

Early Intervention Training News

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Responsiveness to Family Cultures, Values, and Languages In Early Intervention

The following article is an excerpt from the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) "Position Statement on Responsiveness to Family Cultures, Values, and Languages" (April 2002)

For optimal development and learning of all children, individuals who work with children must respect, value, and support the culture, values, and languages of each home and promote the active participation of all families. Culture refers to "shared and learned ideas and products of a society. It is the shared way of life of a people, including their beliefs, their technology, their values and norms, all of which are transmitted down through the generations

by learning and observation" (Small, 1998, p. 72). Values refer to "emotionally laden beliefs about what is right or wrong, appropriate or inappropriate, desirable or offensive" (CLAS Early Childhood Research Institute, 1998, p. 9)

Legislation and recommended practices call for individualized approaches to serving infants, toddlers, and young children with special needs and their families. Individualized services begin with responsiveness to differences in race, ethnicity, culture, language, religion, education, income, family configuration, geographic location, ability, and other characteristics



that contribute to human uniqueness.

Responsiveness grows from interpersonal relationships that reflect a mutual respect and appreciation for individuals' culture, values, and language. Responsiveness must be both personal and organizational for optimal outcomes of development and intervention services. Responsive early childhood programs and professionals honor the values and practices within the families being served as well as among people providing the services.

Billing and Insurance Changes Effective July 1, 2005

The following Early Intervention Program Changes will take place effective July 1, 2005. For additional information, the presentation "Billing and Insurance Use in Early

Intervention" is now available for viewing online at the EI Training website www.illinoiseittraining.org. Note that there are fifteen slides at the end of the presentation which ad-

dress the most frequently asked questions. For additional questions please visit the Central Billing Office (CBO) website at www.eicbo.info

(continued on page 3)



Program Director's Notes



Welcome to the final newsletter of FY05. This past year proved to be both a successful and challenging one. We hope to build on this success in the upcoming year to better meet the needs of providers in the field. Here are just a few of our accomplishments from this past year:

- ◆ Provided over 200 workshops statewide which were attended by over 7000 participants.
- ◆ Expanded the use of the EI Training website, www.illinoiseittraining.org, to reach over 6000 registered users and average 75,000 hits per month
- ◆ Co-sponsored and/or provided EI credentialing hours for over 1000 additional training events held by other entities (e.g. Universities, STAR NET, Illinois Medical Diagnostic Network, Head Start, Hearing and Vision Connections, individual Child & Family Connection office, Local Interagency Councils, Ounce of Prevention, Hospitals and State Provider Associations)

Focus for the Future

The EI Training Program is looking at ways to bring additional trainings to areas of the state in the upcoming fiscal year. Some of the topics we are looking at include are: Teaming, Facilitation, Conflict resolution, Routines based intervention, Reflective practice, Documentation, Respecting and honoring diversity, Billing, Working with Interpreters, Infant/child safety, Universal precautions when working in the home, Mandated court reporting, HIPPA and Procedural Safeguards, Functional Spanish/Polish/Sign Language, and Safety awareness for providers.

Our agenda this fiscal year also includes the following goals:

- Offering more regionally responsive training opportunities
- Providing focused ongoing training needs assessments
- Offering CFC Manager training opportunities
- Developing self-guided web based training modules
- Integrating Social Emotional Training Components throughout all training opportunities
- Collaborating with new and current partners to provide accessible training opportunities for all parents and providers in the EI system.

Ninth Illinois Early Childhood Sharing A Vision Conference: "Working Together for ALL Young Children."

Through the collaborative efforts of early childhood supporters from across the state, this year's conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois, from October 19-21, 2005. We urge individuals and teams to take advantage of this statewide opportunity. The committee has come together to plan and coordinate this statewide conference in order to address mutually shared issues and goals and to promote networking and collaboration among the various early childhood constituents, offering in-depth workshop sessions; networking and information sharing opportunities; and exhibits from local and national vendors.

This conference is for you whether you are an early childhood educator, early childhood special educator, early intervention specialist, therapist, other service provider, pre-service and in-service educator, administrator, policy-maker or family member.

