

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: December 2, 2022
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2224

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

We have the great pleasure of announcing the county with the highest response rate to 2022 EI family questionnaire. The competition was stiff this year and a mere 0.65% separated the first and second place counties. First place honors go to Morgan County with a response rate of 88.89%. Impressively, all but two of the families in Morgan County who received the questionnaire responded. Washington County comes in at a close second. Significantly, Henry, Williams, and Monroe counties all achieved a response rate of at least 80%.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to increase the number of families who shared their thoughts about their EI experience with us. Our statewide response rate increased slightly from last year even though we sent questionnaires to more families this year compared to last year. Since the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) expects continued growth in states' response rates, counties who were at less than the statewide response rate of 22% should be considering strategies to implement next summer to increase their respondents. Thank you!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

EI service coordination agencies will need to report on their local outreach efforts in early 2023. The reporting template for July-December 2022 is on the EI website here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/service-coordination-grant-agreements>

You can access the outreach toolkit and order materials here:

<https://www.helpmegrow.org/EIToolkit.aspx>

PROGRAM UPDATES

SFY23 Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) Baseline

Applicable counties had until November 30 to review their data in the EI Data System (EIDS) to ensure that it is accurate. Any data reentry needs to be completed by December 14. Compliance

inquiries will be sent to each Group 3 county by January 9. Please contact Melissa Courts at melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov if you have any questions about the TRS baseline process.

EI Eligibility Step by Step document

As part of our ongoing supports for local programs implementing the EI eligibility process, DODD has developed a new resource. This resource, called “Determining Eligibility: Step by Step Process,” was released on September 15 and is available on the website here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/storage/ocali-ims-sites/ocali-ims-oei/documents/Determining-Eligibility-EI.pdf>

A recording of the webinar reviewing the document is available here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/324>.

Questions from webinar participants are also available at the above webinar link.

2022 Annual Performance Report (APR)

Ohio’s 2022 APR is posted on the EI website and available for public comment. DODD reviewed it with the EI Advisory Council and Stakeholder Group at the November meeting. You can access the report here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/federal-reporting-and-postings>

Public comment will be accepted through December 31.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Plan

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state’s early intervention program to ensure that infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities and their families are provided services by knowledgeable, skilled, competent, and highly qualified personnel. States are also required to take steps to ensure that sufficient personnel are available in the state to meet EI service needs.

Throughout 2022, DODD engaged with a stakeholder workgroup to assist in developing a written plan for Ohio Early Intervention’s Comprehensive System of Personnel Development. The plan frames activities and initiatives and serves to document progress and goal achievement. The written plan for Ohio Early Intervention’s CSPD was recently finalized, and you can access it on the EI website:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/storage/ocali-ims-sites/ocali-ims-oei/documents/CSPD-Document-EI.pdf>

Bold Beginning Website Announcement

New Bold Beginning Webpages

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Child Protective Services Unit members are excited to announce their participation in the Practice and Policy Academy (PPA), a collaboration with other state agencies and Ohio organizations to add new resources to the Governor's Bold Beginning website. As part of its participation in the PPA, the team worked with Governor DeWine's office to publish information on the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016 and Plans of Safe Care (PoSCs), which describe the services and supports to address the needs of infants prenatally exposed to substances, both legal and illegal, and their families.

The goals of the PPA state team are to provide education, training, and implementation strategies on PoSCs by addressing the needs of pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorder. CARA information on the Bold Beginning Website will be located under the "Plans of Safe Care" pages, which include the following information:

- "Resources for Providers", which is for agencies and providers working with expectant mothers and includes the following resources:
 - o Background of CARA
 - o Resources for Plans of Safe Care
 - o Get Started with Plans of Safe Care
 - o County Resources and Tools
 - o Contact Us
- "Help for Families", which covers supports for pregnant women, families, and newborns impacted by a loved one's substance use disorder and includes the following resources:
 - o Get Help Now
 - o Resources for Expectant Mothers
 - o Contact Us

Ohio was selected as one of the states to participate in the Practice and Policy Academy in May of 2020. This multi-system academy is funded through Children and Family Futures, with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) serving as the lead partner. The academy is comprised of representatives from OhioMHAS, ODJFS, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio State University, Cincinnati Children's Medical Center, Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and several representatives from Ohio's public children's services agencies. Three Ohio counties were selected to participate in the PPA as pilot counties: Lucas, Mahoning, and Seneca. Although the Practice and Policy Academy has officially ended, the ODJFS Child Protective Services unit members along with all Ohio's state team members will continue the work on educating and implementing CARA/PoSCs within each of Ohio's counties. The additions to the Bold Beginning website are an exciting accomplishment, and the team hopes counties, providers, and families will find the site beneficial. Links to the webpages are listed below:

[Plans of Safe Care for Providers | BOLD Beginning! \(ohio.gov\)](#)

[Plans of Safe Care for Expectant Mothers | BOLD Beginning! \(ohio.gov\)](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: Deanna.Herold@jfs.ohio.gov or Allan.Kisner@dodd.ohio.gov.