



Home Visiting in Maryland

News from the Old Line State

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MIECHV News

Contributed by Jenn Bistrack, MPH, MS, RN, Health Policy & Program Analyst, Office of Family & Community Health Services, Maryland DHMH

The federal Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program funds 18 sites in rural, urban, and suburban communities

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Maryland Home Visiting Newsletter! This quarterly e-newsletter is a partnership between the Maryland Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and the Maryland Home Visiting Consortium. We are glad to have your support as Maryland makes great strides to increase the overall well-being of women and children.



This newsletter is for anyone working within any home visiting capacity in Maryland, and will provide updates, resources, and general information at both the state and jurisdiction levels. We aim to use this tool to provide a platform for information sharing among home visiting programs in Maryland, increase awareness about new programs and trainings, and improve communication between home visiting programs and stakeholders. If you have any questions or comments concerning the newsletter please email: dhmh.hvnewsletter@maryland.gov. To find out more about home visiting programs in Maryland, please [visit our website](#). And happy reading!

Provider Perspectives

Improving Coordination between Prenatal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs and Patient Centered Medical Homes

(PCMHS): Contributed by Beth Barnet, M.D., Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine

in Maryland.

Continuous quality improvement (CQI) is the name of the game for MIECHV grantees in 2016. CQI focuses on identifying sub-optimal processes and changing them to reduce defects and improve quality.



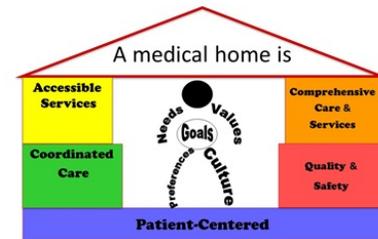
The first process that all sites are asked to investigate is the critical flow from client referral to enrollment into home visiting programs. CQI requires a team to map out the current process with all of its possible flaws, and identify areas that are prime for improvement.

CQI efforts at the State level and the home visiting site level are required by our federal funder, the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) as a condition of funding. MIECHV staff are hosting a mandatory CQI training webinar for MIECHV-funded sites

Prenatal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs target families at high risk for low birth weight, infant mortality, developmental delay, poor mental health, and substance use. Home visits take place from the prenatal period through school entry and consist of health and psychosocial assessments, parenting education, and culturally informed support services to families.

The Patient

Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is a model of primary care aimed at transforming the delivery of comprehensive primary care to children,



adolescents, and adults. PCMHs seek to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the care they deliver by enhancing accessibility, comprehensiveness, integration/coordination, and relationships involving sustained partnership. PCMHs respond to each patient's unique needs and preferences and focus on improving the health of whole people, families, communities and populations, and on increasing the value of healthcare.

PCMHs and home visiting programs share many of the same goals for health outcomes but are often unaware that the other provides care and services to the same families. For example, a teen mother seen for her postpartum visit is diagnosed with depression and prescribed medication, but does not fill the prescription and her home visitor is unaware of the recommended treatment plan. [Read more...](#)

Program Spotlight

Together We Are Better: HIPPY/Healthy Families

Calvert County: Contributed by Celia Engel, Program Coordinator, HIPPY/Healthy Families Calvert County, Calvert County Public Schools

Parents (especially mothers) frequently comment that they "can't do it all." Individual programs that support parents through home visiting are also realizing

on **Friday, February 12, from 10 am-noon.**

Program managers, check your email for the registration link!



that we "can't do it all" and see the benefit of working together to enhance the services that we provide to parents and families. In Calvert County, we have found a way to combine two widely effective, evidence-based home

visiting programs to optimize the services targeted to young families.

The HIPPY/Healthy Families Calvert County program and the HIPPY/Head Start program are a part of Calvert County Public Schools. The programs provide support to families beginning prenatally to age 5 in Calvert County. As a continuum of services, parents can enter the [Healthy Families program](#) prenatally or before a baby is three months old. Family Support Workers partner with parents to help build a nurturing relationship between parent and child, provide information on how children develop, and suggest ideas for activities for parents to engage with their child. [Read more...](#)

Legislative Corner

Contributed by Colleen Wilburn, MPA
Manager, Intensive Family Services, The Family Tree, Inc.

As the New Year arrives so does the Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Session which began on **January 13, 2016** and runs through **April 11, 2016**. During this 90 day session, the Assembly will consider many bills which could have an impact on home visiting in Maryland, particularly the Governor's Budget.

The Governor's Budget is usually released by the end of January with much anticipation and anxiety surrounding it--this year with no

Sustainability Successes

SMART Carroll: The Power of Partnerships in Early Childhood Systems:

Contributed by Sue Mitchell, Coordinator, CCPS Judy Center Partnership and Dawn Brown, Director, Quality Improvement and Prevention, Carroll Co. Health Dept

What happened when the Carroll County Health Department, Department of Social Services, County Public Schools, Judy Center Partnership, Youth Services Bureau, Family Resource Center, the Local Management Board, and local health care and treatment providers started working together? They got SMART! SMART stands for **S**creening, **d**ecision **M**aking, **A**ssessment, **R**eferral and **T**reatment to help children thrive within their family and community.

The need to get SMART emerged from a series of qualitative and quantitative findings in the County. Parents as Teachers educators noticed an increasingly high number of children with concerning health and developmental needs that were not being addressed by

exception! The Maryland Home Visiting Alliance keeps a close eye and ear on any rumblings in Annapolis which may impact either state- or local-level funding for home visiting programs. All are encouraged to do the same by visiting the [General Assembly's website](#) to keep track of those important bills. [Read more...](#)

Get in Touch!

