

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: April 7, 2023
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2307

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

The DODD EI state team is happy to welcome a new member to our team. Erin Hale joins the data and monitoring team as a new compliance monitoring consultant. Erin was born and raised in Morgan County where she served, until recently, as an EI service coordinator and EI contract manager. She was committed to improving access to resources and services for families living in a rural part of the state, including finding ways to facilitate earlier diagnosis of children on the autism spectrum. Erin has a bachelor of science in healthcare management and enjoys spending her free time with her 12-year old son and three Bichon Frisé dogs. Please join us in welcoming Erin!

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?

Over the next five years, the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be completing site visits of states to monitor their compliance with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Preparation for the site visit with OSEP will take place over the course of the year prior to the visit. OSEP has completed Part C site visits in Arkansas, Michigan, and Montana and released reports of the findings they issued. You can access these reports here:

<https://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/dmsrpts/index.html#partc-dms>

PROGRAM UPDATES

May 1 Local Educational Agency (LEA) Notification

The quarterly LEA reporting requirement is coming up at the end of the month. Under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5123-10-02(L)(1)(b), the 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 May 1 LEA report must be run no earlier than April 21 and no later than May 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 May 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.

SFY23 Transition Baseline

DODD hosted a Transition Baseline Preparation webinar on March 27. A recording is available here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/327>

Counties participating in the Transition baseline analysis have until April 14 to review and edit their Transition data and submit any deletion requests to EIDS@dodd.ohio.gov. If a child has been exited, steps and services can still be edited, but the exit will need to be deleted to edit transition planning conference (TPC) details.

Join Our Team!

DODD is currently hiring an Early Intervention Specialist (#20085248) serving on our EI program consultant team. You can access the job posting and apply here:

https://dasstateoh.taleo.net/careersection/oh_ext/jobsearch.ftl

Part C Application for Federal Funding

DODD has posted its annual application to the US Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for federal funding for the year beginning July 1, 2023. You can access the application here:

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

Public comment will be accepted through April 21.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming Changes to the Ohio Early Intervention Website

During the past several months, DODD has worked in conjunction with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI), EI Advisory Council, and other stakeholders to create and implement several changes to the Ohio Early Intervention website homepage. These changes will serve to ease maneuverability and navigation for homepage visitors, as well as highlight several important functions of the website. After reviewing stakeholder feedback, we are prepared to implement these changes to the OEI website homepage beginning the week of April 10. Website users should expect to see the following changes:

- We have simplified the view on the homepage and streamlined the information presented. Additionally, updated photos of diverse families will be featured.
- The program highlights will be moved toward the bottom of the EI homepage. They will now include a direct link to the EI Events Calendar.
- To address stakeholder feedback, we have linked information from the “Families” tab to the homepage, so that it can be more easily accessed by parents and caregivers.
- The “Refer Now” button will be relocated on the homepage and highlighted to be more prominent and accessible to viewers. A link to access the free developmental and monitoring screening tools will be included beneath the “Refer Now” button.

If you have any questions regarding these upcoming changes to the Ohio Early Intervention website homepage, please contact Anni Monks at Rhiannon.monks@dodd.ohio.gov.