



## Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

## In This Issue:

- May is Maternal Mental Health Month
- Fatherhood Engagement Team Convenes
- First 1000 Days Poster Abstract Deadline Now June 1
- Focus on Child Maltreatment
- Sites Celebrate Great Childhoods for Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Data Review Points to CQI Topics
- Highlights from Collective Impact, Racial Equity Meets
- New Guidelines Focus on 4th Trimester
- FL MIECHV Friends & Happenings

Maternal Mental Health Month:  
Tackling the Stigma of Perinatal Depression

May is Maternal Mental Health (MMH) Month and during the first week, advocates, providers and mothers will join in a social media campaign to raise awareness about perinatal depression, the most common complication of childbirth. This year's theme is #RealMotherhood #NoShame: Getting Real About Motherhood is Healthy for Everyone.



[The Blue Dot Project](#), an initiative of [2020 Mom](#), has created a [MMH Toolkit](#) to help lift the stigma frequently experienced by mothers and families suffering from a maternal mental health disorder like postpartum depression. The toolkit contains social media messages, as well as downloadable print resources.

TheBlueDot  
p.r.o.j.e.c.t  
[www.thebluedotproject.org](http://www.thebluedotproject.org)

Screening for perinatal depression and linking mothers to needed resources are MIECHV performance measures. In 2017, 81% of moms enrolled in home visiting were screened for perinatal depression within required timeframes. However, less than 10% of those referred for services actually received them. FL MIECHV has invested in capacity

building to improve access to proven interventions like [Moving Beyond Depression™](#) and the [Mothers & Babies Program](#) and is a founding member of the [Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative](#).

## Partners Strategize on Fatherhood Initiative

Members of the Father Engagement State Improvement Team convened in Orlando this month to continue the discussion on how to better engage fathers in home visiting services. The team consists of representatives in various positions from Florida MIECHV, Healthy Families, and state and federal Healthy Start, as well as consultants from around the state who specialize in father involvement.



The team discussed research-based practices and shared successful strategies for working with fathers. Dr. James McHale, Director of the Family Study Center at USF St. Petersburg, shared information on his work around co-parenting, and staff from local programs shared some techniques they are currently using, such as hiring peer mentors to work with dads in their

program. After reviewing the results of the Father Friendly Check-up, completed by local programs in Fall 2017, members began to identify gaps and highlight areas that are ripe for improvement. The team began discussing next steps for increasing father engagement, such as conducting an organizational review of agency policies and procedures and offering additional professional development opportunities to staff at all levels.

Deadline for Submission of First 1000 Days  
Summit Best Practice Poster Abstract Now June 1

The deadline for submitting abstracts for the **2018 First 1000 Days Florida Summit Best Practices & Effective Strategies Poster Showcase** has been extended to June 1st. The showcase and reception will cap the opening day of the summit on Wednesday, September 26th.

The Showcase will focus on community strategies that successfully address common challenges in serving families with young children across the spectrum of maternal & child health, safety and school readiness. Areas of interest include family engagement & retention; serving diverse, multi-cultural families and children with varying abilities; intentionally addressing equity; developing effective community partnerships; recruiting, training & supporting staff; and addressing risk factors such as depression, substance use and IPV. Posters selected for the showcase will be awarded prizes, including a "People's Choice" award.

The goal of this showcase is to highlight best practices and innovations from the field and promote peer-to-peer sharing and support. Additional information and a link to the abstract form is available on the [conference website](#).



## Performance Measure 9: Child Maltreatment

Prevention of child abuse and neglect is a key focus of evidence-based home visiting programs. Families with a history of abuse or neglect are a priority population for enrollment in FL MIECHV-funded programs, and account for about 20% of participants statewide.

In 2015, there were 43,775 children in Florida who were victims of abuse or neglect—about 10.7 per 1,000 children ([Florida's Children 2017](#)). This rate represents an improvement of 4.3% over the prior year. Of these children, more than half were neglected, while 9.7% were physically abused and 5.7% were sexually abused.

Home visiting provides critical support to expectant and new families to build their resilience, improve their parenting skills, and increase their social supports and access to needed services.

**Performance Measure 9:**  
Percent of children enrolled in home visiting with at least one investigated case of maltreatment following enrollment within the reporting period.



Performance Measure 9 tracks the prevalence of potential maltreatment among families enrolled in home visiting. MIECHV enrollment data are matched with data from the Florida Department of Children & Families annually to determine results for this systems outcome measure.

In 2017, less than 2% of children receiving home visiting services through FL MIECHV had an investigated case of maltreatment within the reporting period.