We want to hear from YOU! Please contact us with questions, comments, and suggestions for content. We can be reached by [email](#) or phone: (410) 767-7066.

the standard system. Concurrently, the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Board saw an increasing number of infant deaths related to suspected substance use that could have been prevented with early identification and treatment. And, in 2008, the school system started seeing "quirky kids"-- children exhibiting behavioral and sensory issues along with a lack of concentration -- who were entering into pre-kindergarten. These children were assessed by the public school system's *Birth through Five* early intervention program, however they were not eligible for services as they did not present with a 25% delay that is the prerequisite finding to trigger additional services. [Read more...](#)

Promising Practice

UMBC Training Certificate Program: Contributed by David Schultz, Ph.D., M.Div., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

How often do home visitors and assessment workers have difficulty talking to clients about issues related to mental health, substance use, and domestic violence? These are topics that are universally anxiety-producing for the workforce and, at the same time, of extreme importance to maternal and child health. The UMBC Training Certificate Program will provide training for home visitors and supervisors that focuses on: 1) effective communication and motivating families, 2) healthy relationships and domestic violence, 3) parenting and child development, 4) mental health, 5) substance use, and 6) cultural sensitivity. Training will consist of 7 six-hour sessions over a three-month period with consultation in-between training days. Training days involve a combination of presented material, group activities, and individual role-plays.

The Training Certificate Program is directed by Dr. Carlo DiClemente and was developed by faculty and staff in UMBC's Department of Psychology. In the fall of 2015, 15 home visitors and supervisors from Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Wicomico County served as a collaborating learning community and participated in

the piloting of the training program. Next steps include getting formal approval for the certificate, launching a controlled trial of the training to evaluate impact, and offering the program at various times during the year. For additional information, please contact June Sutherland, Project Coordinator, [by email](#) or at 410-455-2329. [Read more...](#)

Please note - the Training Certificate Program is not yet open for registration; it is still in the evaluation process. Stay tuned for more updates!

Dynamic Data

Maryland Home Visiting Data: An Introduction:

Contributed by Matt Snead, M.A, Data and Fiscal Coordinator, MD MIECHV Program

Data can be a powerful tool, providing context behind the concept of home visiting. The data shows what's been accomplished to this point, which allows us to determine how to best focus our efforts moving forward.

Those who are interested in learning more about home visiting may wonder: What happens during a home visit? How many families are visited? Where do those families live? What types of



outcomes are measured in home visiting programs? The answers to these questions are too long for a newsletter, but those interested can find resources with this information. There are several home visiting data sources available nationally and in Maryland. Each source is a requirement from either a funder or an evidence-based home visiting model such as [Healthy Families America](#) and [The Nurse Family Partnership](#). Both MIECHV and the evidence-based program models require significant data collection to measure how individual home visiting sites are performing relative to the potential of that site's home visiting model. Here are some useful links to existing home visiting data:

- [MIECHV Description of Home Visiting](#)

- [MIECHV Data Points](#)
 - [Maryland Statewide Home Visiting Data Survey](#)
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Upcoming Events and Trainings

February 2, 9am-12pm: Home Visiting Day in Annapolis

Hosted by the Home Visiting Alliance. Home Visiting Day is intended to provide home visiting programs an opportunity to visit with their local legislators and tell them about the services provided to families in their community. If interested in attending and participating, please [RSVP here](#).

February 8-12: HFA Integrated Strategies for Home Visiting Core Training, Towson, MD

Registration Contact: Phyllis Jones, (410) 350-9275.

Required by HFA for all HFA affiliated and accredited program staff that facilitate home visits. Supervisors and Program Managers are also required to attend. The training outlines the specific duties of the home visitor in their role within Healthy Families America. Topics include, but are not limited to: trauma informed practice, communication skills, assessing, addressing, and promoting positive parent-child relationships, creating a trusting alliance with families, goal setting, and strategies to enhance family functioning, address difficult situations, and ensure healthy childhood development.

February 12, 10 am-12pm: CQI Training Webinar (Rescheduled from January 17)

Mandatory for all sites receiving MIECHV funding.
Supervisors -- check email for registration link.

March 8-10: HFA Advanced Supervision Training, Towson, MD

Registration Contact: Tomeaka Jupiter: (410) 828-7700 or [by email](#).

Building on the core training for supervisors and program managers of HFA direct service staff positions, this

training consists of three intensive days of in-person training, covering topics that include but are not limited to: the three types of supervision, attachment constructs critical for reflective practice and infant mental health, motivating staff, addressing staff issues, and key components for reflective supervision. Participants are required to be employed by a program that is affiliated or accredited by HFA. This training requires full-day attendance on all three days.

March 17, 9 am-3 pm: 2016 Home Visitors Conference

Double Tree by Hilton, 5485 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045

Presented by the Home Visiting Consortium. Keynote speaker: Jan Williams, LCSW, Duke Center for Child and Family: "Understanding How Secondary Traumatic Stress Can Deplete Home Visitors and What to Do About It." Registration is free and will be open February 22-March 7, 2016.

April 4-8: HFA Parent Survey for Community Outreach Core Training, Towson, MD

Registration Contact: Janet Curran: (301) 840-3232 or by email.

Required by HFA for all HFA affiliated and accredited program staff that will administer the Parent Survey tool. Supervisors and Program Managers are also required to attend. The training focuses on building skills to engage parents in the Parent Survey process, learning how to gather comprehensive information from parents related to their strengths and needs using a conversational style, and obtaining guided practice from a certified user to ensure the tool is administered in a standardized and reliable manner.

This newsletter is coordinated by the Maryland MIECHV Team and supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, through grant #X02MC28225.

Visit us on the web [here](#).

