



Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

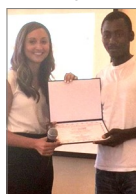
In This Issue:

- Celebrating Dads in Home Visiting
- State CQI Team Sets Strategy
- Register Now for First 1000 Days
- Focus on Parent-Child Interaction
- Addressing Gun Safety in HV
- Core Competency Framework Finalized
- FL ECCS Groups Meet
- AMCHP: CI&R Promising Practice
- Tampa HV Programs in Nat'l Report
- Linking Home Visiting, Early Care & Education
- FL MIECHV Friends & Happenings

MIECHV Dads: Supporting Their Success with Home Visiting

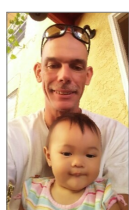
Becoming a father is a life-changing experience, especially when dad takes on the role of primary caregiver. Less than one percent of MIECHV participants are fathers, and for them home visiting offers the critical education and support they often need to be successful parents. Here are two stories.

Guenby and his girlfriend enrolled in the Hillsborough



Nurse-Family Partnership program in 2015 and took part in home visits throughout pregnancy and their daughter's first year. Shortly before the baby's first birthday, his girlfriend left and he was faced with raising his daughter alone. Guenby reached out to their nurse home visitor for help and support, and last month became the program's first graduating dad. Read his story [here](#).

For Mark, working with the Bay County Parents as



Teachers program helped him build the skills and confidence he needed to gain custody of his daughter who had been placed in foster care. And his Parent Educator offered focused education and support in overcoming challenges with her development. Read his story [here](#).

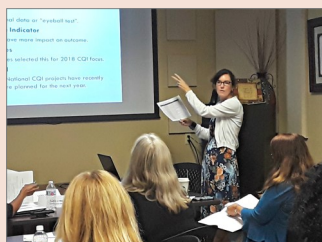
FL MIECHV has joined with state home visiting partners to develop plans for engaging fathers. Consultants Ken Scarborough and Swannie Jett are working with the group to formulate strategies for the initiative.

State CQI Team Reconvenes, Reviews Performance and Shapes Improvement Strategy

After taking a hiatus to focus on statewide Learning Collaboratives, the Florida MIECHV Initiative reconvened the State CQI Team in May. Volunteers from nine local implementing agencies (LIAs) as well as model representatives met with the state MIECHV staff and lead evaluator to determine next steps for statewide and local CQI priorities.

After a review of past activities and accomplishments, the Team reviewed performance measurement data from FY2017 and the first half of FY2018, and the MIECHV evaluator shared information from the safe sleep evaluation. The group then discussed priorities in terms of topics and methods, as well as successes and challenges conducting CQI in their respective agencies. The consensus of the group was that we would not proceed with another Learning Collaborative since there is not one area that is a priority for the majority of LIAs. However, the LIA staff stated they would still like to meet occasionally to share storyboards on their own CQI activities.

Following the meeting, LIAs selected their top two priorities for CQI. Early learning & literacy, safe sleep practices and addressing perinatal depression were selected by a plurality of sites. LIAs will report quarterly on their CQI activities and be offered individual coaching, as needed. While the Supporting Child Development Learning Collaborative just ended on May 31 with a final webinar on June 27, we are off to a good start on next steps with the help of the State CQI Team.



Virginia Holland, FL MIECHV Manager, Data Quality & Reporting, reviews performance data with state CQI team.

Register Now for First 1000 Days Summit!

Join early childhood professionals in home visiting, infant mental health, early learning, and maternal and child health in cutting-edge, cross sector learning at the **2018 First 1000 Days Summit** September 26-28 at the Palm Beach Convention Center. Plenary speakers include **Sara Enos Watamura**, director of the Child Health & Development Lab and co-director of the Stress, Early



September 26-28, 2018
West Palm Beach, Florida

CLICK NOW TO REGISTER!

Experience and Development Research Center at the University of Denver; **Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek**, the Stanley and Debra Lefkowitz Faculty Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Temple University and a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; **Ellen Galinsky**, President and Co-Founder of Families and Work Institute, and Chief Science Officer and Executive Director of Mind in the Making at the Bezos Family Foundation; and **Kate Rosenblum**, director of the Women and Infants Mental Health Program at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. The summit will feature more than 40 workshops, as well as a Showcase of Best Practices featuring innovative community initiatives. Space is limited. [Register](#) now!

