

**Home Visiting Task Force  
Sustainability Workgroup Meeting  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:** Cindy Zumwalt, Teresa Kelly (co-chair), Liz Heneks (co-chair), Jay Young, Julia Zhu, Dan Harris, Nancy Shier, Anna Potere, Bahakia Madison

**November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:** the minutes were approved with no changes.

**Impacts of Budget Impasse**

- The Governor's FY17 budget address is on February 17<sup>th</sup> at noon.
- The MIECHV team has asked agencies for information on how the impasse is impacting programs. In general, agencies have tried to gradually tighten their expenses (e.g., by not filling vacant positions or not accepting new clients) instead of eliminating programs. DHS-funded programs continue to submit monthly documentation forms, but these cannot be sent to the comptroller's office for payment.
- ISBE-funded programs are receiving some payments but some are delayed. Since the operating budget that included contracts was not passed, ISBE cannot fund the Gateways scholarships and applications will no longer be accepted.
- RTT-ELC will end on December 31, 2016, but the State is requesting a no-cost extension from the federal government to keep staff on until the end of the fiscal year and complete certain projects.

**Describing Home Visiting**

- The poll commissioned by Pew showed that the term "home visiting" scored lowest and "family support" scored highest.
- Voices for Illinois Children produced a report about which programs have not yet been approved in the budget that had easily understandable terms for most programs, but not for home visiting, which makes advocacy efforts more difficult.
- Teresa Kelly and Gail Nourse are working with the Ounce's marketing department to develop a brief elevator speech about home visiting that could be used across different audiences, including the public, legislators, and home visiting staff. One option is to describe home visiting as an approach for supporting families.
- This could be a topic of discussion at the next Home Visiting Summit and/or for the HVTF Executive Committee to develop a recommendation for describing home visiting. It is important to consider the audience as legislators may have a different or more nuanced understanding of what home visiting is than the public.

**FY16 MIECHV Formula Grant Proposal**

- The grant proposal expands funding to seven new communities, and also includes funding for IMH consultation, the Universal Newborn Support System, the Home Visiting-Child Welfare pilot project, and the Home Visiting for Homeless Families demonstration project.
- The current competitive grant goes through FFY2017. An FOA for a new competitive grant will be released, but it will be much smaller than in previous years because HRSA has invested the majority of the funding in the formula grant.

**Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- The next meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.