Home Visiting Task Force – Health Connections Workgroup Meeting

Monday, October 15, 2012
10:30am – 11:30 am

33 W. Monroe, Chicago – 24th Floor

Call in number: 1-888-494-4032
Pass code: 719 851 8485#

Health Connections Workgroup Charge: Develop recommendations for increased coordination between the maternal child health and home visiting systems.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions (10:30am-10:40am) **Claudia Quigg**
Meeting Participants: Anita Berry, Dean Conrad, Julie Doetsch, Melanie Garrett, Marilyn Green, Pamela King, Jennifer Martin, Colleen O'Reilly Schlecht, Andrea Palmer, Claudia Quigg (co-chair), Karen Scott, Christy Serrano (staffer), Glendean Sisk (co-chair), Whitney Walsh, Joanna Su, Gina Swehla, Vikki Thompson, Deb Widenhofer

Review and approve September 4th meeting minutes (10:40am-10:45am) **Glendean S.**
Meeting Minutes were approved and submitted to the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Review Working Document (10:45am-10:50am) **Claudia Q.**
Group discusses that the MIECHV benchmarks don't necessarily reflect everything that home visiting programs are doing to connect families with health systems. Christy will find out a way to highlight this point in the working document. Members convey a desire for including comments and recommendations on standards and other health connections that are not reflected in benchmarks. For example, the Department of Human Services has in interest in demonstrating that home visiting programs are having an impact on the rate of premature births but this measure is not included in the MIECHV benchmarks.

Work Group Discussion (10:50am – 11:25am) **Glendean S.**

The following Sub-Work Groups present findings on strengthening connections to maternal child health systems for existing home visiting models guided by the following considerations: 1) how to strengthen connections to maternal child health systems for existing home visiting models, as well as 2) how the home visiting models address (or may potentially address) the MIECHV health benchmarks that will be implemented in the future.

Parent Education and Involvement	Vikki Thompson Deb Widenhofer

Community Collaboration	Julie Doetsch Dr. Karen Scott

The Parent Education and Involvement Sub-Work Group states that home visitors have opportunities to engage families. The Sub-Work Group shares their comments on how the home visiting programs engage with families and provide a matrix showing which programs adequately address those opportunities. They discuss that the meaning of "adequately" has not been clearly defined and that there may be need to delve deeper into what that means for addressing families. Further, the Sub-Work Group states that it is difficult to expect that home visitors will be "all things to all people" so understanding what it means to adequately address parents will need to be discussed further among the Work Group.

The Sub-Work Group also comments that home visiting programs must be actively involved in community systems because although home visitors are not expected to be able to hold all the appropriate resource information for families, it is critical that they know *how* to get the right information and refer the family to that resource.

The Community Collaboration Sub-Work Group share that the MIECHV benchmarks don't translate addressing community collaboration very well so they provide more comments on looking for opportunities for enhancing community collaboration in home visiting models. Comments include that home visiting models need to know about each other so they can work together to refer families to other, more appropriate home visiting models or other services in the community that better meet the needs of the family. Home visiting models should be able to find opportunities for families so that their needs can be met. One tool that can be used as a resource to home visitors is the DCFS provider database.

The Health Connections Work Group discusses the challenge of making broad recommendations for increasing coordination between home visiting and maternal child health systems when the MIECHV benchmarks do not represent everything that a home visiting program does around community collaboration. Further, the Sub-Work Group finds that each home visiting model has a requirement to work with other systems and collaborate, but that the models are flexible on how programs collaborate with each other.

Next Steps (11:25am – 11:30am) **Claudia Q.**

Remaining Sub-Work Groups to present their findings:

1. Dental Home Participation/Oral Health
2. Healthy History Assessments and Screenings / Vision Screenings and Hearing Screenings
3. Breastfeeding / Nutrition and Meal Preparation

Dental Home/Oral health and Breastfeeding / Nutrition and Meal Preparation Sub-Work Group will present at the next Health Connections meeting on December 11th.

Meeting Handouts: Meeting Agenda (10/15/12), Draft Meeting Minutes (9/4/12), Sub-Work Group Notes/Recommendations, Draft Working Document on Health Connections