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National HV Advocates Call for Days of Action October 24-26

A young girl in a blue graduation cap and gown, smiling and waving, being held by a woman.

“Congress must work quickly to reauthorize MIECHV in a way that preserves flexibility and

MIECHV, along with the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and other key programs that provide support to vulnerable families, were not reauthorized prior to September 30th.

The Coalition is calling on home visiting supporters to call, tweet and email members of Congress to underscore the impact of MIECHV and the potential disruptions caused by further delaying its

HRSA recently awarded \$342 million in MIECHV funding to 55 states, territories and nonprofits—including \$10.8 million to the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions—for FY 2017. This is the last award for the program unless it is reauthorized. These funds allow awardees to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women during pregnancy, and to parents with young children up to kindergarten entry. In Florida, MIECHV supports implementation of three evidence-based models—Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families Florida, and Parents as Teachers—in 25 of the state's 29 high-need counties and four contiguous areas. The program also supports professional development, systems building and quality improvement initiatives aimed at optimizing child outcomes.

At its recent meeting, the state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact advisory group explored what it means to adopt a racial equity

Florida's work in piloting community-based systems of Coordinated Intake & Referral (CI&R) was featured during a workshop at the 2017 CityMatCH MCH

Marissa Bressi
and Lauren
Blenker, Healthy
Start Coalition of
Manatee County,
and Brenda

The CI&R initiative, which was funded by FL MIECHV, was also featured in the

Focus on Safe Sleep

Sleep-related deaths are the leading preventable cause of infant mortality after the first month of life. More than 200 babies died in Florida each year from Sudden and Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUID) during 2014-16. SUID includes SIDS, as well as certain unintentional injuries related to suffocation and strangulation, and other factors. SUID mortality rates are 2.5 times higher for black babies compared to white babies.

Performance Measure 7:

Percent of infants enrolled in home visiting that are always placed to sleep on their backs, without bed-sharing or soft bedding

MIECHV Performance Measure 7 assesses the success of home visiting in supporting safe sleep practices among program participants with children up to age one. Home visitors ask families about sleep position, bed sharing and bedding, and provide education at multiple points during the babies' first year.

Safe sleep practices in Florida vary significantly by race, age, parent education level, income and Medicaid participation (PRAMS). Sixty-five percent of new families report consistently placing their babies on their backs to sleep. Families are less likely to follow this safe sleep practice if caregivers are black, <19 years old, have <high school education, have incomes <\$15,000 a year and are covered by Medicaid. About 22 percent of new families report bed sharing, with a similar risk pattern.

FL MIECHV, along with Healthy Families Florida and Healthy Start, are supporting training for home visitors and other infant care providers using the **Safe Baby** curriculum developed by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County. This one-day training focuses on teaching parents how to choose a safe caregiver for their children, prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome, and promote safe sleep. Free trainings are currently scheduled for October and November in Miami, Panama City and Gainesville. Register in [LMS](#).



Preliminary results from the Baby's Best Sleep Study, being conducted by the FL MIECHV evaluation team at USF, underscore the important role home visitors play in reinforcing safe sleep practices among enrolled families. MIECHV participants are being interviewed to examine current infant sleep practices and perceptions of various infant sleep furnishings. The majority of participants interviewed to date recalled receiving safe sleep guidance from various sources, including their MIECHV home visitor. Some participants have informed other caregivers about these guidelines with mixed success. A variety of sleep furnishings are being used in different sleep settings, including cribs, pack-n-plays, bassinets, rock-n-plays, and swings, though a few parents still report co-sleeping. Many participants express interest in receiving free infant sleep furnishings, but their intentions to use them vary. Preliminary findings point to challenges in translating education into practice.

How to Create a Safe Sleep Environment

The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) updated 2016 recommendations](#) to reduce the risk of all sleep-related infant deaths, including SIDS. See [How to Keep Your Sleeping Baby Safe: AAP Policy Explained](#) to learn more about these and other actions.

1. Place your baby on his or her back for all sleep times—for naps and at night.
2. Use a firm sleep surface, such as a mattress in a safety-approved crib or bassinet, covered only by a fitted sheet.
3. Have the baby share your room, not your bed. Your baby should not sleep in an adult bed, on a couch, or on a chair alone, with you, or with anyone else.
4. Keep soft objects, such as pillows and loose bedding out of your baby's sleep area.
5. Do not allow smoking around your baby.



Cribs for Kids® Certifies Safe Sleep Hospitals in FL

Ten Florida hospitals have been certified as Safe Sleep Hospitals under a new national initiative. [The Cribs for Kids® National Infant Safe Sleep Hospital](#)



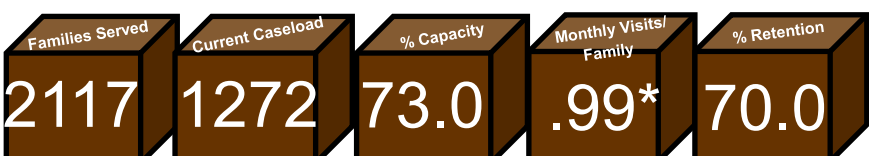
[Certification program](#) awards recognition to hospitals that demonstrate a commitment to reducing infant sleep-related deaths by promoting best safe sleep practices and by educating others about infant sleep safety. By becoming certified, a hospital demonstrates that it is committed to be a community leader and is pro-actively preventing as many sleep-related deaths as possible. There is no cost to become Cribs for Kids® Safe Sleep Certified.



Save the Date!

2018 First 1000 Days Florida Conference
September 26-28, 2018 • Palm Beach

MIECHV DASHBOARD



Source: Based on October, 2016—September 2017 reports from four LIA cohorts (April, 2013, October 2013, October, 2015 and April, 2017).
* Home visit completion rates decreased significantly this month due to Hurricane Irma.

