

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: May 1, 2020
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

We have several new resources we wanted to share with all of you ahead of our regularly scheduled communication next Friday. As always, please share this information widely and do not hesitate to contact your EI program consultant if you have any questions.

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

EI Services for Children over the Age of Three

DODD is aware of US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's recommendation to Congress that states have the ability to serve children in Early Intervention past the age of three due to delays in enrolling children in Part B services. This proposal is a recommendation. To implement the recommendation, Congress would need to make legislative changes to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and those changes would also need to be approved by the president. DODD will continue to monitor any changes to IDEA related to this issue and work with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and stakeholders if any new opportunities become available.

You can access Secretary DeVos's full recommendations here:

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/cares-waiver-report.pdf>

May 1 LEA Reports

Quarterly LEA reports are due to be sent to LEAs by *today*, May 1. Counties can utilize the PDF reports available in EIDS as usual or can utilize the Excel files sent to each county April 21, to meet this reporting requirement.

Annual Redetermination of Eligibility and Assessment Guidance

DODD has received a number of questions about how to complete the annual redetermination of eligibility of children made eligible via informed clinical opinion (ICO) or diagnosis on the form (EI-12) as well as the annual assessment process for all children during the state of emergency. In

response, DODD has created guidance materials that accompany this Program Updates to assist counties.

Ohio Department of Education Guidance

ODE has published additional guidance regarding special education preschool during the state of emergency. This includes updates around the initial child outcomes summary (COS) ratings for children entering special education preschool. You can access this guidance here:

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Early-Learning-and-School-Readiness-Coronavirus-U#PRESCHOOL%20SPECIAL%20EDUCATION>

Early Childhood Mental Health and Early Intervention Capacity Expansion

Now that EI teams have become acquainted with their assigned early childhood mental health (ECMH) consultant, we would like to take this opportunity to provide additional information regarding how ECMH Consultation grantees will support EI teams. A map accompanies this communication with contact information for the ECMH agencies.

The Whole Child Matters Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative supports the development and implementation of a workforce specially trained to meet the social, emotional, behavioral and overall wellness needs of Ohio's youngest children. By working with parents, teachers, caregivers and partner agencies, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants help to prevent preschool expulsions by helping caregivers successfully manage challenging behaviors that may be the result of dysregulation that is caused by trauma, developmental challenges, or other environmental factors. This grant expands ECMH consultation to local EI teams. Grant funds support ECMH consultants to do the following:

1. Attend early intervention team meetings at least two times per month with each local early intervention team. This may be in-person or through digital technology.
2. Provide information and resources explaining additional assessment and screening tools that help in identifying strengths and needs of children in the social and emotional domain
3. Provide resources and evidence-based strategies to the Primary Service Provider (PSP) and early intervention team for how to promote social-emotional development in daily routines.
4. Provide expertise about mental health challenges parents may face, (e.g. maternal depression, anxiety, mental health or SUD conditions, attachment/bonding issues, etc.) and how these challenges could influence parenting and the child's social and emotional development.
5. Assist the early intervention team with determining when it is appropriate to make a referral to mental health and/or ECMH services.
6. Be up-to-date on available local mental health resources and be able to assist the team with timely access for those families who need these resources.

7. Assist the early intervention team in understanding trauma and its impact on development and family dynamics.
8. Provide the early intervention team with at least one training annually to enhance understanding of social-emotional development and ways to promote social-emotional development.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Registration Open for Advanced Reflective Supervision and Motivational Interviewing

Advanced Reflective Supervision training on May 8 and Motivational Interviewing on May 14 have been changed from in-person to virtual sessions on the Zoom platform. Robert Gallen, Ph.D. will still be the instructor, and the dates remain the same. Here are the registration links:

Advanced Reflective Supervision

<https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwudOyurT8pHdycltNjJTLmNhGq2HMW1IMp>

Motivational Interviewing

<https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErcu-rqzouG913XCSDCLkxKer77XJCLQ9X>

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

Virtual Child Outcomes Summary Resources

The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) center has created many new resources related to completing the COS virtually. You can access them on the ECTA website here:

<https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cos-distance.asp>