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**Final Learning Session in March**

CQI Efforts Lead to Increased IPV Screening, Family Services

Work by FL MIECHV sites participating in a statewide learning collaborative has contributed to improvements in screening and services for families impacted by intimate partner violence.

IPV screening within six months of enrollment met or exceeded the 90% goal in three of the four months examined, compared to 69% in 2014 before the learning collaborative. Sites also improved referral rates for women with a positive screen or who self-disclosed IPV within 7 days – increasing from 0% state average in 2014 to consistently over the 85% goal. Timely safety planning within 30 days also increased from a 79% state average in 2014 to 100% in three out of the four months reported.

During the 12 month CQI effort, sites worked on strategies, identified by IPV experts, to improve the identification and services provided to families receiving home visiting services who experience IPV. Support was provided through web conferences and individual site consultation by state MIECHV staff. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence assisted in linking sites to local centers and resources.

Site teams will share results from their latest PDSA cycles at the final IPV Learning Session March 3-4 in Jacksonville.

**IPV Impact on MCH Focus of Learning Session III**

Rebecca Levenson, health policy consultant for Futures Without Violence and nationally-recognized researcher, educator and advocate, will discuss reproductive coercion and its impact on maternal and child health outcomes at the final IPV Learning Session March 3-4 in Jacksonville.

Levenson has worked extensively in the area of adolescent, reproductive and perinatal health within federal and state programs, community clinics and home visitation programs for the past 20 years. She is a champion on behalf of health issues related to domestic violence and the need to develop trauma-informed organizational practices to support providers in doing this work.

Levenson is the co-author of numerous publications and domestic violence training resources, including Futures safety cards and related strategies, the Reproductive Health and Violence Guidelines, the Adolescent Health Guidelines and a train-the-trainer curriculum for home visitors.

**Community Teams Work to Improve Identification, Referral of At-Risk Families in New Collaborative**

Eight community teams, led by local Healthy Start Coalitions, will launch a new action learning collaborative on Coordinated Intake & Referral (CI&R) March 10-11 in Jacksonville.

Tana Ebbole, Vice-President of the JBP Foundation, will keynote the first learning session and highlight the benefits and challenges of developing coordinated intake at the community level. Ebbole is the former CEO of the Children’s Service Council of Palm Beach County which manages a well-developed system of screening and program referral.

Participating sites are led by:

- Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County
- NE Florida Healthy Start Coalition (Duval)
- Healthy Start Coalitions of Orange, Osceola & Seminole
- Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia
- Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee
- Healthy Start of NC Florida Coalition (Alachua)
- Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties
- Healthy Start Coalition of Bay, Franklin & Gulf County

In addition to coalitions, teams will include the local Health Department responsible for processing prenatal and infant screening and improving Healthy Families Florida, Federal Healthy Start, Early Head Start, MIECHV-funded home visiting program, Early Steps, additional care coordination, education and support programs, and other key stakeholders. Teams will work on designing and testing CI&R system for their communities using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) strategy during the 21 month project.

Carol Scoggins, FL Department of Health, Section Administrator, Maternal & Child Health, will also discuss barriers and opportunities for using the state’s prenatal and infant screening process to support coordinated intake and referral.
Focus on Benchmark 2: Educating Families on Safe Sleep and Other Child Safety Issues

MIECHV Benchmark Area 2 encompasses seven constructs that measure the impact of home visiting programs on childhood injuries, abuse and neglect and emergency room utilization. We focus this month on one of these constructs related to educating families on child safety issues and resources available to promote safe sleep.

All home visiting models funded by Florida MIECHV provide education to families on a range of topics related to child safety. Data for this measure are collected on selected topics. While the threshold for this construct is very low (three topics), the performance of FL MIECHV sites on this measure shows room for improvement. In 2015, 83% of families receiving home visiting services received information on three safety topics.

We expect home visitors to provide comprehensive education on child safety to all families and to prioritize safe sleep—the leading preventable cause of death in the first year of life.

According to provisional 2015 vital statistics, sudden and unexpected infant deaths (SUIDS), which include SIDS and other sleep-related deaths, accounts for 53% of post-neonatal infant mortality. About 65% of parents in Florida report placing their babies to bed on their backs (Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2012).

Free downloadable material on safe infant sleep is available from the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida as part of the statewide Sleep Right, Sleep Tight public awareness campaign funded by the Florida Departments of Health and Children & Families.

Safe Baby Symposium: National Experts Highlight Prevention Recommendations & Challenges

Michael Goodstein, MD, FAAP, Cribs for Kids® Medical Director/Research, and Harvey Karp, MD, creator of Happiest Baby & Toddler on the Block, will headline the May 13 Safe Baby Symposium in Tampa.

Sponsored by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County, the conference will highlight the causes of Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUIDS) and expanded recommendations on safe sleep from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Barriers and myths associated with safe sleep practices and methods for overcoming them will also be discussed. Registration fee is $130.

Advocates Gather for 2016 Children’s Week

Florida children’s advocates gathered in Tallahassee in January for the annual observance of Children’s Week. Thousands of colorful tiny hands created by children across the state filled the Capitol rotunda. Activities included a storybook village and teen town hall meeting.

Longtime Miami children’s advocate Modesto “Mo” E. Abety received the 2016 Chiles Award for his work on behalf of Florida’s youth at the Children’s Week dinner.

States Explore Medicaid Funding for Home Visiting

Ten states, including Florida, are participating in a new learning network to examine ways Medicaid can be used to support home visiting. Supported by the Pew Charitable Trust, the network offers a forum for peer-to-peer learning, as well as assistance to states in developing policies and funding mechanisms to support services for mothers and young children.

