How Does I/ECMHC Work in Early Intervention?

What is a Social-Emotional Consultant?

Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants within Early Intervention are currently referred to as Social-Emotional Consultants (SE Consultant). However, in other early childhood systems the role is commonly known as an Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant. The Social-Emotional (SE) Consultant provides professional development, clinical consultation, and systems support to infuse relationship-based, reflective practice throughout the Early Intervention process. Primary responsibilities of the Social-Emotional Consultant include reflective consultation to the Child and Family Connections (CFC) Program Manager, individual and group case consultation, and coordination of components including overseeing the implementation of social-emotional screening and specialized assessment. The primary work of the Social-Emotional Consultant is consultative in nature to support the providers and staff affiliated with the CFC.

Source: IL Department of Human Services — Child & Family Connections Procedure Manual Chapter 4: Child & Family Connections Support Services- 4.3 Social Emotional Component Procedure https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=96955

How can a Social-Emotional Consultant Support CFC Program Leadership?

To offer support around the difficult demands of the manager's role.

To provide the CFC Program Manager and/or other program leadership with first-hand experience of reflective supervision to prepare them to provide reflective supervision for staff.

To jointly plan and monitor all social-emotional components within Early Intervention.

"Providers feel like they are.... on their own when they hit the wall. The SEC provides space for providers to ask more questions and develop more capacity to hold onto the families a little longer. Investing that time with the SEC, to sustain their caseloads and creating less burn out of the field." — CFC Program Manager

IDHS-Division of Early Childhood, Bureau of Early Intervention
217.782.1981

dhs.state.il.us/ei

bit.ly/IL-IECMHC

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Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Mental Health Consultation In Illinois

What Does a Social-Emotional Consultant Do?

• As needed after intake, the SE Consultant consults with the Service Coordinators regarding the intake interviews and the Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional (ASQ: SE) findings.

• Case consultation sessions offer Service Coordinators another opportunity to develop understanding and skills in relationship based EI. The SE Consultants and CFC Program Managers and/or other CFC leadership facilitate small group sessions using a guided process that helps Service Coordinators, Parent Liaisons and, in some settings, providers to consider their work with each child and family from multiple perspectives. This includes consideration of the child's social-emotional development in the context of family relationships, a family's readiness and needs, felt experience of Service Coordinators and Providers working with children and families.

Enhanced Opportunities to Partner with Social-Emotional Consultants

• To support staff in working from a relationship perspective, the CFC Program Manager provides reflective supervision either in individual or group sessions.

• Providers may engage with the SE Consultants in different ways such as mini trainings, case consultations, among other supports. Providers are given the opportunity to meet with the SE Consultant and the CFC Program Manager for mini trainings, case consultation, and informal peer consultation. The providers are also encouraged to call the SE Consultant for consultation and support on an individual basis and may use IFSP development time for the case consultation.

• To connect with your local Social-Emotional Consultant click **here**.

Social-Emotional Consultants Are a Key Component of the CFC Infrastructure