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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

From: Ann Freiburg, Chief *AmF*
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: August 7, 2020

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

As mentioned in prior updates, the Bureau has been working with a diverse group of stakeholders to anticipate needs and guide responses to the challenges presented by the pandemic. The Reopen Illinois EI Workgroup includes providers, family members, Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention members, professional association representatives, physicians, Child & Family Connections (CFC) managers, service coordinators and advocates. Their perspectives have been invaluable in crafting communications and guidance to the field.

Given the magnitude of work, we have worked to create subgroups to create better, smarter processes and researching during the hybrid services modalities. For instance, there have been groups to explore electronic signatures, transition options, services within childcare settings, family communication, system communication, data, CFC supports, and social emotional supports. These groups have helped with:

- identifying a potential system for the collection of electronic signatures on EI consents,
- developing a joint Part B/Part C transition guidance document (currently in approval process),
- determining the parameters for EI services within childcare settings,
- recommending development of, and reviewing, resources for families, e.g. tipsheets, webinars, and [FAQs](#),
- clarifying informational needs, participating in webinars, and suggesting items for inclusion in weekly updates,
- proposing items and systems for data collection,
- enhancing tools for CFC use, and
- determining options for supporting system stakeholders' social emotional well-being.

The Re-Open Illinois EI workgroup continues to meet weekly to review data, receive subgroup updates on identified priorities, and respond to emerging needs.

We have received questions about how stakeholders can monitor changing conditions within their respective regions. The [Illinois Department of Public Health website](#) continues to be the

best source of information on regional conditions and the activities permitted within each Phase of the Restore Illinois plan.

As discussed last week, the Bureau has received a number of questions about the resuming in-person services (see [Guidance](#)). In response, a [frequently asked questions document](#) has been developed. Though limited in-person services may now begin, phone consultation and live video visits continue to be the safest methods for providing services at this time. If you need additional resources to enhance successful use of live video visits, check out the following:

Professional Development Opportunities

8/10/20: [Coaching Webinar Series: Joint Planning for a Family-Centered Approach](#)

8/20/20: [Coaching Webinar Series: Strengthening Caregiver Capacity Through Reflective Conversations & Feedback](#)

8/26/20: [Coaching Webinar Series: Navigating What To Do After Joint Planning](#)

Videos of live video visits that may be helpful:

[A Virtual Home Visit with Stratton's Family](#)

[Una visita en el hogar con la familia de Liam \(A Home Visit with Liam's Family\)](#)

Please continue to monitor the [Provider Connections](#) website often as all updates to policy and procedure will be posted here as they become available. The [EI Training Program website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse](#) website should also be monitored for information and resources.

We truly appreciate the dedication of all the stakeholders who have continued to support families through this difficult time. We continue to work on providing high quality services and supports to families, while also minimizing the risk and potential spread of COVID-19.