

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: April 1, 2016
Subject: Help Me Grow Early Intervention Program Updates, #1607

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

I am very pleased to tell you that we submitted Phase II of State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to OSEP on Wednesday. We cannot thank enough those of you who spent valuable time on work groups or contributed to our efforts in other ways. Your feedback was essential to putting together a good plan. Moreover, in the course of working with you, we obtained other significant feedback about our program that—while not directly on point to our SSIP work—we will use to inform our broader efforts to improve our EI system. I am always so pleased, but never surprised, by how our local partners step up to work with us to improve outcomes for the families we all serve. Thank you! Finally, I give special thanks to the tireless efforts Taylor Hammond put in to our SSIP. She oversaw our effort of taking dozens of pages of feedback and transforming it into a cohesive and targeted plan to improve our SIMR.

I always invite your feedback. Do not hesitate to contact me at nathan.dedino@odh.ohio.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

PROGRAM UPDATES

SFY17 Service Coordination Grant

The grant application is due **April 4**. The grants are now posted in GMIS and you may begin entering information. Attachment A also accompanies this bi-weekly communication. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact Kelli Lanzot or Laura Friedman.

Confirmation of Contractual Agreement (CCA)

We have received a number of questions about the CCA. As soon as contract expenses are reported on the expense report, the CCA must be completed and a signed copy of the contract must be attached in GMIS. GSU will review the contract when expenses are reported. NB: the CCA must be completed prior to initiating the expense reports, or the CCA information will not auto populate to the expense report. If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Lanzot or Laura Friedman.

Service Coordination Bridge Funds Opportunity

A new funding opportunity through DODD for administrative agents that are eligible to apply for the SFY17 EI service coordination grant will provide bridge funds for counties as we move to a direct reimbursement model for the service coordination grant starting July 1, 2016. Each county will be eligible to receive 1/12 of its SFY17 allocation or \$8500, whichever is less. To receive

these funds, a county will have to provide information about where the county is finding the 17 EI services. More extensive details are available in the grant that is posted here:

<http://dodd.ohio.gov/Initiatives-and-Partnerships/Pages/default.aspx>

These are one-time funds to help counties through this transition period. They will not be available next year. However, once a county has these funds, the county will be able to, in effect, borrow from itself each grant year to help cover the time period between the start of the service coordination grant and the first payment.

We have scheduled a conference call to answer any questions you may have. The call will take place Wednesday, April 6 from 10:30am-11:30am.

Conference call phone number: 641-715-3580 (note the area code)

Access code: 331-669

SFY16 TRS Baseline

For applicable counties, missing data inquiries and verification requests were due March 16. If any additional clarification is needed, the monitoring team will follow up with counties in the coming weeks. The analysis will be final and results memos will be sent out in late April.

SFY16 45 Day Baseline

Activities related to the SFY16 45 Day baseline analysis will begin this month. Counties will receive a memo in the coming weeks with notification about inclusion in the 45 Day baseline analysis. For those included, the data cleaning period runs from April 22 to May 6.

Ohio Part C State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase II

The SSIP is a comprehensive, ambitious, yet achievable, multi-year plan for improving the results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Phase I was submitted on April 1, 2015 and included data and infrastructure analyses, selection of a state-identified measureable result (SIMR), selection of coherent improvement strategies, and development of a Theory of Action to provide a graphic representation of the plan. In Phase I, Ohio chose the following SIMR upon which to focus its plan:

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

Phase II of the SSIP was focused on infrastructure development and supporting EIS programs and providers in implementing evidence-based practices. Over the last year, the state SSIP team, along with stakeholders from a wide array of perspectives within Ohio's EI system, expanded upon the ideas and concepts generated in Phase I. The improvement strategies identified in Phase I have been realigned, and the state has defined intended short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes for each improvement strategy. Additionally, the state has developed an Action Plan

inclusive of the specific activities, steps, and resources needed to achieve each outcome and a plan for how to implement each of the activities and how success of implementation will be measured.

Ohio's Phase II SSIP was submitted to OSEP on March 30. See the attached *SSIP Phase II Summary* and *Appendix A – Ohio Realigned Theory of Action* for an overview of this year's plan. The full plan, along with all of the appendices has also been posted toward the bottom of the following page on the Help Me Grow website:

<http://www.helpmegrow.ohio.gov/Early%20Intervention/reporting.aspx>.

If you have any questions or comments about Ohio's Phase II SSIP, feel free to contact Taylor Hammond, EI Researcher, at Taylor.Hammond@odh.ohio.gov at any time.

Regional Infant Hearing Program (RIHP) Clarification

There is some confusion around the RIHP and EI services for children with hearing impairments. We apologize for not being clearer. DODD will continue in SFY17 to fund EI services needed to meet IFSP outcomes for children with hearing loss. Although we are considering changes to *how* these services are funded (*e.g.*, contract vs. grant), we will continue to budget money for and to fund EI services for children with hearing impairments. We thank everyone who has sent us your suggestions and thoughts on these services. If you have not done so already, please consider sharing your thoughts with us.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Resource Based Service Coordination

The DD Council grant, "Bridging the Gap in Part C Services" is pleased to offer a repeat of the training webinar "Resource Based Service Coordination."

Dates: April 12, 2016 & May 17, 2016 (must attend both session to receive CEU credits)
Time: 9:00 to 11:00 am (for both sessions)
Presenters: Dr. M'Lisa Shelden and Dr. Dathan Rush

DODD CEU credits application has been submitted and waiting on approval

Registration Instructions:

Please note that at this time there can only be "1" log-in from each county thus making it important to find a common location for multiple staff to participate. If, as we get closer to the training date, we find that we have not reached our maximum access, we will grant additional log-in sites on a first come basis. When you register, please circle "yes" on the registration form to indicate if you would like to be contacted should additional sites become available.

Step 1:

Complete the registration form (“Registration Sign in Sheet -SC training 4-2016”) accompanying this bi-weekly communication with each participant’s name and submit to Bev Smith. You will also submit this form with each participant’s signature to Bev at the end of each training session. You can either email the form to Bev at bevsmith45160@yahoo.com or fax it to 513-732-6561. Handouts will be sent via email as we get closer to the training date.

Step 2:

Please register for Service Coordinator Training on Apr 12, 2016 9:00 AM EDT here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9144078929880269315>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you have any questions, please contact Bev Smith at bevsmith45160@yahoo.com or 513-919-8275.

Routines-Based Interview (RBI)

Registration is now available on OhioTRAIN for Routines-Based Interview (RBI) Training on April 12 and 13, 2016. The OhioTRAIN Course ID is #1056308. Each session is limited to 30 participants, so register soon.

Other Training Opportunities

Ongoing trainings available through Ohio Train:

- Functional Assessment: Beyond the Bayley and Battelle Webinar (1062057)
- HMG Training Institute (1034150)
- IFSP Form user-directed webinar (1028661)
- IFSP Outcome Training-Facilitated Webinar (1054433)
- Principles of Service Coordination (1047684)

Other Trainings:

- Child Outcome Summary: Your State Team is encouraging county teams to use the 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. There are six modules. Here is the link: <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 TA Consultant.
 - **UPDATE March 18: A sixth module entitled “Good Teaming, Good Decisions” has been added.**

- Overview of Evidence Based EI: This training is accessed through your TA 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 TA consultant and supports teams with learning what type of activities need to be documented.