



EI Training News

Training Program Kicks Off 2007-2008 in Full Swing

Taking a little 'down-time' to catch up on basic office procedures is not uncommon among many service organizations, working with families with young children, that coordinate their program calendars with the traditional nine-month school calendar. Perhaps because the EI Training Program's fiscal agent, UCP of Chicago, operates programs that work closely with special education districts and school programs or because there is a fine line between early intervention and early childhood education, there are those who believe that the Training Program has 'down-time' during the summer months. Nothing could be further from the truth. Beginning it's sixth program season and the third using the Regional Training Consultant (RTC) approach, the Training Program continues to increase its staff of trainer/consultants and expand its menu of training options.

Recognizing that training needs and resources are not always the same across the State, the Training Program began implementing the talents of a small staff of Regional

Training Consultants, RTCs, in 2005-06 to work more directly will all Child and Family Connections Agencies and Local Interagency

Councils. This approach, designed to better meet training needs at the local and more regional levels, begins 2007-08 with an increased staff and over 75 training related events currently scheduled or in the works with more to come.

In addition to the State required trainings, Systems Overview, Service Coordination and Parent Liaison trainings and Social/Emotional training to support the social/emotional model of service delivery, the Training Program offers a variety of continuing education/professional development opportunities to help early interventionists remain current in the field and maintain their Illinois EI credential. With the help of pro-

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Three New RTCs Join the Training Program's Staff

The IL Early Intervention Training Program is pleased to announce it has added three regional training consultants to its staff. To better meet early intervention training needs on the local levels, the Training Program implemented the use of a statewide training team with Regional Training Consultants (RTCs) in 2005. RTCs are fully credentialed EI providers and/or educators experienced in the evaluation and treatment of children from birth to age three with developmental delays and disabilities. Involved members of the regional communities, RTCs provide resources, supports and information within existing regional activities, such as Provider Meetings, LIC Meetings, SE Specialist Meetings, etc. RTCs also meet with CFC Managers and designated staff to determine the training needs in a particular region and plan professional development/training events to meet those needs. RTCs actively participate in the Training Program's ongoing curriculum development. They make contacts, follow-up on leads and meet regularly as a team to review, sort, develop, and adapt training resources and materials relative to Illinois Early Intervention and the local CFC regions. Although RTCs work directly with their local CFC regions, their skills and talents are not limited to their locale. The RTC Team is rich in knowledge and experience and each member's strengths are utilized throughout The Program's

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Three RTCs ...Continued from page one

TO REACH

**DHS
Bureau of EI
217.782.1981**

**Provider
Connections
800.701.0995**

**Central
Billing Office
(CBO)
800.634.8540**

**Early
Intervention
Monitoring
800.507.5057
217.726.2263**

**IL Early
Childhood
Intervention
Clearinghouse
800.852.4302**

**Hearing
and Vision
Connections
(HVC)
217.479.4318**

Training Network. New to the RTC Team for the 2007-08 year are, Jennifer Barrett-Zitkus, Lynn Berry, and Keena Sims.

Jennifer Barrett-Zitkus, a 1987 graduate of Illinois State University received her Master's Degree in Early Intervention Special Education from East Tennessee State University in 1990. Jennifer is the current Illinois Medical Diagnostic Network Coordinator for Lutheran General Children's Hospital providing technical assistance to Child and Family Connections in Lake County. In this role, Jennifer gives training, support and provides quality assurance in early intervention to providers, parents and service coordinators. In addition to her position at Lutheran General, Jennifer has a private practice, Early Intervention Direction, through which she provides developmental evaluations, consultations, trainings and supports to families and agencies.

With 20+ years experience in the field of early intervention, Jennifer is currently credentialed as a Developmental Therapist/Evaluator and Assessment Specialist in Illinois. Jennifer was involved in Project ECHO, an Office of Special Education Grant Program researching best practice in early intervention for medically fragile infants and toddlers and their families. She has served on the Governing Board for the American Association of Home-Based Early Interventionist (AABEI), and is an active member of the Lake County Local Interagency Council and Provider Forum. Jennifer developed the first Interpreter Forum providing professional growth and support to interpreters in Early Intervention. She has participated in the field testing of the Battelle Developmental Inventory-Revised and is an adjunct instructor for Erikson Institute in Chicago. A current member of the Council for Exceptional Children and the Division for Early Childhood, Jennifer also serves as a board member on the Illinois Developmental Therapist Association. Mom to twin daughters, Ana and Kirsten, age 13 and a son William, age 11, Jennifer resides in Round Lake, IL. As an RTC for the Training Program, Jennifer works directly with CFCs 1, 3 & 25.

