

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators  
From: Nathan DeDino  
Date: July 28, 2023  
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2315

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

The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has put a renewed focus on compliance and states' systems of general supervision. [OSEP recently released a 45-page document](#) clarifying activities and expectations for lead agencies. DODD staff are currently reviewing and considering places where we may need to refine our monitoring processes. This new document should be read in conjunction with the OSEP site visit letters we shared with you in [EI Program Updates #2307](#).

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***

### **2023 Family Questionnaire**

The 2023 EI family questionnaire will soon be underway. Applicable families include those with an active Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) on June 1, 2023. DODD is again collecting the majority of family questionnaire responses online via Survey Monkey. If the primary caregiver did not have an email address listed in the EI Data System (EIDS), the questionnaire and a one-page information sheet about the questionnaire will be mailed to the family. This information will also be sent via mail if the email address was identified as invalid by Survey Monkey or the caregiver had opted out of receiving surveys via Survey Monkey.

DODD is providing an online or hardcopy Spanish questionnaire to families where the parent's primary language is identified as Spanish in EIDS. This year, DODD has also translated the family questionnaire into 13 additional languages that are the most frequently occurring languages of families served in Ohio's EI system: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, French, Nepali, Pashtu, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Swahili, Telugu, and Urdu. Parents identified as having one of these languages as their primary language will receive a hardcopy of the questionnaire and one page information sheet in their language. These families also have the option of completing the English version of the questionnaire online. All other families will be emailed a link to the English questionnaire or mailed a hardcopy of the English questionnaire.

Because the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) continues to put an increased focus on the response rate and overall representativeness of respondents to states' family questionnaires, we are again asking local programs for their assistance in ensuring families are informed about the questionnaire and how to access and complete it. We anticipate mailing and emailing questionnaires to all applicable families next week. Once they have been distributed, DODD will

send EI Contract Managers and FCFC Coordinators a list of recipients, a copy of the questionnaire and information sheet, and links and QR codes that can be used to complete the questionnaire. DODD asks that EI Service Coordinators ensure applicable families on their caseload are familiar with the Family Questionnaire and how to respond. Questionnaire responses are due September 22.

As a reminder, DODD is also hosting a webinar covering the 2023 EI Family Questionnaire process August 10 at 9:30am. If you have not already registered, we strongly encourage local EI staff to register for this webinar using the following link:

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_QcfZ5QoiRGaLfetWepDUXA](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_QcfZ5QoiRGaLfetWepDUXA)

Please contact Taylor Hammond ([taylor.hammond@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:taylor.hammond@dodd.ohio.gov)) if you have any questions.

### **August 1 Local Educational Agency (LEA) Notification**

The August quarterly LEA reporting requirement is approaching. Consistent with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5123-10-02(L)(1)(b), every EI service coordination agency must notify the LEA (with parent consent) of children who will turn three within the next year by the first day of February, May, August, and November. This report is available in the EI Data System (EIDS) in both Excel and PDF formats. You may use either version, but please remember the following:

- The August 1 LEA report must be run no earlier than July 22 and no later than August 1. If the parent does not consent to share contact information with the LEA, “no” must be selected in EIDS in response to “Transition contact info shared with LEA:” on the most recent IFSP and the date the parent declined to share information must also be documented.
- It is expected that child information will be updated in a timely manner so that the LEA reports in EIDS are accurate.
- Only the sections of the report that are relevant to a particular LEA should be sent to that LEA, not the entire report.
- If you are not sure which LEA should be selected for a specific child, we encourage you to contact the relevant Educational Service Center (ESC) for clarification. Contact information for all of the ESCs and public school districts, along with a map of districts, is available here: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Ohio-Educational-Directory-System-OEDS>

This quarterly report must be provided to the LEAs no later than August 1. The report does not need to be submitted to DODD, but we encourage you to keep a copy for your records. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Courts at [melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov).

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

### **Reminder: 30-Day Application Processing Requirement**

When submitting developmental specialist and early intervention service coordination certification/credentialing applications, please allow 30 days for processing and issuance of a certificate. Failure to thoroughly complete application and/or submit required supporting documents will result in delayed processing. The DODD Provider Certification Unit will communicate via email any issues with developmental specialist certification applications. The Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA) will communicate messages within the Ohio professional Registry (OPR) about any issues with an EI service coordination credential application.