The [Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida](#) and [Prevent Child Abuse Florida](#) are collaborating partners in the implementation of FL MIECHV, and provide professional development and other resources to support prevention activities.

## FL MIECHV Sites, Partners Support Great Childhoods During Child Abuse Prevention Month



Manatee PAT staff (l to r) Victoria Ramos, Gail Mays, Marta Gonzalez, Eilyn Soto, Anna Cismesia, Altgracia Lajara wear blue for Child Abuse Prevention Month!

FL MIECHV-supported home visiting sites joined state and community partners in April to support Great Childhoods during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Organized by [Prevent Child Abuse Florida](#), the annual event featured activities such as Wear Blue Day and a social media campaign designed to highlight the importance of supporting families in raising safe and nurtured children.

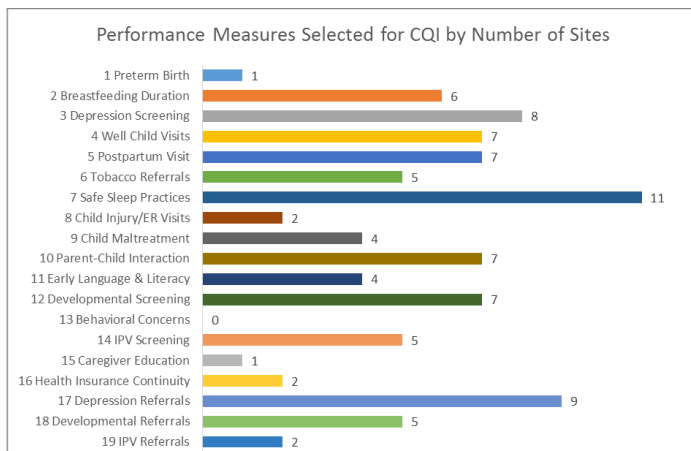
[Healthy Families Florida](#), the state's largest evidence-based home visiting program, is a primary state strategy for preventing abuse and neglect. FL MIECHV currently funds HFF sites in Escambia and Orange Counties, enabling them to serve an expanded caseload in these communities.

## MIECHV Sites Select Quality Improvement Areas

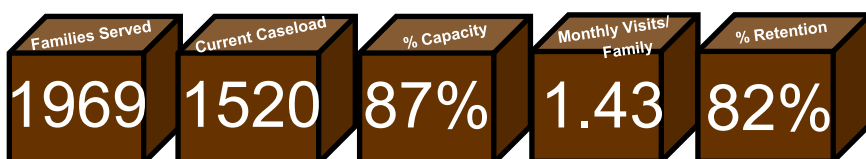
All FL MIECHV sites received annual data reports for federal fiscal year 2017, and then used those reports to identify areas for improvement over the coming year. Of the 19 performance measures reported to HRSA, 18 of those were selected as an area of focus by at least one program.

The measures most commonly identified as areas for improvement were Safe Sleep (PM 7), Depression Referrals (PM 17), and Depression Screening (PM 3).

This is the beginning of a process that FL MIECHV is undertaking to better support programs in addressing HRSA performance measures.



## MIECHV DASHBOARD



Source: Based on October, 2017—March, 2018 reports from four LIA cohorts (April, 2013, October 2013, October, 2015 and April, 2017).

## Using Collective Impact to Improve Child Development

The [Florida Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems \(ECCS\) Impact Project](#) is both a multi-state learning collaborative, with the aim of improving child development by age 3, and a collective impact project in two place-based communities (Liberty City in Miami and New Town in Jacksonville).



The Florida MIECHV Initiative administers this grant and funds the Miami Children's Initiative and Edward Waters College (New Town Success Zone) to lead the work in their communities. One of the best resources on collective impact is the [Collective Impact Forum](#), host of a Collective Impact Convening

in early April. FL MIECHV staff members Allison Parish and Ghia Kelly attended this meeting to gain resources and skills to advance this work in Florida. A prominent theme of the ECCS focus in Florida, and that of the Collective Impact Convening, is ensuring all of the work is done with racial equity at the forefront.

One of the highlights was the opening plenary speaker, Vu Le, who challenged the audience with his talk, "[Beyond the Seats at the Table: Equity, Inclusion and Collective Impact](#)." Le, the Executive Director of [Rainier Valley Corps](#) and author behind the popular blog [Nonprofit AF](#), blended humor with cautionary tales about Collective Impact work in communities of color—which describes both ECCS communities in Florida. He posed the question, "How do we do collective impact work, if we aren't willing to admit that a lot of the challenges we are dealing with stem from systemic racial injustice?" He then described how collective impact might look like if it were designed by people of color:

- Grounded in equity, race and intersectionality
- Community-determined common agenda
- Shared measurement that prioritizes lived experience
- Mutually-reinforcing activities built on trust and strong relationships
- Culturally-responsive communications
- Community-led backbone organizations
- Equal emphasis on direct service and systems change
- Equitable distribution of resources

He stressed that equity equals resources and that engaging a community without providing sufficient resources is not equitable and does not build trust.

