

## Early Intervention Program Updates #2423 November 26, 2024

### MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

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First, I would like to thank Nathan DeDino for serving as Ohio's Part C Coordinator for the last decade. His hard work, dedication, and leadership have been pivotal in the growth and success of Ohio's Early Intervention (EI) program during this time. I look forward to continuing where he left off and, along with an amazing and diverse group of stakeholders, facilitating the program's continued growth and success.

I am transitioning into the Part C Coordinator role after more than ten years as the state's Part C Data Manager. As Data Manager, I analyzed a variety of data, completed federally required and other reporting, helped establish monitoring protocols, participated in compliance monitoring, provided support and created guidance related to data and the data system, and much more. As I transition to this new role, I will draw on these experiences, welcome all learning opportunities, and embrace new challenges, while continuing to foster a collaborative relationship with EI stakeholders.

We have a very talented and passionate EI field, and I am excited to learn from and collaborate with you. I aspire to continue making data-informed decisions, to lean into and build upon our EI system strengths, and to find creative solutions to address challenges in the program together. Most importantly, I hope we can all keep those we serve at the forefront of our minds with every decision we make, to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children and families in Ohio.

Finally, on behalf of the EI team at DCY, I would like to wish you a very happy Thanksgiving. We appreciate everything you do for our children and families!

Please feel free to reach out to me at [Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

Taylor Hammond  
Ohio Part C Coordinator

### PROGRAM UPDATES

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#### *SFY24 Summary Data*

The SFY24 annual summary report has been posted on the EI website here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/data-and-monitoring-resources>.

This report contains referral sources, children served, eligibility reasons, services on initial Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), and exit reasons. County reports with the same information were sent to EI Contract Managers and FCFC Coordinators on August 21st.

Contact Taylor Hammond at [Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov) with any questions.

### *Documentation of Visits*

Only service visits that *occurred* should be documented as “completed” when tracking service provision (e.g., visit 4/12). If a service visit is cancelled, the service provider should document all details regarding the cancellation and the cancelled visit does not count in the total number of visits. The service provider should attempt to reschedule the visit as soon as possible and document all communication related to attempts to reschedule. Documentation should include dates/times offered to the family, dates declined, scheduling limitations, etc. If visits are consistently missed or rescheduled, an IFSP review may be needed to update the service information.

Our Delivering and Monitoring Services in Early Intervention webinar held October 29th covered requirements of service delivery, monitoring, and documentation in detail. The slides from and recording of this webinar are located on the EI website here:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/381>.

### *Did You Know? – Evaluation Requirements*

As a reminder, evaluations must be completed via the use of an approved tool, which include the Bayley or Battelle in Ohio. The evaluation must meet the requirements of the tool administration, including the requirements that at least one evaluator must be trained on the tool and that at least one evaluator must administer the tool in person.

## **GENERAL SUPERVISION HIGHLIGHT**

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### *45-Day Verification Standards*

Updated 45-Day verification standards have been posted on the EI website under the Data and Monitoring tab. You can access them here - <https://ohioearlyintervention.org/monitoring>. The revised standards align with new rules and forms, as well as reference applicable related requirements. Updated standards for TRS and Transition are available in the same location.

## **RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

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### *Autism Intervention Training Opportunity*

Ocali has limited training slots available for Early Intervention professionals serving children with autism or suspected autism to pursue PLAY Project autism intervention certification. Professionals must be able to serve as a primary service provider (PSP) and commit to an 18-month training and supervision period. To learn more about the PLAY Project training requirements, visit: <https://playproject.org/professionals-page/>.

Contact Maggie Gons at [maggie\\_gons@ocali.org](mailto:maggie_gons@ocali.org) before December 13th, 2024 if you are interested or have any questions. Please also see the attached flyer and pass it along to anyone who may be interested in this opportunity.

### *Infant Hearing Program Parent-to-Parent Support*

The Infant Hearing Program within the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) tracks the hearing status of Ohio residents age 0-36 months and program staff may reach out to parents for recommended Audiology testing or referral to Early Intervention. Additionally, parents can now reach out to a parent consultant, who is a parent of a child with hearing loss, to ask questions, receive resources, and/or talk to a non-medical person who can assure them they are not alone in navigating their child's hearing loss.

The attached flyer was created to inform families about this new parent-to parent-support option. Please share the flyer with families who have a child age 0 to 36 months with hearing loss.

Contact Katelyn Rush at [Katelyn.Rush@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Katelyn.Rush@odh.ohio.gov) with any questions.



Interested in  
Certification Training?

Contact:  
[maggie\\_gons@ocali.org](mailto:maggie_gons@ocali.org)



# Ohio Infant Hearing Program Parent-to-Parent Support



The Ohio Department of Health Infant Hearing Program assists families who do not pass a newborn hearing screening and/or diagnostic audiology evaluation. We recognize this time as a caregiver can be overwhelming, confusing, or even frustrating.

And that's ok.

**YOU HAVE SUPPORT!** Talk to a Parent Consultant!

The Infant Hearing Program Parent Consultant is the parent of a child with hearing loss.

The Parent Consultant is available to:

- Share experience of raising a child with hearing loss.
- Provide a safe place to share your parenting struggles, successes, or needs in an unbiased environment.
- Distribute resources and program information available to children with suspected or confirmed hearing loss.
- Assist in connecting you with other families and networking opportunities to expand your support system.

**Contact our Parent Consultant today at:**

Ohio Department of Health

[InfantHearingProgram@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:InfantHearingProgram@odh.ohio.gov)

614-698-8233 — (Call/Text)

\*Please note that by texting this phone number, you consent to receive information by text message from the Ohio Department of Health's Infant Hearing Program. You may have message charges depending on your phone plan. Messages may have protected health information and/or confidential information and are subject to Ohio's Public Records Act and other state and federal laws. You may opt out of these messages at any time by texting STOP to 614-698-8233.



**Ohio Infant Hearing Program  
Parent-to-Parent Support**