

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: June 8, 2018
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #1813

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

Thank you to everyone who participated in the introductory call with Bright Beginnings earlier this week. We are looking forward to working with them to ensure a smooth transition for central intake next month. There were a number of questions specific to early intervention that came up on the call. You can find those questions and answers later in this communication.

Accompanying this communication is a brief report highlighting just a few of the many accomplishments last year in Early Intervention. Thank you for everything you do to strengthen Ohio's EI system and support families.

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

Central Intake Questions and Answers

- Will the funds DODD provided during SFY18 for local EI outreach continue to be available in SFY19?
 - Yes. Consistent with the communication sent September 22, 2017, DODD committed to funding two years of local EI outreach. Counties will receive the same amount in SFY19 as they received SFY18. Additional materials related to these funds will be available after June 15. You can read more about the local outreach funds here: https://ohioearlyintervention.org/up_doc/Local-EI-Outreach-Funding-Overview.pdf
- Can I continue to use marketing materials that have our local number on them?
 - Yes. You can continue to use marketing materials that have your local number, a regional number, and/or the 1-800 number on them.
- What do I do if a family directly contacts a service coordination agency and wants to make an EI referral?
 - You can continue to fill out the EI 8045 form and send it to Bright Beginnings to enter into EIDS.
- When will central intake begin entering referrals and contacts related to EI directly in EIDS?
 - Direct data entry by central intake in EIDS will begin effective July 1.

- How will I be able to get PCSA forms and materials sent by doctors when these agencies make a referral to central intake?
 - Beginning in July, central intake will be able to upload electronic copies of these materials directly into child record in EIDS. Any user who has access to a child's record will then be able to access those documents.
- Will I be able to access information about the system referrals made in my county that might not have resulted in an EI program referral?
 - Two new reports will be available in EIDS in July for EI system administrators that will contain this information.
- How do I make a county-to-county transfer?
 - DODD is working on creating a set of transfer guidance to clarify this process for both Bright Beginnings and county service coordination agencies. This guidance will be available later this month.
- Where can I find the PowerPoint and recording of the Bright Beginnings presentation from June 6?
 - You can access the PowerPoint at the below link. The recording will be available in the next several weeks.
<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/local-state-national-resources/central-intake-and-outreach>

County Transfer Email Recipient

As we are working to put together transfer guidance for both EI programs and Central Intake, we want to ensure the County Transfer Email Recipient list is up to date. Please use the Child Transfer County Contact List Report to see who is currently listed as the transfer email recipient(s) for your county. More than one person in the county can have this role. The role can be added or removed from accounts by System Administrators using the protocol described here:

https://ohioearlyintervention.org/up_doc/Adding-New-User-EIDS.pdf.

Please contact uids@dodd.ohio.gov with any questions.

Family Questionnaire

DODD will be pulling data for the 2018 EI Family Questionnaire within the next two months. Please ensure that street addresses for the families you are serving currently are up to date in EIDS. These efforts will help to increase your county's response rate as well as minimize the number of surveys returned due to an incorrect address.

SFY18 Transition Analyses (Group 1)

Activities related to the SFY18 Transition Steps and Services and Transition Planning Conference (TPC) baseline analyses are underway. County inquiries, including Steps and Services Self-Assessments for all participating counties, and missing data or verification requests for applicable counties, were sent May 29 and are due back to DODD June 22. Verification and final analyses will be completed after that time, and results memos will be sent in early August.

System of Payments Rule Monitoring

The first round of SOP monitoring has been completed. On May 29, counties were sent feedback files specific to the records submitted for verification, along with a document that provided a brief overview of the SOP review and explained how to interpret the spreadsheet. DODD will be providing a more detailed guidance document for filling out the 1701 form in June. Later in the summer or early autumn of this year, DODD will again request a sample of 1701 forms from counties for verification.

EIDS User Accounts

As a reminder, DODD has several resources available on the EI website regarding how to gain access to EIDS. There are written instructions as well as videos for new EIDS users that already have a DODD portal account and those who do not have a portal account. You can access these materials here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/data-system>

All new users must fill out a data system User Agreement. This form is available at the Forms tile of the EI website. System Administrators must submit these agreements to eids@dodd.ohio.gov. All other user agreements are kept on file at the county level. Additionally, System Administrators can add users and modify user accounts.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: WHO SHOULD BE INVITED TO IFSP MEETINGS

DODD has received a number of questions around who should be invited to IFSP meetings. At a minimum, the service coordinator, parent(s) of the child, and other individuals the parent invites (such as other family members, friends, and advocates) should participate in the IFSP meeting. Encouraging families to invite supportive people may lead to a more productive IFSP meeting. Parents may feel more at ease surrounded by familiar people. These people may also be able to help the parent recollect important facts or information about daily activities and routines.

Service coordinators should also ensure that they have invited both current and potential early intervention service providers listed on Section VI of the IFSP. These service providers include not just providers from the county board of developmental disabilities, but also system of payments providers and DODD-contracted vision and hearing providers. At the initial and annual IFSP meeting, the service coordinator should invite at least one member of the evaluation and assessment team. If no one from the evaluation and assessment team can attend the meeting, a member of the team may participate via phone, send a report, or send a knowledgeable representative.