Register as soon as possible as space is limited. Registration forms are available on the Sharing a Vision website at

<http://sharingavision.org/TheConference>

Plan to attend the 2005 Sharing A Vision Conference and join together with colleagues and families as we continue . . . "Working Together for All Children".

Billing & Insurance (cont.)

Insurance Changes

The Central Billing Office will now administer all Early Intervention program requirements related to insurance including:

- ◆ On-going technical assistance for providers on insurance related issues.
- ◆ Limited insurance benefit and eligibility verification.
- ◆ The review, approval and notification of status on insurance waiver and exemption requests.
- ◆ Most waivers will be generated **ONLY AFTER** initial billing of the insurance.

Billing Changes

- ◆ All credentialed providers will be required to bill the family's private insurance prior to billing the Central Billing Office-this includes Developmental Therapists but does not include Parent

Liaisons, interpreters, deaf mentors or transportation providers.

- ◆ Beginning July 1, 2005, all developmental therapists will be required to bill insurance before billing the state for all initial and subsequent IFSPs.
- ◆ There will be a 120 day transition period to determine insurance requirements, provider limitations, pre-certification mandates, etc. for the current families receiving Development Therapy services. During this time, providers will be able to research insurance company network provisions in their communities and enroll in those plans where they are qualified and could be accepted, which will allow them to serve children in their communities covered by those plans.
- ◆ The insurance billing requirement will take effect for all dates of service November 1, 2005 or later for all developmental therapists.

(Please visit the DHS Website at www.dhs.state.il.us/ei/ to view the official DHS responses to questions from the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention related to insurance payments for Developmental Therapists.)

- ◆ For dates of service on or after July 1, 2005, providers must bill the CBO within 90 days of the date of service or within 90 days from the last communication from the insurance company.
- ◆ The DHS Early Intervention Service Billing Form will no longer be accepted as of service dates July 1, 2005. All direct service providers must bill on the HCFA/CMS-1500 form or UB-92 form. Transportation providers should continue to use the DHS Early Intervention Transportation Billing Form.
- ◆ All claims submitted to the CBO **MUST** specify a valid ICD-9 TREATMENT diagnosis code or they will be denied beginning July 1, 2005.

EI Pre-Conference At "Sharing A Vision"

On October 19, 2005 the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program will be offering the following three sessions as a part of this year's Sharing A Vision Conference Pre-Conference Day at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago-Oak Brook (formerly Hyatt Regency Oak Brook) in Oak Brook, Illinois .

- ◆ **Family Centered – From Principles to Practice**

- ◆ **Family Centered Assessment –Beyond Age Levels and Test Scores**
- ◆ **Family Centered Intervention –Consultation, Coaching and Reflective Practice**

These three-hour workshops will be offered 9:00am – 12:00 pm and then 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm so

that attendees will have the opportunity to go to two out of the three sessions.

For registration information contact the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program

Lucy Gimble (866)509-3867 or www.illinoiseittraining.org



Provider Connections Website Updated

Early Intervention Core Knowledge Area requirements as defined by EI Rule 500.

Provider Connections has updated their website, <http://www.wiu.edu/ProviderConnections>, to include some new features to help providers through the credentialing and enrollment process.

New to the site is the "Core Knowledge Area Course Search" page, which has been designed as a source for verification of college and university coursework that has been reviewed and approved by Provider Connections to meet

Providers are able to search by college or by core area (typical child development, atypical child development, intervention, assessment or working with families) to determine which college courses may be applicable to meeting their credentialing requirements. This database listing consists of the course name, college, course #, and number of semester hours of credit awarded. Provider Connections will continue to update this listing on a regular basis as

new courses that meet the EI Rule guidelines are identified.

Not new to the site, but improved, is the "Credential Database Look-up" page, which has been designed as a primary source for verification of Early Intervention Credential Status. Credential look-up results in the credentialed provider's name, credentials held, county of residence, credential status, credential number, credential begin and expiration dates, and city of residence.

Please take the time to visit the Provider Connections website to check out these and many other new features.

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