



PROVIDER ALERT

Infant/Toddler Mental Health

August 21, 2018

Dear Provider:

We are excited to announce that Optum Idaho will be sponsoring early childhood training for independently licensed network providers who are interested in the clinical practice of Infant/Toddler Mental Health. This project will enhance the clinician workforce through training and practice supervision. Clinician participants will be able to strengthen their skills and knowledge as it relates to infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH). This domain of practice emphasis currently represents a key area for growth in Idaho.

Optum, in conjunction with ZERO TO THREE, will offer the IECMH Training series to network providers that will combine in-person and virtual learning opportunities. ZERO TO THREE, headquartered in Washington, DC, works to ensure that infants and toddlers benefit from the early connections that are critical to their well-being and development. Optum will create infrastructure and offer training which is aligned with, supported, and approved by the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health and the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Endorsement process. Together we are committed to providing high quality, research-informed, professional development, as well as resources to help increase the knowledge and skills of multi-disciplinary professionals serving this age group. In the past, specialized training like this may have been a barrier. But by partnering with ZERO TO THREE, Optum plans to enhance participating providers' awareness of IECMH including assessment, developmentally appropriate diagnostic classification and evidence based treatment and its application in the care of the Infant and Early Childhood population.

The in-person training will begin in late 2018 or early 2019 (date to be determined) and continue until late 2020, primarily with online instruction and reflective virtual consultation. The curriculum will be targeted to clinicians who treat children age 5 and under. These children may have mental health concerns, including the experience of trauma, neglect, toxic stress and anxiety that may result in developmental and emotional challenges.

In order to determine the best date(s) and location(s) of the in-person training, we would like to survey the level of interest in this program. If you would like to participate in a conference call in which more details will be discussed, please email optum.idaho.education@optum.com. We will schedule a conference call with those providers who express interest and would like more information.

Thank you,
The Optum Idaho Team