Home Visiting Task Force
Executive Committee Meeting
July 1st, 2014

MINUTES

Attendees: Glendean Burton, Deb Daro, Donna Emmons, Rosemary Garcia, Gaylord Gieseke (co-chair), Elissa Gitlow, Dan Harris, Theresa Hawley**,** Madelyn James**,** Teresa Kelly, Audrey Moy, Gail Nourse**,** Anna Potere, Diana Rauner (co-chair)**,** Lesley Schwartz, Penny Smith, Julie Spielberger, Joanna Su, Janelle Weldin-Frisch**,** Cindy Zumwalt

April 9th Meeting Minutes

- April 9th, 2014 Minutes were approved with no changes.

State Update

- The General Assembly's 2014 session ended on May 31. The General Assembly finalized the state's FY2015 budget and also advanced a number of legislative measures affecting young children and their families.
- Budget:
    - The Early Childhood Block Grant, Healthy Families and Parents Too Soon home visiting programs, and Early Intervention are funded at the same amount as last year.
    - The Child Care Assistance Program received a cut of $24 million from its FY2014 funding level. Further information about how these cuts might be implemented has yet been released.
    - There were not enough votes to extend the current income tax rates. As a result, financial pressures will mount through the year.
- Legislation:
    - **HB4440**: Raises the minimum percentage (from 11% to 14%) of early childhood dollars in the State Board of Education budget that are directed to infant and toddler programs.
    - **HB4407**: Provides families the option to retain current Early Intervention services while there is a dispute pending regarding a child's Early Intervention service plan.
    - **SB741**: Restores adult dental treatment services to Medicaid clients.

Strong Foundations Evaluation Findings

Illinois:

- Improved collaboration and partnerships at governance level and much greater understanding of home visiting as comprehensive and less siloed in the state. The HVTF is a good example of these efforts.
- Increase in characteristics that indicate we are serving a higher-risk population than previously (low-income families, single parent families, teen parents, families whose first language is not English, etc.)
- Completed visits tended to increase over time but when the budget cut occurred there was a sharp decrease in clients served. After funding was restored there was a vast improvement.
- Small increase in prenatal engagement over time, especially in Chicago.
- Common data is an ongoing challenge.

- Uncertainty of funding for programs made it harder to stop and start than to just start up and made it difficult to maintain relationships and trust. How do we build up those supports to reduce uncertainty for programs?
- Home visitors liked cross-model trainings and that domestic violence and substance abuse trainings are home visiting-centric and practice-centric.
- How can state agencies capture the extra work that home visitors do and make it "count" to reflect quality?

National:

- Of all states, Illinois is the most focused on strengthening and further developing the infrastructure rather than expanding direct services.

Medicaid Certification for Home Visitors

- The Sustainability Workgroup has continued to pursue Medicaid funding to expand access to home visiting programs in Illinois.
- When we met with HFS Director Hamos to discuss our strategy, she asked us to develop a proposal that would allow home visitors to bill Medicaid in our state system given that most home visitors are not automatically Medicaid-certified providers.
- Ohio, which has a similar population of home visitors than Illinois (i.e., mostly Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers), developed a certification system to allow home visitors to bill Medicaid for home visiting services that was approved by the state Medicaid office as well as the federal Medicaid office (CMS).
- The Ounce Institute developed a proposal based on Ohio's certification system because the Ounce Institute already has a training system in place to train and track the training of 95% of the home visitors in the state. Additionally, after looking at Ohio's system, it became clear to us that many of the trainings that would comprise a certification are already provided through the core and wraparound trainings that the Ounce Institute offers.
- The Executive Committee commented on the draft and asked that a next draft be brought back to the committee when it is ready.

HV – DCFS Partnership

- There is a lapse in DCFS referring to early childhood programs and in performing developmental screenings.
- Home visitors are interested in working to increase connections between the two systems.
- This group will become an ad hoc workgroup of the Home Visiting Task Force and we look forward to continuing to hear about progress.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- The next full HVTF meeting is July 22nd from 12pm-2pm.
- The next HVTF Executive Committee meeting is October 7th from 2pm-4pm.