

Early Intervention Training News

Administered by the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago and
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DHS Kicks off New Year of Training with Successful Statewide Evaluation Training

United Cerebral Palsy of Chicago was selected by the Illinois Department of Human Services as statewide vendor to maintain a comprehensive system of training for the Early Intervention (EI) Program's system of service providers.

The grant kicked off the year by providing 15 Evaluation and Assessment workshops statewide. Through the first week of August over 1200 providers were trained to begin implementing the new initial evaluation process for early intervention on August 12, 2002.

Many thanks go out to the participants, the trainers, Dr. Andrew Morgan for developing the training and to

the Bureau of Early Intervention staff for their continued support.

Because of its history and relationships with agencies and school districts across the state, UCP is able to offer an extensive training menu focusing on the specific needs of EI providers and administrators. Currently, UCP operates the Infinitec assistive technology coalitions in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education and nearly 400 school districts that serve approximately 800,000 students. These coalitions provide assistive technology equipment, training programs, information (via websites, printed, audio and video resources)

and assistive tech experts to the participating programs. UCP operates high tech training facilities in Tinley Park, Villa Park, downtown Chicago, and plans to open another in Highland Park in August of 2003.

Dr. Paul Dulle, UCP Executive Director, named Ted Burke as program director for the Early Intervention Training Program. Burke has been involved in EI training for the last eight years and is a former CFC manager. "Ted brings critical expertise to this program, in addition to an extensive background in training and systems development," Dulle said.

EI Training-The Next Step

The EI Training Program provides core trainings required for providers to receive an initial credential. This includes Systems Overview, Service Coordination, Parent Liaison, and Evaluation and Assessment. A provider who hopes to do initial evaluations for physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, or developmental therapy must complete the Evaluation & Assessment training and submit a copy of his/her certificate of attendance along with a portfolio application to Provider Connections. Ted Burke, EI training Program Director, also offers workshops, videos and other opportunities to help service providers enhance their expertise in serving young children and their families, as well as fulfill on-going training needs for maintaining an EI credential.

Individuals attending local, statewide or national workshops relating to early intervention evaluation and assessment, working with families, teaming, or child development not listed on the EI Training website need to apply to Ted Burke for credentialing approval. Submit a summary of the workshop including an agenda and a brief bio of the presenter(s). You will be notified if that event can be applied toward your EI-specific continuing education. You will then receive an approval or denial and the number of credit hours that can be applied to your EI credential.



Program Director's notes and thank you

The staff at UCP of Greater Chicago is happy to be part of Illinois' Early Intervention system. Our grant started July 1, 2002 and our first project, as many of you know, was to provide Evaluation and Assessment trainings across the state. The response to this training was tremendous. To date we've provided 15 workshops and were able to train over 1,200 people.

I want to thank everyone for their patience during that first month. Now that the initial evaluation and assessment trainings are over, we can be more responsive to your questions and concerns. Again, thank you for your patience.

I want to stress how important it is for you as providers to log into the EI website www.illinoiseittraining.org at least once a week. You'll find timely information on trainings provided by the EI Training Program as well as other entities. You will also be able to link to the Department of Human Services and Provider Connections websites. Providers, this is the best way to access current information on service provision, trainings, credentialing, enrollment, billing and early intervention laws and policies.

This issue of the **EI Training News** is the first of four that will be published over the next 12 months. Information on trainings through our Early Intervention Training Program will be included in the newsletter. A more comprehensive training calendar will be posted on the website. We want to respond to your requests for specific trainings and will be adding trainings on an on-going basis. Finally, we need to hear from you. Call me or Lucy Gimble, our Program Resource Specialist, at 708.444.8460 (ext. 23), toll free, 866.509.3867, if you have questions or requests for specific trainings. You can also e-mail at www.tburke@ucpnet.org or www.lgimble@ucpnet.org.

I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Ted Burke
EI Training Program Director

Evaluation/Assessment Credential Update

A developmental therapist, physical therapist, occupational therapist or speech therapist with an Evaluation /Assessment credential provides initial evaluation and assessment activities and helps to develop each child's initial IFSP. A provider with this credential is also called upon to assess a child's newly identified need. The provider with an Evaluation/Assessment credential agrees to:

- ? Accept referrals and provide reports to service coordinators within 14 days.
- ? Provide reports on the designated format.
- ? Perform evaluation/assessments and present recommendations, consistent with DHS therapy guidelines and early intervention philosophy.
- ? Participate, in person or by phone, in IFSP meetings.

More on EI services

The new Evaluation/Assessment Credential does not affect how a therapist provides ongoing EI services. Once the initial IFSP has been developed, a therapist may provide evaluations and assessments when appropriate at times of review (6 months, 1 year) or as needed. Evaluation/assessment reports should be provided using the designated format.