A series of online meetings with state leaders, facilitated by expert consultant Kay Johnson, will take place over eight months. Four of the states have used Medicaid to fund home visiting programs.

Florida’s team includes representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, FL MIECHV, the Florida Department of Health, and home visiting programs.

![MIECHV Dashboard](image-url)

Source: Based on January, 2016 reports from three LIA cohorts (April, 2013; October 2013 and October, 2015).
President Obama’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget proposes $15 billion in funding over ten years (2017-2026) to continue and expand the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program to ensure that evidence-based home visiting services reach millions of additional children and families in need. It also includes $400 million for FY17 pursuant to P.L. 114-10 which was passed in March 2015. That authorization expires March 2017.

The President’s Budget also proposes a new Home Visits for Remote Areas program to provide support to enhance maternal, child, and family health in high need, remote rural and tribal areas. If funded, the program will be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services. The Budget also includes $20 million for 2-Gen demonstration projects to fight rural child poverty, $638 million for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program, and $9.6 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start.

The federal budget must be enacted by Congress.

MIECHV, Community Mental Health Partnership Builds Capacity to Address Perinatal Depression

Florida MIECHV is partnering with the Florida Council for Community Mental Health (FCCMH) and its membership to build community capacity to provide evidence-based treatment for perinatal depression in families enrolled in home visiting, Healthy Start and other early childhood programs.

As part of its 2015 competitive grant, Florida MIECHV is funding local pilots of *Moving Beyond Depression™* (MBD), an evidence-based intervention using in-home cognitive behavioral therapy to address perinatal depression in families receiving home visiting services. Treatment is delivered by licensed masters’ level mental health therapists who work collaboratively with home visitors over a 15-week period with a one-month follow-up session.

In the pilot, participating community mental health providers will have staff trained in MBD and implement the intervention with families identified and referred by home visiting programs in their communities. Mental health providers will also work with Florida MIECHV to assure services are reimbursed by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and assist in developing strategies for bringing the intervention to scale statewide. Pilot sites will be selected in March.

FL Site Shares Strategies to Increase BF Initiation

The Northeast Florida Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program shared strategies for increasing breastfeeding initiation during a recent webinar for participants in the national *Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (HV CoIIN)*. The strategies focused on the timing of breastfeeding education, development of infant feeding plans, referral for lactation support and use of educational material highlighting differences between formula and breastmilk.

The NFP team tested the strategies in a series of four Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles as part of their work with the national HV CoIIN. Their efforts resulted in an increase in breastfeeding initiation from 49% at baseline to 78% after implementation of the strategies.

Florida MIECHV home visiting sites in Jacksonville and Pinellas Counties are participating in the second phase of the national HV CoIIN. NEF NFP is continuing its work on breastfeeding initiation and duration while Pinellas PAT+ is working to improve family engagement and retention.

Home Visitors, Child-Serving Staff Find Gold Within

More than 70 home visitors and other family support staff participated in an energizing empowerment workshop, *Creating Your Best Year Ever: Finding the Gold Within* recently in Jacksonville. Led by Dr. Mimi Graham, director of the FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Services (CPEIP), the half-day conference was based on the book *Finding the Gold Within: Self Esteem for Women*.

Florida Perinatal Mental Health Conference May 5

*“The Intersection of Mental Health and Parenthood,”* Florida’s inaugural perinatal mental health conference will be held from 3-8 p.m. May 5 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Gainesville. Speakers include Dr. Heather Flynn, FSU medical school and OB/GYN Dr. Dikea Roussos-Ross, University of Florida. Contact Lauren DePaola, LCSW, chair, Alachua County Perinatal Mental Health Coalition for information.
Florida is implementing the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative through a public-private partnership. Led by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc., the goal of the initiative is to improve health & developmental outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs. State implementation partners include the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, and USF Lawton & Rhea Chiles Center. For more information contact Carol Brady, Project Director, cbrady@fahsc.org or visit www.FLMIECHV.com.

The SWFL Nurse Family Partnership held a Family Fun Day in Lee County recently with 23 families taking part in activities. The program, which serves first-time mothers in a three county area, is planning similar events in Collier and Glades Counties in the upcoming months.

Staff from Healthy Start in Desoto and Sarasota Counties, MomCare, The Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, Parents as Teachers+ in Pinellas, Tampa Baby Cafe, Weiss Pediatric Care in Sarasota, and All Children’s Hospital participated in the 20-hour Breastfeeding Counseling Course, facilitated by Mirine Dye, MPH, IBCLC, which featured demonstrative teaching techniques to show new mothers proper holding and feeding of baby as well as a chance for different maternal child health agencies to meet and share perspectives on increasing breastfeeding rates. A workshop was also held, which served as a pilot, in Jacksonville and Pensacola March 9-11.

PAT Manatee Supervisor Anna Cismesia, Jacksonville NFP Home Visitor Bridgers Smith and Dr. Christine Chiricos, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy contributed their expertise to the development of core competency assessments for the National Academy for Family Support Professionals organized by Iowa MIECHV and the University of Kansas. The Florida group reviewed 600 assessment questions for supervisors and home visitors during a two-day meeting recently in Atlanta.

Twins Gabby and Isabella enjoyed an interactive art project with their mom during a recent PAT+ home visit. Notes Supervisor Linda Thielmann, “What a perfect example of parent child interaction and developmental parenting!” Funding for PAT+, which serves high-need areas of Pinellas County, is provided by FL MIECHV and Project LAUNCH.

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-about Florida MIECHV

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Funded by HRSA Grants # D96MC25705 & #D89MC28265.

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