



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) in Illinois

Families Front and Center

The June 26-28 HRSA MIECHV meeting with Region V States had the timely theme of “Families Front and Center.” In this spirit, we wanted to share stories from one of our grantees in Elgin, to bring our work back to the families that we serve and the home visitors who do this important work.

“Being in this program really helped build me up on teaching my child as she develops and giving her challenges to help see what level my child is learning at. Without joining and getting the information on how to interact with my child, and gaining a stronger bond with these simple acts of play, I wouldn’t know where I’d be. I enjoy being able to ask questions, and being asked questions about my child. It gives me comfort to know they want to help me keep track on how my child is developing, to give them the learning opportunity as they grow in the community.” *(Lindsey (age 20) and Lacey (17 months), Elgin)*

“I just wanted to write to you to share a bit about my day. I just finished a visit with a first-time teen mom who I have been seeing for a few months now. Her own mother died when she was eleven and she lives with her father. While I was at the visit, I almost started crying, overwhelmed by how wonderfully she is doing and how good a mom she is. She reads to her baby daughter, talks and smiles with her, responds to her needs, has started taking regular walks to the library (and she has completed the summer reading program activities already), uses the information I share with her, asks questions ... so many things! And then when I was leaving, her boyfriend, the baby's father, was there. He held the baby and talked to her and kissed and cuddled with her ... and I almost started crying again. As I walked away, I was smiling so hard my cheeks hurt. So I just wanted to share. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to do this service that I have been working toward for so long, and to become a part of these families' lives.” *(From Lindsey's and Lacey's Home Visitor)*

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HRSA News

The Illinois MIECHV Team attended an inspiring HRSA Region V Grantee Meeting on July 26-28th. Topics covered were: state updates, collective impact, CQI, engaging hard to reach families, sustainability, data quality, mental health consultation, and coordinated intake. Ohio has made great advances toward Medicaid funding for home visiting. Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan were featured in a session on coordinated intake. All states in our region have had data challenges which are now being addressed. We are pleased to report that our CQI Quality Koala will be featured in an upcoming HRSA Grantee Spotlight.

Illinois submitted our MIECHV re-applications for the Competitive and Formula Grants on time. We sincerely thank all of you for providing the necessary data in a very short time frame. The re-applications used a new format, and we will be systematizing how we collect these data in the future.

State Updates

Visit Tracker is Here...

We are pleased to announce that Illinois has contracted with DataKeeper Technologies to make Visit Tracker the new database system for MIECHV. Home visitors and home visiting site administrators have been trained, and we appreciate all of their help in entering back data in preparation for the upcoming reports due to HRSA. There will be a webinar on September 5 to review new features, including the Form 1 HRSA demographic data report (see page 7 for details).

After the benchmark data are submitted, the next priority will be to build out the Coordinated Intake function. In conjunction with this, there will be a revision of the Coordinated Intake Assessment Tool (CIAT); if you have suggestions for improving the CIAT, please contact Joanna Su.

... and so is Lesley's baby!



Congratulations to Lesley Schwartz from the Illinois MIECHV Team, who welcomed a healthy baby girl, Cassidy Ann, in July! Lesley plans to return to work in mid-September.



We are pleased to announce that the State is now able to provide some public awareness campaign materials for MIECHV home visiting, with the potential to be rolled out to other home visiting communities statewide.

The Macon County MIECHV partners took the initiative to work with a local marketing firm to develop the iGrow logo above. The firm, DCC Marketing, is working on billboards, portable indoor and outdoor banners, bus signs, posters, and other print materials for Macon County.

The Illinois MIECHV Team is recommending that the logo and design templates be used across the MIECHV communities (at no additional cost to the sites), and we will be discussing this with each site in the coming weeks.

Three New Communities Explore Coordinated Intake

Illinois thanks Children's Home + Aid in Bloomington, Children's Home Association in Peoria, and the Stephenson County Health Department for exploring Coordinated Intake for home visiting in their respective areas. In the coming months, these three communities will be doing coordinated intake planning with their local home visiting providers and other early childhood stakeholders.