The Florida ECCS Advisory Group and the Community Improvement Teams will meet on May 31st to jointly discuss equity issues as well as other efforts needed to move this work forward.

## Keeping Racial Equity at the Center of ECCS Work

Florida ECCS has prioritized racial equity in its work both at the state and local levels. According to the National Equity Project, racial equity is more than an intellectual framework but both an *outcome* and a *process*. In other words, achieving racial equity takes work!

Ghia Kelly, ECCS Project Manager, attended the [Racial Equity Institute's \(REI\)](#) Phase II Training in Durham, NC to further the ECCS equity work. The two-day workshop was hosted by [Organizing Against Racism \(OAR\)](#) Durham and was attended by leaders from various sectors who were all working to achieve racial equity within their organizations and communities.



In attendance was Ben Hecht, the President and CEO of [Living Cities](#), a collaborative of 18 of the world's leading foundation and financial institutions who work together boldly to fight poverty in America's cities. The Phase II training is designed to help individuals and institutions practice reframing problems and determining solutions with a racial equity lens. Participants were encouraged to use a "trial and error" approach, taking greater risks to change what are too often entrenched patterns of institutional practice.

## ACOG Broadens Scope of Postpartum Care

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) released [revised guidance](#) this month reinforcing the importance of the "fourth trimester" of pregnancy and proposing a new paradigm for postpartum care.



Previously, ACOG recommended a comprehensive postpartum visit take place within the first six weeks after birth. ACOG now recommends that postpartum care should be an ongoing process, rather than a single encounter and that all women have contact with their ob-gyns or other obstetric care providers within the first three weeks postpartum.

"New mothers need ongoing care during the 'fourth trimester.' We want to replace the one-off checkup at six weeks with a period of sustained, holistic support for growing families," said Alison Stuebe, M.D., lead author of the Committee Opinion. "Our goal is for every new family to have a comprehensive care plan and a care team that supports the mother's strengths and addresses her multiple, intersecting needs following birth."

Completion of a postpartum visit is a federal performance measure for the MIECHV program. In 2017, 74% of new mothers enrolled in FL MIECHV-funded home visiting programs received a postpartum visit following delivery. Nationally, only 40% of mothers receive a six-week postpartum check-up.

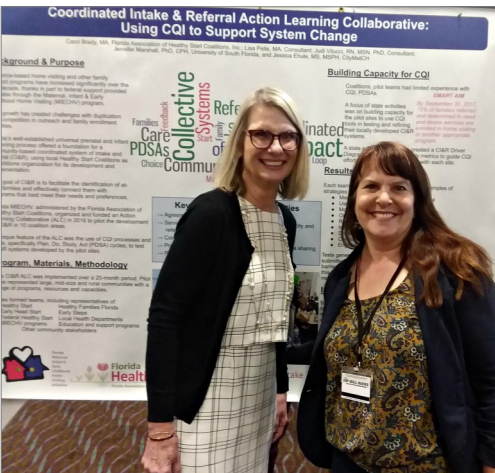
To learn more about this topic, check out [The Fourth Trimester: Providing Support & Services to New Mothers](#), an archived FL MIECHV webinar by Dr. Sarah Verbiest, Executive Director of the Center for Maternal & Infant Health in the UNC School of Medicine and the CDC Senior Consultant for the National Preconception Health and Health Care Initiative.





Happy Spring

Families and staff from the Pinellas PAT+ program welcomed spring recently with a special Easter Group Connection!



FL MIECHV Project Director Carol Brady and USF Evaluator Dr. Jennifer Marshall recently attended the annual conference of the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) and presented a poster on the Coordinated Intake & Referral Learning Collaborative and Using CQI to Support System Change.

FPQC is involved in a variety of projects to improve maternal and infant outcomes, including Access LARC which aims to increase the availability of immediate postpartum long-acting reversible contraception and PROVIDE, an effort to reduce unnecessary primary C-section deliveries. FPQC is also working on a new initiative to improve the quality of birth certificate data.



Representatives from Florida MIECHV, Healthy Families, state and federal Healthy Start, and other partners strategize and plan statewide efforts to improve engagement of fathers in early childhood programs.



## 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](mailto:cbrady@fahsc.org) or visit [www.FLMIECHV.com](http://www.FLMIECHV.com).



Funded by HRSA Grants # X10MC29478 & H25MC30342