

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM UPDATES

November 25, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

This Thanksgiving week, I am incredibly thankful for my DCY EI team, including a new team member who gives us a full state EI team for the first time since we have been at DCY. The team's passion and commitment to "**DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR KIDS**" is truly admirable and inspiring.

More importantly, I want to express my gratitude to our EI field. Your dedication, passion, and thoughtfulness in serving and supporting our Ohio EI families is remarkable and makes a profound impact on those we serve. On behalf of the entire EI team at DCY, thank you so much for all that you do. We hope you have a very happy Thanksgiving!

Please feel free to reach out to me at <u>Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov</u> with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

State El Team Update

The DCY Early Intervention (EI) team welcomes Becca Muntean as the new EI Monitoring Consultant and Policy Specialist in the Program, Policy, and Regulatory Standards Bureau. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Capital University and a Master of Fine Arts from Georgia College and State University.

Becca worked in the field of program evaluation and development for grant-funded programs for over a decade, and her reporting has contributed to such agencies as Georgia's Governor's Office of Student Achievement, the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, and the US Department of Education.

Her passion for uplifting children with developmental disabilities and their families began in 2016 when she worked in a partial hospitalization school in Pittsburgh, PA as a job coach and therapist's assistant. Becca later became a Registered Behavior Technician at a behavioral health center in Youngstown, OH and worked directly with children with high support needs. She then transitioned to an administrative position, specializing in insurance prior authorizations, and spent several years advocating for and securing funding of medically necessary care for children diagnosed with autism.

Becca is also a certified Surrogate Parent through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and has acted as a volunteer surrogate parent for children with suspected or identified educational disabilities in adoption and foster care in Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

She has children of her own, too, and is a mother of two boys, one of whom is diagnosed with autism. Her family had the pleasure of receiving EI in Mahoning County, an experience that they remember fondly with gratitude. Together, their favorite family pastimes are both familiar and unique, including bowling, swing-sets, trampolines, and list-writing to name a few.

SFY26 Transition Baseline

Activities for the SFY26 Transition baseline compliance analysis are underway. DCY hosted a webinar on November 13 to go over the Transition baseline process. The recording and slides from that webinar will be available on the EI website soon. Counties that are part of the transition analysis have until December 1 to request any deletions or corrections, then until December 12 to complete any applicable data reentry. DCY will extract data for the analysis December 15.

El Provider List

The EI provider list has been updated on the EI website to include current Hearing, Vision, and Nutrition providers and other Department Contracted Providers (DCPs). Access this list on the System of Payments (SOP) page of the EI website.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Family, Infant, and Preschool Program Center for the Advanced Study of Excellence Training Opportunity

The Family, Infant, and Preschool Program (FIPP) Center for the Advanced Study of Excellence (CASE) Learning Management System (LMS) has released a new asynchronous training in their Free Practitioners eLearning Catalog titled Family-Centered Practices: Where Do We Go From Here? This course has been approved for one hour of Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) for EI Service Coordinators (EISCs), EISC Supervisors, and Developmental Specialists. Click here to access the course.

Intervene Early Bite-Sized Learning

Do you need quick access to effective strategies to support young children's development? Discover Intervene Early's Bite-Sized Learning— a dynamic series of interactive microlearning modules designed for professionals working with children from birth to age three.

These microlearnings provide targeted strategies for joint attention, communication, and motor development as well as practical, evidence-based guidance you can apply immediately. They are offered in a flexible format of three fifteen-minute modules you can complete anytime, anywhere. You will earn a certificate of completion when you complete all three modules, but CPDUs are not offered for these microlearnings.