More Federal Updates



Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation

Illinois is among the first states to begin research activities as part of the **Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE)**. MIHOPE is a large-scale random assignment evaluation of home visiting programs funded by the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. The evaluation is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

MIHOPE is designed to build knowledge for policymakers and practitioners about the effectiveness of the MIECHV Program for improving outcomes for at-risk children and families. The evaluation, among other tasks, measures the effect of early childhood home visiting programs on child and parent outcomes, measures how effects vary for different programs and populations, and measures the cost of operating the programs. The study is expected to include roughly 85 program sites and 5,100 families clustered in about 12 states nationwide. As of August 1, 2013, 173 Illinois families have enrolled in the study.

The MIHOPE study team is grateful to Illinois MIECHV programs for their participation in the evaluation. More information regarding [MIHOPE](#) is available from MDRC, the research firm team leading the study.

Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative (HARC)

HARC stands for the Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative. It is a practice-based research network for conducting collaborative, field-initiated studies with local home visiting programs, regardless of the particular model used. HARC is a voluntary network. Any local program that provides home visiting for expectant families and/or families of children birth to five years as its primary service strategy is welcome to join.

HARC is part of the Home Visiting Research Network (HVRN) that developed the stakeholder-driven national home visiting research agenda. HARC will advance the field through multi-site studies addressing the agenda's research priorities. These priorities include research to: strengthen and broaden home visiting effectiveness; identify the core elements of home visiting; promote successful adoption and adaptation of home visiting innovations, family engagement, service fidelity, coordination, and sustainability. It also includes research to build a stable, competent home visiting workforce.

HARC aims to initiate two to three studies each year. Studies will range from simple surveys to more complex designs, such as piloting new measures or testing interventions to improve practice. Member programs can participate in specific studies but are under no obligation to take part in any particular study. Member programs can also propose studies on specific topics related to the research agenda. They can collaborate in designing studies so that the methods reflect their perspectives and the results are most useful for decision-making. Some studies, such as those that rely on surveys, can be carried out in a short time. Member programs will be the first to access results.

While HARC is primarily for local home visiting sites, HVRN offers research-related opportunities to advance the field for all home visiting stakeholders. To join the HVRN or HARC, or to learn more about them, please visit the HVRN website, www.hvrn.org, or contact Kay Gonsalves at kgonsal1@jhmi.edu.

Meet the CPRD Field Data Collectors!



From left to right: Kathy Farrell, Kim Lovely, Jessica Nunez, Christy Reinhard, Judith Sparks, and Mary Anne Wilson.

Kathy Farrell holds a BS in Business and an MS in Family and Child Studies and has worked in the mental health field since 2002. farrellk@uillinois.edu / 815-979-4033.

Kim Lovely has degrees from UIC (MFA) and the School of the Art Institute Chicago (BFA) and a certificate from Archeworks. She has worked in the Social Science Research, Education, and Design professions for more than 10 years and previously served as an Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at the University of Maryland. She authored an essay in *Convention Challenged: 12 Years of Archeworks* and received the Project Osmosis Education Mentorship Award. lovely.k@sbcglobal.net / 773-219-5584.

Jessica Nunez holds a degree in Human Development with an emphasis on child development. Her background includes public health research as well as teaching. She is excited to take part in this project and has enjoyed meeting mothers and their children. jnu-nez2@uillinois.edu / 708 -769- 6865.

Christy Reinhard received her undergraduate degree from Duke University and her medical degree from Rush University; she completed her residency and chief residency in pediatrics at Cook County Medical Center. For the last fourteen years she worked as a general pediatrician, first in Cook County's ambulatory network, and then at Access Community Health Network, where she still practices general pediatrics one day per week. garrisre@uillinois.edu / 773-851-4901

Judith Sparks earned her BSN from Millikin University. She has worked in home visiting for 20 years, including working for 14 years at the Macon County Health Department as a case manager/ RN. jasparks@uillinois.edu / 217-246-5028.

Mary Anne Wilson holds an MSW and a BA in Psychology. Her background includes many years of program management, including six years supervising a teen-parent home visiting program. She is certified in use of the PAT curriculum and has over six years experience conducting home visits and leading parent support and education groups. mawilso@uillinois.edu / 217-377-2819.

