

**Home Visiting Task Force
Executive Committee Meeting
July 7th, 2015**

MINUTES

Participants: Deb Daro, Isolda Davila, Claire Dunham, Donna Emmons, Gaylord Gieseke (co-chair), Theresa Hawley, Teresa Kelly, Gail Nourse, Andrea Palmer, Anna Potere, Diana Rauner (co-chair), Lesley Schwartz, Penny Smith, Kenne Westbrook, Jay Young, Cindy Zumwalt

April 7th, 2015 meeting minutes: the minutes were approved with no changes.

Potential Changes to MIECHV

- HRSA is soliciting feedback on two components of MIECHV because it is considering changing them: the funding formula and the benchmark constructs.
- A special meeting of the Executive Committee was held to garner initial feedback, during which it was suggested that an analysis be conducted of how changing the balance of the funding formula so that the majority is directed towards formula versus competitive would impact Illinois. This analysis showed that Illinois would still be able to maintain how we use the funding in the ways that we want to achieve our objectives, including promising practices and enhancements like mental health consultation.
- The Home Visiting Task Force will submit two statements to HRSA:
 - One statement will support the high level recommendations that ASTHVI submitted for revising the benchmark constructs. When the revised constructs are released for public comment, we will consider whether we want to submit more specific comments.
 - The other statement will declare the Task Force's continued support for the original guidance from HRSA to states on how the formula and competitive grant funding should be used – namely, that MIECHV formula funding should be focused on increasing access and supporting core operations and infrastructure, and that MIECHV competitive grant funding should be used to expand and analyze promising practices and further develop the field.
- The Task Force will monitor whether the benchmark constructs and funding formula are opened for public comment.
- There is currently an open comment period, due July 13th, around adding four areas that states must collect data on quarterly in addition to the annual report. Lesley Schwartz will distribute ASTHVI's comments in response to this proposal to the Task Force Executive Committee to determine whether there is support for it or whether there are comments and concerns.

Universal Newborn Support System Workgroup Update

- The goal of this group is to create a system in which all newborns and their parents in Illinois will receive a home visit to provide them with information, supports, and resources to strengthen the capacity of parents to meet their children's needs.
- The work group is exploring existing models that provide a similar type of outreach and support and that have been shown to have positive outcomes, including accessing higher quality child care and connecting to other services. For example, Durham Connects uses a matrix with four domains to guide an informed conversation to identify comprehensive needs of the family.
- The work group will identify pilot communities to learn from those experiences and subsequently identify how to create the most effective system. One of the pilot sites will be in Chicago.
- This is an opportunity to think about collaboration across the systems that serve families and reach the most at-risk families and to create a public-private partnership.
- The next meeting of the work group is July 30th.

Home Visiting – Child Welfare Workgroup Update

- Healthy Families America has stated their support for allowing flexibility for the enrollment eligibility requirements so that children can enroll up to the age of 1.
- DCFS has offered to fund Chapin Hall to conduct an evaluation of the project.

Budget Advocacy Efforts

- There is an increase in the ISBE Early Childhood Block Grant in the FY16 budget, which would impact home visiting programs through the birth to three set-aside.
- ISBE is striving to restore funding for programs across the state that are still below the FY12 funding levels.
- Many programs did not reduce the number of children served, but instead reduced quality measures such as professional development, which could potentially now be restored.

Home Visiting Data

- Recommendations are being developed on which data points should be collected across all home visiting programs in Illinois. The ultimate goal is to develop an annual statewide home visiting report.
- The Pew Home Visiting Data for Performance Initiative will issue recommendations on what measures should be collected, as well as how to collect data in order to maximize its utilization and effectiveness.
- Other data points that should be collected in Illinois include the amount of funding and which models – including promising practices – are being implemented; demographic information on the families being served; and, the locations of all programs in the state.

Monitoring Home Visiting Programs

MIECHV/DHS Monitoring:

- DHS is using the same tool and nurses as MIECHV to monitor programs. The tool that they are using integrates the HVTF Health Recommendations. The monitoring process should be completed by the end of the summer, which will result in recommendations presented to the HVTF Executive Committee.
- An exit conference is conducted with agency staff and leadership so that the nurses can share their findings and recommendations before sending the program their report.

ISBE PI Monitoring:

- Erikson Institute, which was awarded the contract for monitoring, is using the quality rating tool developed by Jon Korfmacher to monitor programs. Additionally, the monitoring process includes a compliance checklist to determine compliance with the ECBG rules.
- Recently, Erikson Institute completed a pilot project with several home visiting programs implementing different evidence-based models. The feedback from that pilot has been very positive.
- In FY16 the pilot sites will continue and limited implementation will begin. In FY17 and beyond, the goal is additional implementation towards full implementation.
- Prior to each site visit, home visiting staff complete a survey online and submit documentation to Erikson. During the monitoring visit, monitors conduct interviews and attend a group socialization event.
- Once programs have completed monitoring, they will develop a CQI plan and ISBE will provide technical assistance to help. It has not yet been determined how often programs will be monitored.
- This will be a standing agenda item for future meetings, to share findings and results and to identify lessons learned.

Home Visiting Funder Updates: The funders of home visiting are developing recommendations for home visitors' salary levels and qualifications.

Wrap Up and Next Steps: The next meeting of the Executive Committee is October 6th. The next full meeting of the Task Force is July 20th, when Andrea Palmer will present on the COIIN initiative to reduce infant mortality and its potential intersection with home visiting.