Infant Mental Health Endorsement® Launched

The Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH) announced the statewide adoption of the new Florida Infant Mental Health Endorsement (FIMH-E®) at a kick-off meeting earlier this month in St. Petersburg.



Based on the widely recognized Michigan system, FIMH-E® provides a specialty overlay to an individual's professional credentials that recognizes achievement of knowledge, training, and experience in the area of infant and early childhood mental health. The Endorsement is relevant across all settings and systems that serve young children and their families, including child care, early intervention, primary health care, home visiting, child welfare as well as early childhood mental health.

More than 90 participants attended the two-day kick-off which provided an overview of the Endorsement as well as an opportunity to work with Michigan representatives to plan a strategy for rolling it out. FL MIECHV helped to support Endorsement development as part of its efforts to strengthen mental health services available to families served by home visiting programs in the state.

Connecting Families to Health Insurance Coverage

The 2018 Open Enrollment period for health insurance available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will run from November 1 thru December 15, 2017. This year, families will only have 45 days to enroll in new coverage.

November 1, 2017 is the first day families can enroll, re-enroll, or change a 2018 insurance plan through the Health Insurance



Marketplace. Coverage can start as soon as January 1, 2018. [Covering Kids & Families](#), an initiative of the University of South Florida, offers a statewide network of Navigators to assist families one-on-one with the enrollment process. Percent of primary caregivers with health insurance coverage for at least six consecutive months is a performance measure for the FL MIECHV Initiative.

Home Visiting Programs Help Families Weather Storm

MIECHV home visiting programs provided critical support to participating families coping with evacuation, power outages, flooding and other effects from Hurricane Irma as it hit the state in September. Despite widespread service disruptions, sites managed to check on families both before and after the storm using text messaging and other strategies. Home visits dropped 25% statewide as a result of the storm. HF Orange and Palm Beach PAT, which serves Belle Glade, and SWFL NFP experienced office damage and were forced to re-locate home visiting staff. Several programs, including Manatee/Desoto/Hardee/Sarasota and Pinellas PAT programs noted families were particularly impacted by loss of food and income. Programs



assisted by providing grocery store gift cards and linking families to resources, such as FEMA and D-SNAP benefits. MIECHV programs reported the birth of at least three babies during the storm—none of them named Irma!

CI&R (con't)

summer issue of [CityLights](#) which highlights collective impact efforts by states and communities throughout the country. Based on the pilot effort, CI&R is being scaled statewide. All [32 Healthy Start Coalitions](#) will be working over the year to form local teams, develop service inventories and decision trees, test data collection, and refine processes for linking families to programs that best meet their preferences and needs. Full implementation is planned for July 2018.

FL MIECHV and the 10 Healthy Start Coalitions that piloted CI&R will provide technical assistance and support through webinars, bimonthly calls and quarterly updates.

Representatives from the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, FL MIECHV and pilot sites recently participated in the Healthy Families Florida state leadership conference and shared their experiences and the plans for expanding CI&R statewide.

ECCS Advisory Group (con't)

presented her work to develop a parent leadership program in the Tallahassee area. The group also reviewed state-level efforts to organize an integrated data system to track child developmental outcomes and school readiness. Tamara Price, Help Me Grow Florida (HMGF) statewide director, and Kati Settle, HMGF data manager, catalogued numerous state agency work groups and initiatives by the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet to link longitudinal data from the multiple systems that touch children from birth to school age. The opportunity to coordinate activities and reduce duplication was highlighted.

Dr. Jennifer Marshall, who leads FL ECCS evaluation efforts at the University of South Florida, presented baseline results from a survey of state ECCS partners designed to assess levels of collaboration around early childhood development and systems building. Using the [PARTNER tool](#), the evaluation team analyzed the level of interaction, trust and perceptions of key state ECCS project stakeholders. Most participants reported cooperative and coordinated partnerships, and cited a potential for greater integration of services through the project. Marshall noted there was a fairly high level of trust (88.3%) among the baseline group of stakeholders. Potential outcomes cited by respondents included increased knowledge sharing, innovation in service delivery, improved services for children and families in high-need communities, improved resource sharing and improved communications among agencies serving children. The PARTNER survey will be repeated periodically throughout the five-year project to measure changes in collaboration and other factors. Check the USF [ECCS Evaluation website](#) for more information.



FL MIECHV state staff and partners attended the 2017 HRSA All Grantees Meeting last month in Washington DC. Allison Parish, Senior Manager, and USF Evaluation team members Dr. Jennifer Marshall and Ngozi Agwu presented on our Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts on panels that focused on states' use of the IHI model and lessons learned in implementing the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Learning Collaborative. State initiatives were also shared in the grantee poster session.



(Left) Congratulations to the latest graduates of Hillsborough Nurse-Family Partnership! Ten families and their two-year-olds recently celebrated completion of the program during ceremonies in Tampa. The NFP program is administered by the Hillsborough Healthy Start Coalition with services provided by REACH UP, the federal Healthy Start initiative in central Tampa.



(Above) Bay County community partners gathered recently to celebrate the new Healthy Start and Parents As Teachers building on Jenks Avenue in Panama City partnering with Children's Advocacy Center! The Healthy Start Coalition in Bay, Franklin, Gulf is a new MIECHV awardee.



(Above) Lauren Blenker, presents on Manatee County's experience in piloting CI&R at the 2017 CityMatCH/Healthy Start conference. (Above right) Representatives from FAHSC, Healthy Families Florida, and the MIECHV CI&R pilot shared plans for scale-up at the HFF Leadership meeting in Orlando. (Right) Home visitors attend joint training in Jacksonville as part of the CI&R Project.



ABOUT FLORIDA MIECHV

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.



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