

**Home Visiting Task Force Meeting
February 4th, 2014**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Claudia Baier, Angela Bailey, Katharine Bensinger, Juanona Brewster, Nancie Brown, Jeanna Capito, Andrea Densham, Denise Dell'Isola, Elaine Duensing, Claire Dunham, Shauna Ejeh, Felicia Fair-Thompson, Doris Feery, Nicole Feliciano, Cheryl Floyd, Melanie Garrett, Gaylord Gieseke (co-chair), Azucena Gonzalez, Elise Groenewegen, Deborah Hagman-Shannon, , Roy Harley, Dan Harris, Liz Heneks, Leslie Janes, Brenda Jones, Carly Jones, Colleen Jones, TeeNeka Jones, Katelyn Kanwischer, Teresa Kelly, Kathy Kern, Margaret Kiefer, Jon Korfmacher, Bahakia Madison, Beth Mascitti-Miller, Jon McDonald, Audrey Moy, Noel Norris, Gregory O'Donnell, Andrea Palmer, Chelsea Pearsall, Matt Poes, Anna Potere, Sally Puleo, Leah Puow, Mayra Quinones, Nancy Radner, Diana Rauner (co-chair), Liliana Romero, Lesley Schwartz, Amy Schroeder, Ralph Schubert, Diane Scruggs, Glendean Sisk, Penny Smith, Joanna Su, Sue Swisher, Dawn Thomas, Becky Thompson, Liliana Velazquez, Jacob Vigil, Whitney Walsh, Janelle Weldin-Frisch, Robin York, Jay Young, Kim Zalent, Laura Zumdahl, Cindy Zumwalt

Welcome and Introductions

- November 5, 2013 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

State and Federal Updates

- Federal Updates:
 - State of the Union: During President Obama's fifth State of the Union address, he reinforced the message that education plays an important role in our country. He laid out a proposal to expand access to high-quality pre-school to every four-year old in America and improve access to voluntary home visiting programs and other services for our youngest children.
 - The Omnibus Appropriations Bill signed by President Obama included the following for early childhood:
 - Additional funding to reverse sequestration cuts to Head Start and child care, and increases for Head Start and child care, adding new funding and reversing cuts.
 - A new Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grants initiative received \$500 million of the Head Start increase. The initiative is intended to increase the availability of high-quality early care and education for infants and toddlers, particularly for working families. New or existing Early Head Start programs will partner with local child care centers and family child care providers serving low-income infants and toddlers.
 - Competitive awards for states under RTT-ELC that will add money to those efforts.
 - MIECHV Reauthorization:
 - MIECHV ends September 30th. Congress is considering extending MIECHV as part of legislation to fix how physicians are paid, called the "doc fix" or "extenders package." We have heard that there is a real possibility for MIECHV to be included among other health-related provisions that are set to expire.
 - We are working on mobilizing support, including reaching out to our specific legislative contacts as well as activating the Early Learning Council's Executive Committee. We encourage you to participate in these efforts.
- State Updates:
 - State of the State: Governor Quinn's State of the State speech called for a Birth to Five Initiative that will be focused on the three keys to a healthy child: universal prenatal care,

access to early care and learning opportunities for every child, and strong parent support. Home visiting is under strong parent support though it relates to all of them in some way.

- ISBE Budget Proposal:
 - \$25 million increase for early childhood education, providing an 8.3 percent increase over FY14 levels but still falling short of the FY09 levels. Roughly 550 additional 0-3 year-olds would be served under this proposed budget than were served in Fiscal Year 2014.
 - The Board's recommendation will now go to the Governor and General Assembly for consideration as the FY15 state budget-making process gets under way.
 - In the board memo, ISBE also looked at what it would look like if they had an additional \$50M, \$75M, and \$80M and what it would cost to serve all 0-3 and 3-5 children. The memo is on the ISBE website with the board packet.
- 2014 Illinois Advocacy Agenda:
 - The Governor's budget address is on February 26th.
 - We are advocating to ensure that the FY2015 budget:
 - Restores \$25 million cut from the Early Childhood Block Grant
 - Maintains home visitation funding
 - Protects Child Care Assistance Program funding
 - Restores \$11 million cut to bilingual education funding
 - Increases Early Intervention funding to meet the increased need for services
- Early Childhood Advocacy Day is April 29th in Springfield. Registration is open.