Lynn Berry, a St. Louis native and resident, began her EI career in January 1993 with the St. Louis Easter Seals home-based EI program providing Special Instruction, (what we refer to as Developmental Therapy). Lynn has also worked with families of children with disabilities through Child Care Resource & Referral, consulted with Head Start Quality Improvement Center for Disabilities and Head Start Providers, coordinated two local school districts' Parents As Teachers Programs and has served as an adjunct faculty member for higher education institutions in Missouri. Lynn was a part of Missouri's Comprehensive System of Professional Development training staff and a proud member of her Local Interagency Council there. Lynn currently serves as Social Emotional Specialist to CFC 21 providing services to over 700 children and their families. As an RTC for the Training Program, Lynn reaches out to CFCs 21, 23 & 24.

Keena Sims, a Michigan native has lived in Illinois for the past ten years and involved in Illinois Early Intervention for the past seven. A graduate of Michigan State University, Keena's background is in social work specializing in Family and Community Services. A credentialed Service Coordinator for the past seven years, Keena currently serves as Lead Service Coordinator for LaRabida Children's Hospital, Child & Family Connection #10 in Chicago. Also very active in her church community, Keena serves on her church's Board of Directors. Mom to a teenage son and two daughters, ages seven and six, Keena keeps very busy. As an RTC for the Training Program, Keena works with Chicago CFC's 9, 10 & 11.



Early Intervention...

Welcome to the 'New Format' and 'New Look' of the *EI Training News*. To help keep you current of what's happening in the EI Training Program and in early intervention, we've expanded our newsletter format to include two extra pages of news and information. In addition to newsletter articles focused on current events in the EI Training Program and in early intervention two new permanent feature columns have been added to the *EI Training News*. The first, 'Spotlight On Success', which can be found on page five, will feature some of your success stories. The second, center stage, page three, is "Early Intervention in and About Illinois". This column highlights announcements, updates, events, and the like, relative to early intervention ...In and About Illinois including information from the IL Bureau of Early Intervention, Provider Connections, the EI Training Program, Child and Family Connections, Hearing and Vision Connections, The Clearinghouse, etc.

...**Provider Connections** reminds providers to include their NPI number on the Healthcare and Family Services forms submitted to Provider Connections. Early Intervention providers receive the following background checks as part of the credential application process: CANTS (Child Abuse & Neglect Tracking System), criminal background fingerprint (State only), and Illinois Sex Offender Registry (SOR). Applicants should not be charged by the fingerprint vendor for a FBI criminal background check as Provider Connections is not authorized, at this time, to receive these checks.

...Effective immediately, the **Online Service Coordination Training** awards EI credit hours to those Child and Family Connections' service coordinators successfully completing the course. The 25 EI contact hours are retro-active and will be credited to all service coordinators with Certificates of Completion for the online course.

...To those planning to attend the **Sharing A Vision Conference**, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, October 17-19, registrations are still being accepted. Please contact www.sharingavision.org for conference and registration information. The Illinois EI Training Program is not involved with the conference registration process. However, the EI Training Program is sponsoring five pre-conference sessions on Wednesday, October 17. Registration for these sessions is available through the EI Training Program's website, www.illinoiseittraining.org or by calling phone, toll free, at 866/509-3867, ext 250.

...Also on the conference front, The Illinois EI Training Program presents, '**Strategies for Providing Effective Early Intervention Services**', featuring a keynote session presented by Larry Edelman and Heidi Eigsti. Open to all early intervention providers, this one-day conference offers up to six choices of afternoon breakout sessions, an EI EXPO, 5.5 EI credentialing hours and continuing education credit towards the State Licensures of OT, PT, Social Work and SLPs. CPDUs towards Illinois State Teacher Certification is also available. Registration and conference information is available through www.illinoiseittraining.org

...In and About Illinois

Good Things Are Happening...

...Options and Advocacy for McHenry County/Child and Family Connections with assistance from the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association are organizing weekly play groups for parents with children from birth through four years of age. The Parent-Child Play Groups are scheduled through December 12 and will meet from 10:00 am—Noon at four different community sites: The Crystal Lake Park District Main Beach, in Crystal Lake, The Harvard Library in Harvard, the Marengo Park District Recreation Center in Marengo and The Woodstock Library in Woodstock. For more information please call 815/477-4720, ext 238.

