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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: December 10, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

In April, the Governor [announced](#) the creation of a new Division of Early Childhood within the Department of Human Services. This new Division will strengthen and centralize child care, home visiting, and early intervention services. Kirstin Chernawsky became the [inaugural Director of the Division](#) on October 16, 2021. The administration also announced that they will launch a network of early childhood planning councils in communities across the State. These councils will work with families, local early childhood providers, and others to ensure every community in the state has the unique early childhood services it needs. The newly created Early Childhood Transformation Team will have an integral role in moving forward Funding Commission recommendations and the network of local councils.

The Bureau is continuing its work on implementing extended early intervention services. Stakeholders met again this week to review drafts of policies, procedures, forms, and resources. A [document](#) for CFCs and providers has now been posted.

As mentioned previously, stakeholders are being engaged to help the Bureau plan for American Rescue Plan spending. These funds are being provided to help states recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The current plan is to focus spending around four key areas- public awareness, recruitment/retention of high-quality personnel, technology, and infrastructure improvements. It is felt that these are the most critical areas to address to aid recovery.

Illinois continues to see concerning trends related to COVID-19. It is important that everyone continue using the strategies outlined in the [revised plan](#) to mitigate the spread of this virus. **In addition, everyone (providers, service coordinators, and families) should continue wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distance.**

On November 12, 2021 Executive Order (EO) 2021-28 which requires Licensed Day Care Center Workers to be vaccinated, was re-issued and amended. Specifically, [EO 2021-30](#) amended the definition of a Worker to include “performs services within” a day care center. It further specifies

that this does include early intervention providers. The full definition as well as other updates can be found in this [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

The [Illinois Department of Public Health's website](#) continues to be the best source of information on [regional conditions](#) and the activities permitted within each region. For details about approved activities, review the [updated plan](#). If you need information about where you can get a vaccine, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>.

Please continue to monitor the [Provider Connections website](#) for updates to policy and procedure. The [EITP's website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse website](#) should also be monitored for information and resources.