### ***Navigating Challenging Conversations Workshop Series***

Please join Dr. Dewana Thompson as she facilitates this three-part series hosted by Brazelton Touchpoints Center. There is a registration fee of \$95 to participate in the series. This series is offered for a total 4.5 hours of CPDU for EI service coordinators and supervisors, developmental specialists, and superintendents. Click here for workshop dates, registration, and more information:

<https://learn.brazeltontouchpoints.org/catalog/navigating-challenging-conversations-series/>

### ***Parents & Parenting with a Disability in Ohio Training Series***

Please join our partners at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) for one or more of their upcoming *Parents & Parenting with a Disability in Ohio* training series sessions. Each of these sessions is offered for a total one (1) hour of CPDU for EI service coordinators and supervisors, developmental specialists, and superintendents. Please click here for registration and see the flyer below for more information:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvf-6tqzMqGdAFKKcojQcABAu1LO73\\_yVH#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvf-6tqzMqGdAFKKcojQcABAu1LO73_yVH#/registration)

### **Family-to-Family Communities 2023-2024 Meetings**

Please see the flyer accompanying this Program Updates for the dates, times, and descriptions of the *Connecting Families of Individuals with Deaf-Blindness via Distance Technology Family-to-Family Communities* meetings.

## **Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Parent Consultant Position**

The ODH has posted the Parent Consultant (PN 20014707) hybrid position that will be open for applications until 11:59pm, on August 3. You can learn more and apply for this position here:

[https://dasstateoh.taleo.net/careersection/oh\\_ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=230006WJ&tz=GMT-04%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew\\_York](https://dasstateoh.taleo.net/careersection/oh_ext/jobdetail.ftl?job=230006WJ&tz=GMT-04%3A00&tzname=America%2FNew_York)

## **Ohio Child Care Advisory Council (CCAC) Vacancies**

The CCAC has several vacancies. Please consider applying or passing along information to others who may be interested. The CCAC was created under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 5104.08. The duties of the CCAC are to advise and assist the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in the administration of ORC Section 5104.08 and in the development of child care in Ohio. The CCAC consists of 22 voting members appointed by the director of the ODJFS with the approval of the governor. Appointments are for three-year terms.

CCAC is currently seeking bios and resumes for the following representative vacancies:

- For-profit child care center
- Parent, guardian, or custodian of children receiving child care
- Community member from the teaching, child development, health profession, or individuals interested in the welfare of children

If you are interested in applying for one of the vacancies listed above, please send your resume and bio as two different documents to Nicole Goudy at [Nicole.Goudy@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Nicole.Goudy@jfs.ohio.gov) by August 4. *Please identify the vacancy you are interested in representing.*



# Family-to-Family Communities (F2FC)

*Connecting Families of Individuals with Deaf-Blindness via Distance Technology*

F2FC brings families together to connect, share information and resources, and offer support to one another in the journey of supporting their family member with deaf-blindness.

*“I love knowing that there are others like me! It’s wonderful not to feel so isolated.” (parent)*



Registration

<https://tinyurl.com/F2FC2023>

F2FC registration is open until  
September 1, 2023

Questions?  
contact [cdarrah@uga.edu](mailto:cdarrah@uga.edu)  
or your state deaf-blind project



Facebook

<https://tinyurl.com/F2FCfacebook>

Each F2FC is comprised of 8-10 family members; is guided by trained Facilitators; meets once per month for 90 minutes via video-conference or phone; topics are chosen by the group and include structured conversation and open sharing. Your regular participation is vital to the group!

