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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders
From: Heather Hofferkamp, *HMA*
Interim Chief Bureau of Early Intervention
Date: April 18, 2022
Re: Early Intervention (EI) Stakeholder Update

Provider Quarterly Meeting - Our first Provider Quarterly Meeting was held on April 1, 2022. We appreciate everyone who took the time to be a part of our initial meeting. We will be posting the PowerPoint presentation, with one additional question included (Sorry to say, I missed a slide!) for everyone's review on the Provider Connections' website. We welcome any feedback you have on the format, content, and presentation.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 3, 2022, from 3:00pm to 4:00 pm. The Central Billing Office will be our Partner Presenter for the next quarter. We plan to follow the same format of requesting questions in advance to allow the Bureau to provide complete answers to your questions, but we will certainly be flexible if we find that the meeting format can be improved.

After receiving many discipline-specific questions, we have also decided to offer regular meeting times for our Association leaders. We will schedule these in advance and allow providers to submit questions for consideration during these meetings. The Bureau will also publish a summary of the discussion for everyone's information on the Provider Connections' website. I look forward to finding new ways to enhance our communication and collaboration as we all work to enhance the Early Intervention Program.

EI Question Highlight - The Bureau has been working to update our language/policy regarding Medical Diagnostics. We are looking for some feedback from the field. If you have been a part of a Medical Diagnostic team or collaborated about a child with a Diagnostician, what supports do you feel were needed? What policies would you recommend we review? How has the utilization of Live Video Visits changed the practice? Share your positives and your negatives, we are looking to make some changes and your feedback is appreciated. You may share your feedback by emailing dhs.eiquestions@illinois.gov.

Extended Services Update - As many of you are aware, the Bureau has been feverishly working to obtain approval for the new Extended Services policy from the Office of Special Education Programs. We have been able to request a memo of acceptance and anticipate getting approval very soon. We plan to release the updated Provider Handbook very soon, with information about Extended Services and many other clarifications which we hope will support you all. Please note that the information regarding Extended Services will be in effect as of May 1, 2022, while the additional updates in the handbook will be in effect as of July 1, 2022.

Birth to Five Opportunity - Birth to Five Illinois is in the process of interviewing and [hiring](#) 39 Regional Action Council Managers across the State! They have asked that we share their opportunity as those working in the Early Intervention Program would be great candidates for these positions. Also, please review a special [THANKS](#) letter from the Office of Special Education Programs. Everyone should accept these well-deserved kudos from the US Department of Education!