



# 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium**

Wednesday & Thursday, May 6 - 7, 2009  
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel  
Marlborough, Massachusetts

September 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium (MEIC), together with Human Services Management Corporation (PERCS), is proud to announce our **30th Annual Early Intervention Conference**.

On behalf of MEIC and PERCS, I am pleased to announce this year's Keynote Speaker will be Betsy McAlister Groves, founder of the nationally recognized Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center. MEIC would be honored to have you share your experience and success with the early childhood community at the conference and invite you to present with us as well. We are currently accepting proposals for two hour, four hour (half day) workshops, and six hour (full day) workshops. Proposals incorporating families, providers and collaborating agencies are encouraged. We request that each presentation include as a co-presenter a care-giver for a child with past or current Early Intervention involvement. Assistance in recruiting a care-giver co-presenter can be provided by the Conference Committee. Please complete the enclosed application and **submit your proposal by November 21, 2008** to join us in this exciting two-day forum.

Examples of relevant topics include:

- Environmental, educational, cultural, family, biological, and health/medical influences on development
- Behavior management
- Cultural responsiveness
- Supporting children with special health care needs in the community
- Programs and services for children with hearing and/or vision loss
- Supervision and staff development
- Community-based mental health supports for young children and families
- Negotiation and conflict management techniques
- Natural learning opportunities for infants and toddlers
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Increasing family involvement

The goals of this conference are to:

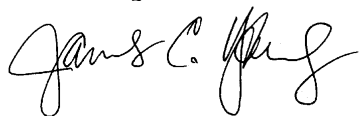
- Expand knowledge of medical and health issues affecting the development of young children and their families
- Explore current perspectives, research and trends related to best practice in the field
- Promote interventions that support, challenge and celebrate individual differences
- Examine the current course of public policy and encourage participation in policy making
- Encourage connections among all early childhood professionals

Formed in 1978, the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium is a statewide non-profit educational and advocacy organization which represents the 59 Early Intervention programs throughout the Commonwealth. These comprehensive, family-centered programs serve over 35,000 infants and toddlers who are eligible to receive Early Intervention services in Massachusetts. For 30 years, the Consortium has dedicated its efforts to provide the highest quality services and to improve quality of care for young children and their families, including, toddlers and infants with special needs and others at risk for developmental delay. The Consortium has led the statewide advocacy efforts to enact and change public policies regarding the provision of Early Intervention services and to ensure adequate funding for the entire Early Intervention system and the more than 35,000 children and families who rely on these vital services.

MEIC's 30th Annual Conference will be held on May 6th and 7th, 2009, at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, Massachusetts. MEIC programs employ nearly 3000 staff members from a variety of disciplines. Over the past several years, attendance has remained consistently high. Continuing education credits are offered to the targeted disciplines of educators, speech-language pathologists, nurses, social workers, licensed mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, early intervention specialists, occupational therapists and psychologists.

If in the consideration of this invitation you have any questions or comments, please contact Tara Cornell, our conference manager, at PERCS at 508-473-3422 x246 or by email at [tcornell@percs.info](mailto:tcornell@percs.info). Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jim Young  
Chair, Conference Planning Committee  
Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium

Enclosure