified through ODH's Ohio Connections for Children with Special Needs (OCCSN) system and constitute a small subset of the overall number of children diagnosed with NAS.

Evaluators and Assessors in Ohio

As a result of this program report, we learned a great deal about the professionals working as evaluators and assessors in Ohio's EI system. In Ohio, 708 evaluators and assessors holding 849 certifications and/or licensures are working in the statewide EI system. The most prevalent certification is developmental specialist. DODD plans to use this information to contact evaluators and assessors directly about stakeholder and training opportunities. Below are two graphics presenting these data: one separating E/As by regions, the second by certification/licensure.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
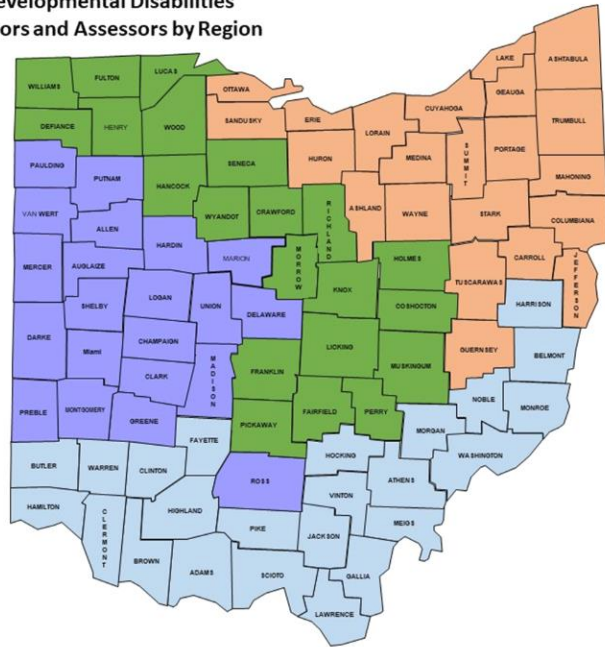Early Intervention Evaluators and Assessors by Region

E/A: 147 Total Licenses/Cert: 200	Types of Licenses/Certs
	DS: 87 PT: 13 Nurse: 2 Hearing: 1 Educator: 37 SLP: 19 Dietician: 1 Counselor: 1 OT: 15 SW: 22 Vision: 2 Psych: 0

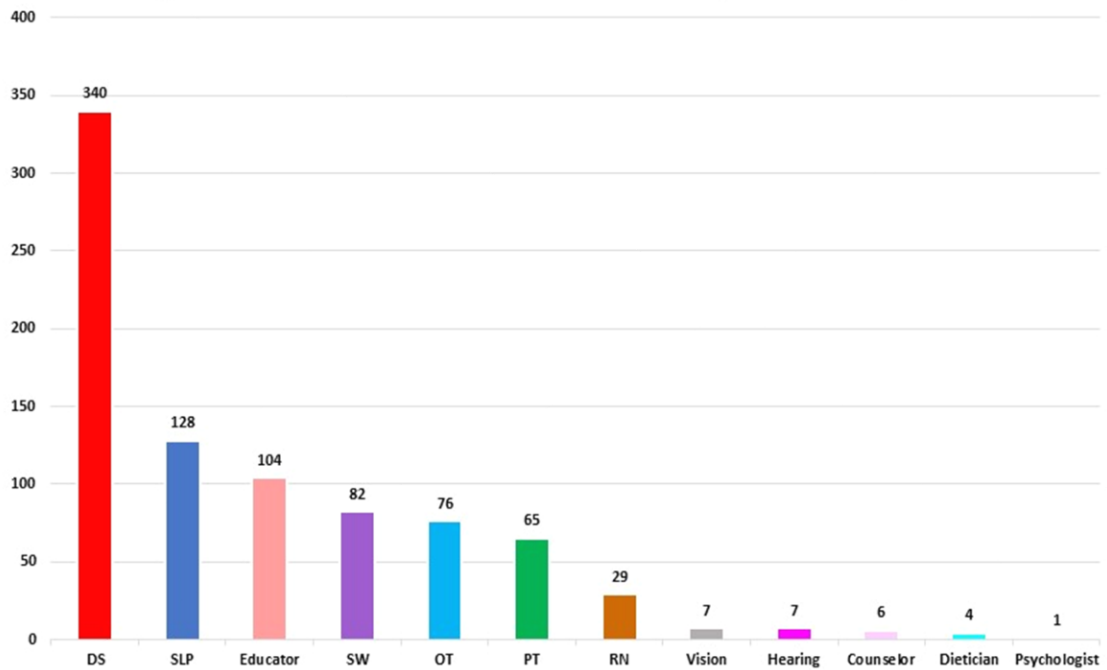| E/A: 202 Licenses/Certs: 239	Types of Licenses/Certs
	DS: 87 PT: 18 Nurse: 13 Hearing: 2 Educator: 33 SLP: 51 Dietician: 1 Counselor: 4 OT: 19 SW: 9 Vision: 2 Psych: 0

E/A: 215 Licenses/Cert: 245	Types of Licenses/Certs
	DS: 100 PT: 19 Nurse: 7 Hearing: 3 Educator: 21 SLP: 33 Dietician: 1 Counselor: 0 OT: 25 SW: 34 Vision: 2 Psych: 0

E/A: 144 Licenses/Cert: 165	Types of Licenses/Certs
	DS: 66 PT: 15 Nurse: 7 Hearing: 1 Educator: 13 SLP: 25 Dietician: 1 Counselor: 1 OT: 17 SW: 17 Vision: 1 Psych: 1

Total E/A: 708 Total License/Cert: 849	Types of Licenses/Certs
	DS: 340 PT: 65 Nurse: 29 Hearing: 7 Educator: 104 SLP: 128 Dietician: 4 Counselor: 6 OT: 76 SW: 82 Vision: 7 Psych: 1

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Early Intervention Evaluators and Assessors by Certification/Licensure

Resources:
The following resources may assist you as you continue to build and expand on your work described in this report.

Webinars and trainings
- **Lead poisoning in Ohio MyLearning Training:**
  https://mylearning.dodd.ohio.gov/course/view.php?id=73
- **Opioid Crisis in EI Recorded Webinar:** https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/85
- **Diagnosed Conditions Recorded Webinar:** https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/187
- **Diagnosed Conditions part 2 Webinar:** https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/259 **(12/14/21)**

Public awareness and outreach materials
- **Central Intake and Outreach Resources:** https://ohioearlyintervention.org/local-state-national-resources/central-intake-and-outreach
- **Lead flyer:** https://filecabinet10.eschoolview.com/61E43BB9-875E-4565-87EC-0759A84E50FA/58ea463d-4929-4fdf-b8b6-a17d1dca0c74.pdf
- **NAS flyer:** https://filecabinet10.eschoolview.com/61E43BB9-875E-4565-87EC-0759A84E50FA/52e96030-5616-4d11-800e-a82a343d6fe2.pdf
- **Automatic Eligibility flyer:** https://filecabinet10.eschoolview.com/61E43BB9-875E-4565-87EC-0759A84E50FA/42391544-5898-4a79-a417-5a8244cd8ede.pdf

EBLL and NAS Resources
- **Childhood Lead Exposure Resources:** https://ohioearlyintervention.org/local-state-national-resources/ChildhoodLeadExposure
- **NAS Resources:** https://ohioearlyintervention.org/local-state-national-resources/Neonatal-Abstinence-Syndrome