Pew Home Visiting Summit

- A number of Task Force members attended the recent Pew Home Visiting Summit in Washington, DC. Task Force members highlighted consistent themes of toxic stress, trauma, paying workers sufficiently, ensuring home visitors have a sophisticated skill set, and the critical role of reflective supervision in ensuring that best practices are embedded into supervision.
- There was a session on public opinion on home visiting, where presenters discussed findings from a study that the term home visiting conjures up only negative connotations because people are cautious about the boundary for intervening in someone's life and home. They also found that the word "family" resonated extremely strongly. If they distribute a report we will disseminate it and discuss the implications of it.

MIECHV Updates

- The MIECHV team is working with IECAM on mapping home visiting programs in Illinois and poverty rates to measure need vs. access, which should be completed by March.
- 92% of children in MIECHV are on Medicaid and 90% of pregnant women had Medicaid.
- The MIECHV data shows that not enough women are getting screenings for maternal depression and domestic violence. This reflects the desire of home visitors to get more intermediate and advanced trainings on the screenings as well as mental health and substance abuse.

Update on Medicaid Financing for Home Visiting

- The Sustainability Workgroup of the HVTF has been exploring the possibility of expanding access to home visiting programs through Medicaid funding. The workgroup has been learning from other states, talking to national experts, and convened providers over the summer to surface questions and garner support.

- Currently, Illinois is in the process of transitioning from a primarily fee-for-service Medicaid context to a combination managed care and fee-for-service context, so we have developed a two-pronged approach for each context.
- We have been actively pursuing two opportunities:
 - Including home visiting on the list of services provided under the State’s application for an 1115 Medicaid waiver; and
 - We met with HFS Director Julie Hamos and HFS Medical Director Arvind Goyal. They were familiar with and supportive of home visiting and said they are open to opening up the state plan to amend it. They asked us for a variety of data and we are working on the response.
- This process is raising the profile of home visiting as a preventive strategy, which can help the State meet its healthcare reform goals.

Home Visiting White Paper Recommendations

- At our last meeting in November, we discussed the recommendations coming out of the two home visiting summits last year and want to discuss how we might want to integrate some of these recommendations into our work.
- The recommendations are divided into 4 categories: quality, impact of home visiting and alignment with other initiatives, data and research, and training and technical assistance.
- Some of these are already being addressed in Illinois.
- Recommendation #11 regarding group services: Parent group services are offered in more than 50% of programs and they have a real value. The ISBE PI RFP requires that PI home visiting programs offer at least one group experience per month and this is also part of the model components for PAT. NFP does not include this as a model component.
- Home visiting programs that have mental health consultation really value it, especially since mental health issues are playing an increasingly large role in the challenges faced by home visitors, but this is not reflected in the recommendations. Models have not yet caught up with the risk levels of families, but are trying to do that now, so home visitors are not necessarily trained to look for and deal with these issues, which may explain why home visitors did not come up with it. Infant mental health was prominent in the feedback but it did not rise to the level of being a stand-alone recommendation. This is our opportunity to make recommendations on program quality, which we have not done before. Mental health should be included, as well as making sure that policies and practices reflect what home visitors are experiencing in the field.
- Before sharing these with the Early Learning Council, the HVTF should add its vision for what home visiting is and should be in Illinois: what it should look like in communities, what role home visiting plays in the overall infrastructure of supports for children and families, etc. It is imperative that we include mental health as a critical component.
- A small group led by Teresa Kelly will draft a vision of home visiting in Illinois and will bring it to the HVTF Executive Committee.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Jon Korfmacher described the Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative (HARC) and encouraged programs to join.
- The April meeting will be rescheduled due to advocacy day. The meeting on July 22nd, originally scheduled for 2-4pm, is now scheduled from 12-2pm.