Benchmark Data Update

To date, more than 300 families (about 75% of all MIECHV families) have received data collection visits from CPRD (the University of Illinois Center for Prevention Research and Development). From the beginning, CPRD's number one goal was to maintain the integrity of the relationship between the home visitor and the family, and the field data collectors have received feedback that families are finding the data visits to be much easier than anticipated.

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MIECHV Benchmark Highlight: Maternal and Newborn Health, Domestic Violence, and the 4P's

MIECHV's legislatively mandated benchmarks include improving maternal and newborn health and reducing domestic violence. To address these benchmarks, MIECHV Home Visitors have been trained to administer the 4 P's Plus, a validated eight-question screen developed by Dr. Ira Chasnoff of the Children's Research Triangle. The 4P's Plus was designed to quickly identify prenatal mothers at risk for alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug use, depression and domestic violence. Positive screens result in home visitors offering a brief intervention and a referral to the mother.

Illinois has recently received positive attention for using this tool in home visiting. Recently, Dr. Chasnoff, who provided training to MIECHV staff, had the opportunity to speak to two influential groups in Washington, D.C. On June 6, he spoke at a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee that focused on funding for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). On June 13 and 14, he met with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the Attorney General's Office to discuss prevention. Both groups specifically asked how Illinois MIECHV home visiting programs are addressing prevention of substance abuse, domestic violence and maternal depression. Illinois is one of the few states that addressing all of these issues within the home visiting context, and Dr. Chasnoff was able to explain how MIECHV incorporated the 4 P's Plus and provided him with hard data ...which especially impressed them! Dr. Chasnoff believes that our home visitors have a lot that they can teach other states and is considering publishing an article about his findings and how we have integrated behavioral health issues into our home visiting programs.

In order for Dr. Chasnoff to provide more Illinois MIECHV 4 P's data, we need home visiting programs to continue mailing in completed 4 P's (with identifying information removed) to: Children's Research Triangle c/o 4 P's Plus Team, 180 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601.



Continuous Quality Improvement

Our upcoming CQI webinar has been scheduled for July 26th from 1:00—2:30 p.m.. Most sites have identified the CQI lead at their agencies, and those CQI reps should have received emails informing them of this date. During the webinar, CPRD will be working with the CQI reps on their first CQI project. In addition, CPRD would like each site to have signed an MOU or to have draft MOU modifications available for discussion.

Please meet CPRD's CQI specialist: "As many of you know, I'm Deborah Kemmerer, the new CQI lead for the MIECHV project. Some of you I have already met, and I'm looking forward to meeting the rest of you soon. Here at

CPRD, I will assist all the agencies in their quest to implement a CQI process in order to improve the quality of care provided to MIECHV families. This will be done by providing a CQI guide and aiding all of the sites in the CQI process through online meetings and technical assistance. I have a background in business and public health, so I hope I can be of service in this endeavor. Please feel free to contact me at dkem@uillinois.edu or 217-300-4158."





Health Insurance Marketplace

On October 1, 2013, a new Health Insurance Marketplace will open in every state. For the first time, consumers will be able to go to one place to check out their coverage options, get accurate information in easy-to-understand language, and make apples-to-apples comparisons of plans before they make their decisions.

Federal Resources:

- ◆ Visit HealthCare.gov and CuidadoSalud.gov to access new educational information and learn what families can do to get ready for open enrollment. The websites will add functionality over the summer so that by October, consumers will be able to create accounts, complete an online application, and shop for qualified health plans. You can also call the Health Insurance Marketplace (CMS) call center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325). The call center is available 24/7 in 150 languages to answer questions to help Americans prepare for open enrollment and ultimately sign up for private health insurance.
- ◆ **Social Media:** Connect to HHS social media channels! Join the discussion on Facebook at [Facebook.com/HealthCare.gov](https://www.facebook.com/HealthCare.gov) or [Facebook.com/CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.facebook.com/CuidadoDeSalud.gov); follow Healthcare.gov on [@HealthCareGov](https://twitter.com/HealthCareGov) or [@CuidadoDeSalud](https://twitter.com/CuidadoDeSalud).
- ◆ **Infographics and Videos:** Post [infographics](#) and [PSA video websites](#) and run on short-circuit TV networks in waiting rooms of offices and on agency YouTube channels. Urge partners to do the same.
- ◆ **Widgets and Badges:** Post the [NEW Marketplace widget and badges](#) on agency websites and consumer facing sites and send out through social media. Encourage partners to do the same.
- ◆ **Share Resources:** Get the latest resources on the Marketplace and helping people apply at <http://marketplace.cms.gov/>. Share these resources, including brochures, fact sheets, posters, postcards, and checklists, with consumers and patients you serve.