...Opportunities for Early Intervention Interpreters to find support, professional development and growth is now available in, what is the first of it's kind, "**Interpreters' Forum**". Meeting the second Wednesday of every other month at the Lake Forest Hospital Outpatient and Acute Care Center, 1475 East Belvidere Rd in Grayslake, IL, Interpreters are invited to come together to exchange information, share professional strategies, and help develop/nurture a network of support for a highly valued sector of Illinois early intervention. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, at 4:00 pm. For more information please call Jennifer Barrett-Zitkus @ (847) 723-9443 or Jon Ashworth @ (847) 782-7506. Jennifer and Jon can also be reached via e-mail at JBZDT@aol.com or JAshworth@co.lake.il.us.

...Join Melinda Ohlemiller on November 9th at the Memorial Health Education Center in O'Fallon for Part 2 of her presentation of working with children and families, "**Interventions for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**". Those wishing to attend must have attended the first presentation of this series, "The Surprising Effects of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure". To register or for more information, please e-mail Lynn Berry, CFC 21 Social Emotional Specialist at sec@cfc21.org.

The Training Program's Part in IL Early Intervention

The Training Program was formally created in 2002 with the purpose of establishing quality professional development opportunities to the thousands of service providers credentialed in the Illinois Early Intervention System. This includes mandated systems trainings instructing in State and Federal policies and procedures relative to Part C of IDEA in Illinois and the Illinois Early Intervention Services System Act.

Since July 2002, the Training Program has sponsored and/or collaborated in over 900 training events with over 32,000 participants. The bulk of these events have been in the form of face-to-face training workshops. However, the need for alternative learning options has been recognized and the Training Program introduced the use of internet learning with online videos and online training modules. The use of technology to create learning opportunities continues to evolve and the development of online learning opportunities is scheduled to expand this program year. Collaborations with other training entities to offer higher levels of training curriculum are underway as is the development of curriculum tailored to the specific needs of Illinois early intervention providers.

The Training Program is also charged to review training events, other than its own, for appropriateness towards early intervention credential credit. Not to be confused with Provider Connections, who reviews college/university coursework and curricula, these events include conferences, workshops, certification seminars, presentations, and the like. To date over 10,000 requests for credit have been reviewed.

As the field of early intervention continues to evolve, the EI Training Program assures you that it will continue to follow its call to provide quality training opportunities for early intervention providers credentialed or seeking a credential in the Illinois Early Intervention System.

Strategies for Providing Effective Early Intervention Services

A Conference for Early Intervention Providers Featuring Larry Edelman, MS and Heidi Eigsti, DPT

WHEN: Monday, November 19, 2007 ~ 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

WHERE: The Holiday Inn/Rolling Meadows – Schaumburg
3405 Algonquin Road ~ Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

COST: \$50 per person ~ No Refunds After November 9 ~
Check or money order payable to UCP of Chicago or Major Credit Card accepted

TO REGISTER:

Fill in the information below and send this form along with payment to:
The Illinois EI Training Program
7550 W 183rd Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Name: _____ **Prof Discipline:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Daytime Phone: _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

Online Registration Available at www.illinoiseittraining.org

For More Information Please Call: 866/509-3867, ext. 250

Agenda

8:00 am - 9:45 am
Registration

9:00 am - 11:30 am
Keynote Session

11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Lunch/EXPO

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Up to Six Different
Breakout Sessions

Up to 5 Contact Hours
in Illinois EI
Credentialing Credit

*UCP/Chicago is an
approved State
Licensure of CEs for
OT, PT, SLP, Social
Work and CPDUs for
IL Teacher Credential*



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS...

Whether it is reaching a major milestone like a child taking those first steps or discovering the strategy that connects with a child and family, or perhaps something seemingly not so monumental, like a child's laugh, a pleasant family dining experience or having the service team and the family on the same appointment schedule, the Early Intervention Training Program believes that everyone has a success story worth celebrating. We also know that it would take volumes of print to highlight all deserving of recognition; however, we are not going to let that stop us from dedicating this page of space to share some of the many successes out there.

To do so, we need your help. If you would like to share your successes as a provider, as a CFC/Agency, as a parent/family member of a child with special needs or in any other role related to Illinois Early Intervention, please contact us, The Illinois Early Intervention Training Program, and we'll do the rest. We cannot promise to print all of your stories and follow up on all of your leads, but we will make every effort to share your stories through our quarterly newsletters and website, and let it be known that you are making a difference. Please e-mail your stories and comments to lgimble@ucpnet.org.