***Facilitators will contact participants in August; monthly meetings will be Sept 2023 – May 2024***

**2023-2024 Family-to-Family Communities (adjust for time zones) descriptions include sample topics**

- Love, Laughter, & Mindfulness: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday/month at 8:30pm ET; boundaries, self-care, and ways to thrive in life while also caring for your children with deaf-blindness; Facilitators- Heather Joy Magdelano & Donia Shirley
- Families with Members who have Peroxisomal Disorders: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday/month at 8:30pm ET; Communication, educational support, & life balance; Facilitators- Krista Olsen & Katie Sacra
- Families with Members who have CHARGE: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday/month at 8pm ET; unique needs and services, building a network of support, family dynamics, planning for the future; Facilitators- Jenn Henkle & Katrina Michel
- Families with Members who have Usher syndrome: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday/month at 8pm ET; support for BOTH moms and dads facilitated by a married couple, connections, and sharing resources; Facilitators- Morgan & Amanda Campbell
- Adult Life (age 22+): Last Wednesday/month at 7pm ET; for family members of adults who are deafblind; adult life systems, resources and supports; Facilitators- Patti McGowan & Sheri Stanger
- Families with Children who have Complex Needs: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month at 7pm ET; health care, support providers, educational services, waivers, self-care, balancing family life; Facilitators- Michelle John & Jana Villemez
- Families with School-Age Children: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday/month at 1pm ET; IEPs, relationships with your education team, navigating transitions, & promoting friendships; Facilitators- Nilam Agrawal, Brandi Hitzelberger, & Lane McKittrick
- 258 “Very Interesting” Chat: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month at 8:30pm ET; Deafblind culture, connections, and advocacy; Facilitators- Maureen Behrens, Valerie Nordstrom, & Heather Withrow (meetings in ASL- must be FLUENT)
- Transition to Life beyond High School: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month at 8pm ET; for families of youth ages 14-22, planning for life after high school that is meaningful, purposeful, and enjoyable; Facilitators- Theresa Baldry & Faith Young
- Grandparents and Extended Family: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday/month at 7pm ET; for family members who want to support their loved ones whose child is deafblind; Facilitators- Rhonda Bryce, Chris & Tony DiLeo, & Jana Villemez
- Spanish-speaking Families: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday/month at 12:00pm ET; education, relationships, self-care, and leadership; Facilitators- Josefina Gonzales & Doris Tellado; registration for this group ONLY <https://tinyurl.com/F2FC2023SP>



# Parents & Parenting with a Disability in Ohio

Join us as we learn together about rights, resources, and lived experiences of Ohio parents with disabilities.

Parents with disabilities are:

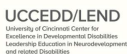
- More likely to be single parents.
- Less likely to have a college diploma or high school degree.
- More likely to experience fair or poor health.

Parents with severe disabilities are:

- More likely to be women.
- More likely to be black.

**REGISTER NOW!**

<https://bit.ly/OhioDisabledParents>



## Dates & Topics

**AUGUST 1, 2023**

Rights & Resources

12:00 - 1:00 (EST)

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

Pregnancy, Birth and Going Home

12:00 - 1:00 (EST)

**OCTOBER 11, 2022**

Child Welfare & Domestic Relations

12:00 - 1:00 (EST)

**NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

Intimate Partner Violence

12:00 - 1:00 (EST)

# Emerging Trends in Maternal and Child Health Related to Substance Use Disorders

Friday, October 27, 2023  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
The Summit Hotel



PRESENTED BY THE NEXT STEP COLLABORATIVE (FORMERLY CCAP)

## SAVE THE DATE

[www.cincinnatichildrens.org/NextStep](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/NextStep)

### Topics:

- Challenging Assumptions Related to Substance Use Disorders
- Improving Outcomes Through Breastfeeding + Eat Sleep Console
- Learning from the Lived Experience of Persons with Substance Use Disorder
- Supporting Language and Literacy + Executive Functioning

### Accreditation



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER  
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Cincinnati Children's. Cincinnati Children's is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

**CME:** This live activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™.

**ABP MOC Part 2:** Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the activity, with individual assessments of the participant and feedback to the participant, enables the participant to earn MOC Part 2 points in the American Board of Pediatrics' (ABP) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to the ACCME for the purpose of granting ABP MOC credit.

**Nursing:** This activity is approved for continuing nursing education (CNE) contact hours.

**Social Work:** Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is an approved provider of continuing education credits by the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, Provider # RSX030902.

**Teacher:** Contact Hours of Educator Credit are provided. Final approval of Certificates of Participation will be determined by your Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC). Keep all Certificates of Participation with your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP)

**Clinical Counselors:** Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is an approved provider of professional counselor continuing education credits by the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board, Provider #RCX111201.

**GAL:** Application for credit has been submitted

**CLE:** Application for credit has been submitted

**IPCE:** This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

*Additional credits will be added to the website as confirmed.*