Illinois Resources:

- ◆ **Through the Marketplace,** Illinois residents and small business owners will be able to compare quality and affordable health insurance options, apply for tax credits directly, and receive enrollment support. Enrollment in health coverage on the Marketplace will open on October 1, 2013 with plans effective on January 1, 2014.
- ◆ **In-Person Counselor Program (IPC) Grant Program:** On July 17, Governor Pat Quinn announced the award of \$27 million in federal funds to 44 community groups statewide that will be conducting outreach, providing education and facilitating enrollment in the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace through the In-Person Counselor Program. A complete list of the community groups selected to participate in the outreach and enrollment effort is available on the Illinois Marketplace website.
- ◆ For more details, and to sign up to receive more information about health coverage through the Marketplace, visit <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/healthcarereform/Pages/HealthInsuranceMarketplace.aspx>.

Professional Development Resources

Web-Based Resources:



HRSA's MIECHV Technical Assistance Coordinating Center (TACC) has created online groups within phConnect for MIECHV State administrators and provider agencies to connect, learn, share expertise, solve problems, and take advantage of innovative new approaches of working together.

phConnect is a free online collaboration tool built to support geographically dispersed professionals working in the field of public health. To begin collaborating on phConnect, visit <http://www.phconnect.org/>.

In addition, TACC is hosting the following upcoming webinars on the following topics:

Community of Practice for Centralized Intake:

August 21, 2:00 p.m. Central Time
September 18, 2:00 p.m. Central Time

Client Engagement and Retention

Part I: July 23, 2:00—3:30 p.m. Central Time
Part II: September 24, 2:00-3:30 p.m. Central Time

These webinars will be recorded and archived online.

Illinois Early Learning Council Webinars

The state's Early Learning Council (ELC) hosts periodic webinars on topics of interest to the early learning community: <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/OECD/Pages/EarlyLearningCouncil.aspx>.

Pew Home Visiting Campaign Webinars

The Pew Home Visiting Campaign holds informative webinars throughout the year:
<http://www.pewstates.org/research/featured-collections/>



Training Calendar

Visit Tracker Webinar (New Features and Q&A)

September 5, 2013
1:00—2:00 p.m.

joanna.su@illinois.gov

MIECHV Home Visitor Learning Communities

September 10, 2013 in Chicago
September 17, 2013 in Rockford
September 24, 2013 in Champaign
katherine.staten@illinois.gov

MIECHV CI and CSD Learning Communities

September 4, 2013
November 22, 2013
Chicago and Springfield
joanna.su@illinois.gov

40-Hour Domestic Violence Training For Home Visitors

September 16-18, 2013 in Champaign
katherine.staten@illinois.gov

Collective Impact Training For Community Systems Developers

September 17-18, 2013 in Champaign
joanna.su@illinois.gov

Social Change to Protect Children: 19th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference

October 24-25, 2013 in Lisle
www.preventchildabuseillinois.org

About the Newsletter

We created this newsletter in response to MIECHV providers' requests for a centralized source of updates. We plan to issue newsletters every 2-3 months. Please send your comments and suggestions to Ebony Hoskin at ebony.hoskin@illinois.gov.

MIECHV Provider Calls

Quarterly MIECHV Providers' Calls

Wednesday, September 25, 10:00—11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 3, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

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Benchmark Data (cont'd from page 4)

CPRD has completed six site visits to date, one in each MIECHV community. These visits allowed them to hear feedback on the data collection process, and to better understand the challenges that each site faces in collecting benchmark data. CPRD would like to thank all of the sites for their time and patience. The field data team received a lot of useful information on how to improve the home visit data process, as well as what would be helpful for CQI in the future. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Poes at mpoes@illinois.edu or 217-333-3231.

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