

## UPDATES

### Office of Special Education Michigan Department of Education October 2014

#### **WHAT'S NEW?**

##### **Monitoring**

- The Focused Monitoring cycle began on September 24 and will continue through October 23. We are monitoring for Disproportionate Representation, Significant Disproportionality, and General Supervision Monitoring in 49 locals. Reports of Findings/No Findings will be issued in the December Workbook.
- We are in the process of redesigning the CIMS electronic Workbook. The new system will debut in August 2015 and will be a broader system including information from Program Finance as well as Program Accountability. The monitoring module will still be a part of CIMS but will include birth to 26 students. There won't be a separate Part C Workbook.

##### **Medicaid School Based Services (SBS) Program**

- The Michigan contingent to the National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (**NAME**) **Annual Conference last month (September 16-19) in New York State was 18 strong!** Thank you, directors, business officials and administrators for supporting your staffers' requests to attend and learn more about Medicaid. We think the return on your investment is huge and benefits your students, clinicians and entire districts. The 2015 NAME Conference will be held in **Baltimore**, only blocks away from the federal Medicaid agency offices, on **October 4-7, 2015**. Please consider budgeting from your Medicaid reimbursement, for excellent professional development opportunities like this and the Michigan meetings, for your staff.
- More upcoming meetings:
  - **School Improvement Conference, November 17-18** will have a Medicaid School Based Services session. Please provide Jane Reagan with your burning questions, issues you want to hear discussed, concerns you have, and she will incorporate those.
  - Medicaid Implementer meetings are on Tuesdays at Ingham ISD from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm with phone access: **January 13, 2015 and March 24, 2015**
  - Michigan Medicaid School Based Services 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Conference will be held in **August, 2015 on dates TBA**, but likely on a Thursday afternoon and all day Friday in **Traverse City**. As soon as the dates are set I will get those details to all of you.
- To remain informed, please inform us of Medicaid staff/personnel changes: contact Jane Reagan, [ReaganJ@michigan.gov](mailto:ReaganJ@michigan.gov)

## Low Incidence Outreach

- Excerpts of letter from Teri Johnson, Director of Special Education, MDE, dated September 10, 2014: **New Rules for Sign Language Interpreters in Michigan**
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  - ...Department of Civil Rights (DCR) on July 7, 2014 [released]... new rules for sign language interpreters. These rules took effect on July 7, 2014, and have a direct impact on all school districts that hire or contract for sign language interpreters. The press release includes links to the new rules and a chart detailing the various credentials sign language interpreters must have in specific environments.
  - The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) is a “qualifying assessment” under the new rules. The Michigan Department of Education, Low Incidence Outreach provides information on the EIPA, practice materials, EIPA video conferences, and more at [www.mde-lio.cenmi.org/Home.aspx](http://www.mde-lio.cenmi.org/Home.aspx)
  - The new Qualified Interpreter – General Rules of DCR apply to **all** interpreters in Michigan, including sign language interpreters who work in schools. The qualifying standards in Rule 340.1793a, Interpreters for the Deaf in the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education **no longer apply**. Questions regarding these new rules may be directed to the Department of Civil Rights.
- Technology Instruction for Visually Impaired Students - MDE-LIO will be providing assistive technology instruction to students who are blind or visually impaired. This hands-on instruction will take place in four Detroit schools beginning in October.

## Early Childhood

Office of Great Start - *Early On*<sup>®</sup> - Contact: Vanessa Winborne [winbornev@michigan.gov](mailto:winbornev@michigan.gov)

- Fall pupil count date was October 1.
- The Financial Information Data system (FID) is open. Please remember to use the Program Codes and Grant Codes for *Early On*. Questions regarding the FID can be directed to Colleen O'Connor at [occonnorc1@michigan.gov](mailto:occonnorc1@michigan.gov)
- The September 2014 Part C *CIMS* Workbook now available at <https://www.cimsmichigan.org>. Please remember to acknowledge your workbook.

Office of Great Start - Early Childhood Special Education - Contact: Lisa Wasacz [wasaczl@michigan.gov](mailto:wasaczl@michigan.gov)

- Early Childhood Special Education; ECSE (Part B of IDEA, Section 619) 2014-2015 allocations are posted at [www.michigan.gov/ecse](http://www.michigan.gov/ecse)
- Early Childhood Special Education; ECSE (Part B of IDEA, Section 619) has face-to-face trainings scheduled for Child Outcomes 0-5 Training: *Early On* and Preschool Special

Education. Additional information and registration may be found at <http://eotta.ccrea.org/Training.php?Cat=2&ID=43>

- If you need to complete the online training on Preschool Childhood Outcomes, the training is available at <http://eotta.ccrea.org/Training.php?cat=21>

## **UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Blind/Visually Impaired:** Mark your calendar: Dr. Francis Mary D'Andrea, Chairperson for the Braille Authority of North America (BANA), will be facilitating the latest information on the new **Unified Braille Code (UEB)** on May 13 and 14, 2015. The Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) will be hosting two separate workshops, the first at Oakland Schools and the other in Lansing. MDE-LIO will be providing instructional strategies and Braille code preparation around the state prior to the UEB workshops to assist those who need a refresher course prior to learning the new changes in the braille code. The workshops are offered for teachers, paraprofessionals and family members who are working with students who are blind/visually impaired. We will begin our regional workshops beginning in Escanaba in October. Please check our website for the location nearest you: <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/events.aspx>
- **"Expand Your Knowledge of the Expanded Core Curriculum"**, a one-day event for teachers of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists and paraprofessionals to increase awareness of the expanded core curriculum and develop practical strategies for implementation with students in local districts, October 10, 2014. More information is available at <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/News/tabid/392/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/697/Expand-Your-Knowledge-of-the-ECC-Expanded-Core-Curriculum.aspx>
- MDE-LIO is sponsoring the **"Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)"** workshop for teachers of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists, paraprofessionals and other personnel to increase knowledge of cortical visual impairment and specialized interventions to increase visual function in individuals with CVI. To be held in Escanaba on October 28, 2014. For more information, visit <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/events.aspx>
- **Deaf/Hard of Hearing:** Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Video Conference: "Strategies for Handling Complex Concepts: Trying on Expansion Techniques"; Frances J. Beurivage, Manager, EIPA Diagnostic Center, RID CI/CT October 11, 2014, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration information is available at <http://mde-lio.cenmi.org/>. Hosting sites are: Mott Community College, Madonna University, Lansing Community College, Northview Public Schools, Gratiot Isabella RESD, Kalamazoo RESA, Saginaw ISD.
- University of Michigan Sound Support and Michigan Department of Education Low-Incidence Outreach Program present: Power Hour: Thursday, November 6, 2014: Enlarged Vestibular Aqueduct, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. For registration link, contact: David Clark at [davidrcl@umich.edu](mailto:davidrcl@umich.edu)

- Council for Exceptional Children and Division for Communicative Disabilities and Deafness (DCDD) present: "Protecting Children with Disabilities from Abuse: Strategies for Grades K-7" October 9, 2014, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Presenters are: Harold Johnson and Irene Van der Zande.