Ongoing therapists will be required to attend IFSP meetings, either in person or by phone, when changes to the IFSP are recommended and at annual reviews. It is also recommended, but not required at this time, that the IFSP team meet for 6-month reviews.

Provider Connections Continues to oversee EI Credentialing

Provider Connections at Western Illinois University was selected by the Illinois Department of Human Services as the statewide credentialing office for the EI Program. Provider Connections staff include Robert Derry, Project Manager; Lynn Johanson, Credentialing Resource Specialist; and Carrie Woodside, Credentialing Resource Assistant. For forms or information about EI credentialing/enrollment, please visit the Provider Connections website at www.wiu.edu/providerconnections or call (800) 701-0995.

Many thanks to Provider Connections' staff who processed over 900 applications (received before July 25, 2002) for the new Evaluation/Assessment credential, with approximately 600 providers being approved for the credential. Provider Connections has notified all Evaluation/Assessment credential applicants of their credential status.

Ten Illinois Medical Diagnostic Network Centers partnered with Provide Connections to review the sample evaluations which were included in the application portfolios. Work continues as more providers submit applications for the first time and those providers that received denial letters address identified reasons for denial and resubmit applications. Only two copies of the portfolio application are needed.

Questions about the Evaluation/Assessment credentialing process should be directed to Provider Connections.

A Higher Standard for Early Intervention

"I just wanted to take a minute and compliment you (the Early Intervention Program) on the recent changes in the EI system. I think they will have a very positive impact on services for families. What an extraordinary job to review 900 portfolios in such a short time! To hold evaluators to a higher standard has set a higher standard for EI in general. Evaluation teams including families that must truly work together to evaluate a child and develop a plan produces a real IFSP. Service Coordinators, although nervous about their role in the development of the IFSP, become an objective facilitator of a process that prioritizes the needs of the child and family. This process has become transdisciplinary in the truest sense of the word. Thank you." (Kathy Schrock, Vice-President, Children and Adult Clinical Services, Clearbrook Center)

Yes, implementation of a new system of quality assurance for the Illinois Early Intervention Program on August 12, 2002 has been a big task and partners throughout the Early Intervention System have made it possible. In this newsletter, we have already recognized the accomplishments of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago who organized 15 Evaluation and Assessment workshops statewide and trained over 1,200 providers in four weeks and Provider Connections who processed over 900 evaluation/assessment credential application portfolios as the statewide roll-out began.

Special thanks goes to the Evaluation and Assessment Work Group of the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention for laying the foundation for this new process. The work group, chaired by council member Ruth Drye, offered a broad representation from across the state and set a framework of changes for consideration. Recommendations were presented to the council and consensus was reached in the areas that include criteria for evaluators, evaluation forms and procedures, training, IFSP procedures and selection criteria for pilot sites.

What has been happening throughout the state at the local level has been very exciting. Beginning in June with three pilot sites (CFCs #9, #12 and #17) and followed by statewide implementation on August 12, 2002, Early Intervention providers, working with their CFC, have pulled together to address the needs of families in their area. Partnership among the CFC and independent and agency-based providers has resulted in innovative and effective plans. Certain areas of the state have experienced specific problems and these partnerships have been aggressively working toward solutions. The Early Intervention Program would like to thank Early Intervention providers whose flexibility and generous commitment of time have resulted in many positive experiences for families.

The new process places a strong emphasis on participation in IFSP meetings and highlights the importance of service coordinators in their role as facilitator of these meetings. Over the last several weeks, service coordinators have been sharpening their team and consensus building skills. Many kudos go to the CFC managers who have worked with both their staff



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A Higher Standard continued

and the provider community. The CFCs have done an exceptional job in ensuring a smooth transition to the new quality assurance process by tackling challenges and identifying opportunities for innovative scheduling and optimal use of available evaluators.

Looking forward, the Early Intervention Program will continue to emphasize the importance of engaging the most qualified and experienced providers in the initial evaluation/assessment and I FSP development process. The program feels that this investment will result in effective, appropriate services for Early Intervention children and their families. To keep the new process viable, developmental therapy, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy providers are encouraged to apply for an Evaluation/Assessment credential as they meet the defined qualifications and attend the required training. For more information, visit the DHS/EI Web site at www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/eisnp.html and review the Qualifications for Early Intervention Therapy Evaluation Providers, Evaluation/Assessment Portfolio Application, Evaluation/Assessment Report Format and Individual Provider Agreement for Authorization to Provider Early Intervention Evaluation/Assessment. Only two copies of the portfolio application are needed. The evaluation/assessment credential will be open to other disciplines at a later date.

Janet Gully, Chief
Bureau of Early Intervention

All providers are encouraged to attend an Evaluation and Assessment training. Those who wish to apply for an Evaluation/Assessment credential must submit to Provider Connections a copy of an Evaluation and Assessment workshop certificate of attendance along with a portfolio application.

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