LaRabida Children's Hospital and CFC #10 offer a peek at an amazing family. The following article, 'Meet the Perez Family', was written by Gloria Fryzel and is being reprinted with permission.

Rosa Perez is a person who will find the positive side of any situation. No transportation? No problem. She'll learn to take the bus. Then Rosa will use that knowledge to get she and her daughter to all kinds of new places and experiences. Rosa knows these experiences will enrich both of their lives. This attitude is how Rosa has approached the challenges encountered since her daughter, Andrea, was born with Down Syndrome. She has turned the challenges into opportunities for learning about Down Syndrome, Early Intervention, therapies, English, sign language and even bus routes.

Rosa says the best part of Early Intervention is her inclusion as an integral part of Andrea's therapies. She has observed, listened and learned from each of Andrea's therapists. Rosa has learned how to stimulate Andrea's muscle development, play skills, communication skills and everyday living skills. She makes certain to do her 'homework' with Andrea consistently. Rosa feels her inclusion in the therapies has made her feel a part of the progress toward the growth and development Andrea has achieved. Rosa is pleased Andrea now walks well, can build a tower of blocks and uses a sip cup or straw to drink on her own. She is happiest that she and Andrea can now communicate with each other using simple sign language. This has been a big accomplishment for both of them.

Rosa does not believe language has been a barrier to obtaining good therapy services for Andrea. She has had both, therapists who speak Spanish and those who require an interpreter present during therapy. Rosa and Andrea have also experienced both home and center-based therapies and Rosa sees advantages for both settings. She states home-based therapy is convenient and uses everyday items available in the home while center-based therapy has a wider variety of toys and equipment as well as the opportunity to meet other families.

Rosa tries to take advantage of all the programs our Child and Family Connections offers. She and Andrea enjoyed attending both the Resource Fair and the Zoo Trip recently sponsored by Child and Family Connections #10. Rosa encourages other parents to come to the programs offered and she hopes to meet and talk with other Spanish speaking families involved in Early Intervention.

The Illinois EI Training Program

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Office Hours

8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

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vider survey responses and feedback from the field, the Training Program's RTC Team works to locate, adapt, and/or develop training curriculum and events in its efforts to address a variety of issues relative to early intervention and to meet a broad scope of provider training needs.

Momentum continues and the excitement builds as the Training Program works in collaboration with the Hope for All Foundation, IDEC, DEC, Prairie State College, Easter Seals, Good Shepherd Center and others to confirm a conference schedule for 2007-08. A range of topics that meet the interests of the four core knowledge areas of Illinois Early Intervention (Child Development, Assessment, Intervention, and Working With Families) are being sought and developed as conference sessions to be presented around the State.

The first is five different 'Pre-Conference' sessions connected with the 10th Illinois Statewide Collaborative Early Childhood Conference also referred to as the "Sharing A Vision" Conference. Pre-conference sessions scheduled for Wednesday, October 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield are four three-hour sessions: *"Working With African-American Families With Young Children with Special Needs"*, *"He Ain't Heavy—He's OUR Brother: Perspectives from a Couple of Sibs"* are

scheduled from 9:00 am - Noon; *"Transition From The Heart"*, *"Professional Boundaries in Natural Environments"* are scheduled from 1:00 - 4:00 pm and a six-hour session, *"Developing Meaningful Intervention Plans for Families and Providers"* is scheduled from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm with a one hour lunch break. Online registration is available for these sessions through the Training Program's website, www.illinoiseittraining.org, by selecting the Upcoming Events option and searching by date. Registrations are also accepted by phone at 866/509-3867, ext. 250.

"Strategies for Providing Effective Early Intervention Services", a one-day conference featuring a high-powered, interactive keynote session, by Larry Edelman and Heidi Eigsti, is scheduled for Monday, November 19 at the Holiday Inn in Rolling Meadows. Online registration is available.

March and May are scheduled as conference months as well with March featuring Dr. Ken Moses in Peoria and May in Effingham with Juliann Woods. Watch the website for details as they become available.

As long as there is a need for continuing education among Illinois' EI Providers, 'down-time' is not an option in the Illinois Early Intervention Training Program.

For Training Opportunities and Additional EI Resources
Check out www.illinoiseittraining.org

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