Finally, some other people who could be invited to the IFSP meeting with parental consent include childcare providers, Early Head Start teachers, home visitors, other therapists working with the family, and medical professionals.

The service coordinator is responsible for sending written notification of the IFSP meeting using form 8039 to all invitees. For initial IFSP meetings the service coordinator must send the notification in advance of the IFSP meeting. For annual IFSP meetings, the service coordinator must send form 8039 at least ten calendar days before the IFSP meeting is held.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Doughnuts with Di Screencasts Available

Since the Doughnuts with Di training series for assessors began in January 2018, we have had five informative webinars facilitated by Ohio content experts. Topics have included Vision, Functional Assessment, Ecomapping, Hearing, and Autism.

The presentations are available as screencasts on YouTube. A screencast includes a video of the Power Point slides accompanied by an audio recording of the training. You can access the screencasts in two ways:

- Navigate to YouTube and enter “Doughnuts with Di” in the search box. This will generate a list of all available presentations.
- From the Ohio EI website, click the Providers Tab, then the Professional Development tile, and then the Trainings tile. Scroll to the session of interest, and click the link below the Course Description for the screencast.

The next Doughnuts with Di will be held June 26 on the topic of Nutrition. The content expert is Kim DeDino, MS, RD, CSP, LD. You can register on the EI website here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings>

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Myers at lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

Summer Food Service Program

All children ages one through 18 are eligible to receive free meals during the summer months at participating program sites. Individuals ages 19 through 21 who have been identified as having mental or physical disabilities and are following Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) through their current enrollment in educational programs also are eligible for free summer meals.

For more information or to find a location near, you call 1-866-3-HUNGRY (486479) or visit the following link:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Food-and-Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program>

Attention Developmental Specialists Who Conduct Ohio Part C Assessments: Save the Date for Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) Certification Training Registration Coming Soon!

Experts from the Brazelton Institute, Boston Children's Hospital at Harvard Medical School are coming to Ohio to train on the Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) tool. The NBO is a set of 18 neurobehavioral observations designed to help the clinician and parent work together to determine a baby's strengths and needs. It is designed for infants up to three months old. Successful completion of the training will result in certification to administer the NBO.

According to the Brazelton Institute, *"It is not an examination or a test but is a set of shared observations designed to help the clinician and parent together, to observe the infant's behavioral capacities and identify the kind of support the infant needs for his successful growth and development. The NBO is therefore inherently interactive and family-centered, so that parents are involved as partners in the NBO session. The clinician maintains a collaborative stance towards the parents during the session, which ends with the clinician and parents developing a joint infant caregiving plan, by identifying techniques most likely to foster positive parent-infant interaction."*

The training consists of the following:

- 40-minute online orientation module
- Two-day in-person training conducted by experts from the Brazelton Institute
- One-hour tele-mentoring webinars at one and three months after the training
- Submitting recordings of five administrations of the NBO
- Up to five coaching sessions for each participant to assess fidelity and obtain certification

The in-person portion of the training will be held at locations throughout Ohio.

Cuyahoga county: August 16-17
Hamilton county: October 22-23
Franklin county: October 24-25

The sessions are limited to 30 participants and will be open to one developmental specialist who conducts Part C assessments from each local EI team. Stay tuned for details.

If you have any questions, please contact your Program Consultant.

Special Doughnuts with Di: The Opioid Crisis and Early Intervention

Please join Dr. Robert Gallen for a discussion of the Opioid Crisis and how it impacts infants and toddlers. Dr. Gallen will discuss current research and how we can use this information in our interventions with families. This session will be held August 23 from 10:00-11:30am.

You can register via the Trainings page on the EI website. Scroll to Doughnuts with Di: The Opioid Crisis and EI and click the Register button. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Myers at lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

Battelle Developmental Inventory Training

The next training on the Battelle Developmental Inventory has been scheduled for July 27 at the Hocking County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Logan, Ohio. The training will be presented by Dr. Robert Gallen. To register for this session or view information on other Battelle sessions, please access OhioTRAIN.

Please contact Lori Myers at lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov if you have any questions.

Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development

The next Bayley training will be held June 27 from 9:00am-4:30pm at the Columbus Developmental Center. Registration is open on OhioTRAIN, Course # 1009447.

For SFY19, we plan to offer two sessions of the Bayley training: one in late fall 2018 and the other in late spring 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Myers at lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Survey

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant Program is authorized under Title V of the Social Security Act to ensure the health and well-being of women, mothers, infants, children (including children with special health care needs), adolescents and their families. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is the authorized Title V agency in Ohio.

Title V programs play a lead role in improving MCH health, such as assuring universal newborn screening and timely follow-up, reducing infant mortality and preventing child deaths and injuries. Maternal and Child Health Block Grant funded programs also address increasing access to quality health care; increasing the number of children who receive health assessments, follow-up diagnostic and treatment services; and implementing systems of coordinated care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN).

