

## Early Intervention Program Updates #2406

### MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

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As we continue to prepare for our site visit with the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), we are unveiling a new recurring section of the biweekly to support local programs in implementing general supervision, monitoring, and oversight. We look forward to sharing additional information and assistance with you in the coming months.

I always invite your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [nathan.dedino@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:nathan.dedino@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov). I look forward to hearing from you.

### PROGRAM UPDATES

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#### *General Supervision – Highlight of the Week*

This week we are introducing a new section of the EI Program Updates that will focus on general supervision requirements. As you will recall, last spring we shared information about the US Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and their plan to complete site visits of states to monitor their compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). OSEP released a document outlining guidance on state general supervision responsibilities last July. The guidance is available here:

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/guidance-on-state-general-supervision-responsibilities-under-parts-b-and-c-of-the-idea-july-24-2023/>

As Ohio prepares for OSEP’s upcoming visit, EI Program Updates will include a “highlight of the week” to remind programs of specific Part C requirements and offer resources, tips, and strategies to support programs in achieving and maintaining compliance. Featured topics will go beyond the baseline indicators and address related requirements, such as prior written notice, parent consent, and qualified personnel, and system components such as fiscal management and dispute resolution. Be sure to check each issue for a new topic!

#### *Part C Application for Federal Funding*

The Department of Children and Youth will be applying this upcoming fiscal year for federal Part C funds. The application for funding has been posted for 60 days of public participation. The department will accept public comment on the application for the

first 30 days. You can access the application and supporting documents here:

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

### *2024 EI Family Questionnaire*

To allow local programs time to focus on learning and implementing new rules after July 1, the annual EI family questionnaire process will begin earlier than in past years. All families who were served on March 1 will receive the questionnaire, and we anticipate sending the questionnaires to families in late April or early May. The items on the questionnaire and the process for distribution and response will remain the same as in recent years. We will hold a webinar on April 23 from 2:00-3:00pm to review the process and share tips for engaging families. We encourage anyone involved in the family questionnaire process to attend. You can register using the link below:

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_OERHzN9\\_QAyWWXLHiy9dXw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_OERHzN9_QAyWWXLHiy9dXw)

Additional details will be provided in future EI Program Updates.

### *SFY24 Transition Compliance – Local Educational Agency (LEA) Notification*

DODD has analyzed SFY 2024 data related to notification to the LEA of children potentially eligible for Part B services as required by 34 CFR section 303.209(b)(1). In completing this analysis, DODD staff examined reports submitted to the LEAs by February 1, 2024. Results memos were sent March 15. Contact Erin Hale ([erin.hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:erin.hale@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)) with any questions.

### *SFY24 Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) Baseline*

Applicable county inquiries related to the SFY24 TRS baseline were sent March 13 and will be due back to the EI monitoring team by March 29. Contact Melissa Courts ([melissa.courts@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:melissa.courts@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)) with any questions about the TRS baseline.

### *SFY24 Transition Baseline*

Activities for the SFY24 Transition (Steps & Services and the transition planning conference (TPC)) baseline will begin soon. Each county was sent an email on March 19 regarding their inclusion in the analysis. We will be holding a webinar March 27 from 2:00- 3:00pm to go over the Transition baseline process. We encourage all counties to attend, regardless of whether they are part of the Transition baseline.

Please use the link below to register for this webinar.

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/360>

## RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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### *Tiny Hearts, Big Emotions: Cultivating Emotional Learning and Development with Responsive Practices*

Join Dr. LaShorage Shaffer with OneOp for a learning opportunity on April 2 at 11:00AM. This training is approved for 1.5 hours of continuing professional development units (CPDUs) for early intervention service coordinators and supervisors, developmental specialists, and superintendents. Click the link below for more information and registration.

<https://oneop.org/learn/160039/>

### *Service Coordination Workload Survey*

In collaboration with faculty at Old Dominion University, staff at the Iowa Department of Education, and the Catholic University of Valencia, Dr. Dana Childress invites you to complete a survey to share your thoughts about your experience as an early intervention service coordinator. Please see the flyer accompanying this communication for more information.

### *Resources for Managing Stress and Compassion Fatigue*

Please see the links below for resources that address the challenges that service coordinators and interventionists face when working with families and children experiencing traumatic situations.

This article discusses Compassion Fatigue, why it happens, and ways to cope with it:

<https://www.verywellmind.com/compassion-fatigue-the-toll-of-caring-too-much-7377301>

In this video, "When the Body Says No," Dr. Gabor Maté discusses the role of stress in the workplace and in the home and how to manage it effectively:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6IL8WVyMMs>

### *Teaching Children Who Are Deafblind: Professional Development for Educators*

The National Center on Deafblindness (NCDB) has created an online professional development series titled, "Teaching Children Who Are Deafblind: Professional Development for Educators." Module Two contains four 30-minute lessons that provide practical, need-to-know information and strategies for working with infants and toddlers who are deafblind. This module is available for free on the NCDB website. Anyone is

invited to use these materials for independent self-study. Please note that NCDB does not provide CEUs, certificates, or confirmation of completion. Please click the link below for more information:

<https://www.nationaldb.org/products/modules/pd/module-2/>

*Notification Regarding Service Coordination Credentials Requirements Effective July 1, 2024*

Revisions to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5123-10-04, are expected to take effect on July 1, 2024. One of the proposed changes will require that individuals holding one-year credentials (EI service coordinator or supervisor) complete five out of eight modules contained within Principles of Service Coordination (POSC) prior to renewing for a second year. The POSC modules that are required to be completed are the following:

- (EI-021) POSC Module One: Introduction to Early Intervention
- (EI-041) POSC Module Two: Individualized Family Service Plan Process Part I
- (EI-042) POSC Module Three: Individualized Family Service Plan Process Part II
- (EI-043) POSC Module Four: Monitoring Service Delivery; and
- (EI-044) POSC Module Five: Transition

If you currently hold a one-year credential that will require renewal after July 1, 2024, please complete the modules in time to renew your credential. Failure to complete the required modules will result in a lapse of your credential. Please email Tiffany Madden ([tiffany.madden@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:tiffany.madden@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)) with any questions.

## Share Your Thoughts about Service Coordination Workload Factors!

Calling all early intervention service coordinators who support families of infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities!

We invite you to complete a [SURVEY](#) to share your thoughts about your workload, including:

- the number of families you serve
- families' levels of need
- the model of service coordination used in your program
- the need for administrative support, and
- the level of responsibility, educational background, and specific expertise required for hire.

We want to know what YOU think about these factors and how they affect your engagement with families, your abilities to coordinate EI services, your feelings about your job, and your greatest needs.



### [Service Coordination Workload Survey](#)

The research consent form and [survey](#) should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Participants who complete the survey can enter a drawing for a \$25 Amazon gift card. The survey will close on April 19, 2024.



### **Let's Keep Talking: Focus Group Opportunity**

At the end of the survey, you can also choose to participate in a 60-90 minute virtual focus group session to share more about your experiences! Session dates/times will be planned to accommodate participants' schedules. Participants can enter an additional drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card for joining a session!

### **Questions?**

Email Dana Childress, [dchildre@odu.edu](mailto:dchildre@odu.edu)

En español: Marga Cañadas, [margarita.canadas@ucv.es](mailto:margarita.canadas@ucv.es)

*This research project is conducted in collaboration with faculty at Old Dominion University, staff at the Iowa Department of Education, and the Catholic University of Valencia.*