Ohio is currently engaged in year three of our five year Block Grant cycle. Annually the state solicits feedback and input regarding the strategies and activities it is focusing on to improve health outcomes for the MCH population. The indicators that will be used to measure progress. The public feedback received will be included in the annual MCH Block Grant Application and Report that is submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), the federal funder and partner.

This survey provides an opportunity for you to view the MCH 5-Year Action Plan and provide your input. The survey will be open for approximately 30 days beginning June 4, 2018. We encourage you to take time to share your comments. Please visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ODH_MCH_BlockGrantFY19 to review and comment.

If you would like further information or have questions, please contact: BCFHS@odh.ohio.gov.

Early Intervention 2017

A program of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Early Intervention (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated Early Intervention services to parents of eligible children under age 3 with developmental delays or disabilities.

In 2017, more than 21,000 families were served by Early Intervention. EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings.

Every family served has an EI team that consists of a service coordinator, service providers, and the child's family. The team works with families at home, or in other places the family spends time, to develop a coordinated plan for needed services. Through the Individualized Family Service Plan, the team helps families use existing supports and build resources that enhance their child's learning and development.

Professional Development

Ohio continues to implement a comprehensive professional development plan that includes required foundational and implementation training. Training aligns with best practices, Ohio's position statement on EI, the Mission and Key Principles for Providing EI Services in Natural Environments, and the Division for Early Childhood standards.

In 2017, the department provided in-person training and webinars about more than a dozen different EI topics, including evaluation tools, authentic assessment, motivational interviewing, and understanding the principles of service coordination. These trainings were accessed more than 3,000 times.

The trainings about authentic assessment and motivational interviewing were led by nationally recognized experts in the field of early childhood, Dr. Lee Ann Jung and Dr. Robert Gallen.

"The EI staff has been wonderful to work with. I am amazed at the progress my son has made in just a few short months."

- Parent, Muskingum County

"My children would not be where they are today without the Early Intervention they received."

- Parent, Butler County

OhioEarlyIntervention.org

In February 2017, DODD launched a website to serve as a central location for all things EI. The site offers a section for families, materials for EI providers, data monitoring and federal reporting resources, and information about the EI Advisory Council. By the end of 2017, the website averaged more than 1,800 unique visitors per month.

Federal Reporting

Based on the review of Ohio's most recent Annual Performance Report, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs gave Ohio its highest determination, "Meets Requirements".



Luca and his family received EI services in Allen County.



Jackie, a parent in Williams County, says her local county board of developmental disabilities has shown her big family unwavering support during good times and bad.

Priorities in 2017

Supporting Early Intervention Service Coordinators

Service coordinators are on the front lines coordinating eligibility determinations, needed EI services, and planning for transition. At more than \$21 million, service coordination is the department's largest investment in EI. Those funds support local entities in conjunction with local in-kind contributions, providing service coordination to more than 21,000 Ohio families.

In 2017, DODD began a new tiered project to support the implementation of the 10 federally mandated responsibilities of a service coordinator. Using self-assessments, record reviews, observation, and site visits, the department is learning more about how service coordinators and their agencies support families.

Increasing Equity of Services

Partnering with the Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG), the department piloted a program that used state and local resources to fund physical, occupational, and speech therapy to provide EI services in seven historically under-served counties in Southeast Ohio. Those interventionists provided services in-person and through technology. Preliminary data indicate that service delivery is now more comparable to the state as a whole in the pilot county group, even while seeing an increase in the number of children served.

Diversifying Funding for Services

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the department worked with a diverse group of stakeholders to create a new system of payments rule that benefited families, worked well with Ohio's EI structure, and was consistent with all federal requirements. The group included people representing families, EI providers, service coordinators, county boards of developmental disabilities, advocacy groups, and other state agencies.

Initiatives

DODD continues to focus on ensuring children who are deaf or hard of hearing receive services within the EI team framework. DODD contracted with the Ohio State School for the Blind to ensure EI vision services were provided in all Ohio counties. Through a partnership with Federally Qualified Health Center in Southeast Ohio, early childhood mental health consultants are taking part in EI team meetings in five counties. Consultants share their expertise in children's social and emotional development with families and other interventionists on the team.

Autism Supports

The Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters (PLAY) Project is a parent-mediated autism intervention model designed to help improve outcomes for a child with autism spectrum disorder, particularly a child's ability to engage socially and emotionally. Working through the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), 65 counties had access to PLAY Project services in 2017.

CONNECTIONS is a short-term, intensive developmental intervention for toddlers newly diagnosed with autism and their families in multiple counties throughout the state. It is developed and implemented with funding in partnership with Akron Children's Hospital. Like the PLAY Project, CONNECTIONS is grounded in a relationship-based, developmental framework.

The Autism Diagnosis Education Project links Early Intervention service providers with physicians to ensure a comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation of a child suspected of having autism. Since starting implementation in 2008, more than 850 children have been evaluated in 50 counties.