Performance Measure 10: Parent-Child Interaction

Parent-child interaction is critical for optimal brain development and preparing a child for school. According to the [Harvard Center on the Developing Child](#), “Children’s

Performance Measure 10:
Percent of target children enrolled in home visiting who receive an observation of caregiver-child interaction by the home visitor using a validated tool.

experiences with all of the people who are consistently in their lives have an important influence on their brain structure and function. This developmental process is fueled by reciprocal, ‘serve and return’ interactions between children and the adults who care for them. Young children naturally reach out for interaction through babbling, facial expressions, gestures, and words, and adults who are responsive return these serves with similar vocalizing, gesturing, and emotional engagement. If the adult’s responses are unreliable, inappropriate, or simply absent, the architecture of the child’s developing brain may be disrupted, and later

learning, behavior, and health may be impaired.”

Home visitors are in the perfect position for assessing the quality of the parent-child interaction and can take steps to strengthen that interaction through curriculum, modeling and hands-on activities during visits. The following tools are administered by the three evidence-based home visiting models at specific intervals throughout the duration of the program in response to HRSA Performance Measure 10:



- **NFP:** Dyadic Assessment of Naturalistic Caregiver–Child Experiences (DANCE)
- **HFA:** Cues Holding Expression Empathy Rhythm & Reciprocity Smiles (CHEERS)
- **PAT:** Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME)

The way this performance indicator is measured changed in October 2017. Through May 2018, approximately 50 percent of families were observed at the most recent specified intervals using these tools. We anticipate this percentage will continue to rise as staff receive training and become more familiar with the requirements.

Promoting Gun Safety During Home Visits

Because of the debate over firearm legislation, bringing up gun safety can seem awkward. However, gun safety and legislation should not be confused. Educating parents and caregivers about keeping their children safe is one of the primary responsibilities of a home visitor. If gun safety information is provided as universal education on injury prevention, parents may heed the advice even if they do not acknowledge owning a gun.



The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) estimates that one-third of homes with children have guns and that many of these are loaded and accessible to children. Because approximately seven children each day die from firearms and many others are injured, the AAP started the [ASK Campaign](#)

which encourages parents to ask if someone whose home the child is visiting has a gun that is unlocked. The AAP provides a [handout](#) for parents that could be used by home visitors.

In March 2018, the [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#) released an article titled [“Promoting Gun Safety: Sharing Knowledge of Child Development to Support Informed Decisions”](#). This article shares great information on gun safety through the lens of developmental stages such as how children as young as two are capable of pulling a trigger. Finally, [Project ChildSafe](#), an initiative of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, is committed to keeping children safe in homes where firearms are present. In addition to providing specific information about the safest way to store firearms, they have partnered with law enforcement agencies across the country to provide a [free safety kit](#) which includes a cable-style gun lock and safety instructions.

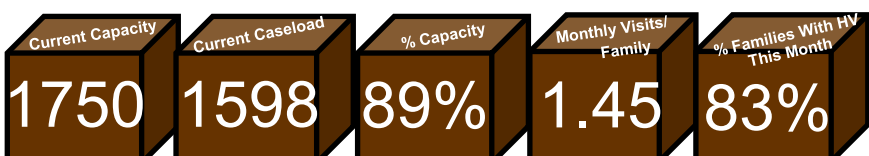
National Core Competency Framework Finalized

The [National Family Support Competency Framework](#) has been finalized by the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals (IAFSP). The core competencies outline a comprehensive baseline for professionals working with families in the home.



The framework outlines core competencies for direct service family support professionals at three levels: recognizing, applying, and extending working knowledge. They are organized around ten domains. The work is supported by a HRSA Innovation Grant to MIECHV programs in Iowa and Virginia.

MIECHV DASHBOARD



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

State ECCS Advisory Group, Neighborhood Teams Plan Next Steps for Improving Child Development

The state ECCS Advisory Group and neighborhood teams met recently in Altamonte Springs to plan next steps in the initiative which aims to improve child development through parent engagement, screening and linkage to services when needed.

FLORIDA



impact project

passionately presented to state-level partners the amazing work that is being done on behalf of young children and their families through the ECCS Impact project.

The group was also able to participate in a very thought-provoking conversation about racial equity and developmental health promotion in poor communities of color.

The second day was a joint meeting between the place-based communities and the state improvement team. The discussion focused on the direction we would like to take the project as well as how to reach its overall aim while accomplishing the goals that we have as a state.

The meeting was successful in bridging the gap between the state and local levels as well as identifying the major drivers of change in each community. Both teams will continue to meet to develop action steps and measures for the innovation work that the team is looking to embark on.

The first day was the larger advisory group meeting which focused on taking a closer look into the Liberty City and New Town neighborhoods and the assets and barriers of each.

The local ECCS coordinators, their agency leadership, and parent representatives



FL ECCS Parent Partner Talethia Edwards reviews key drivers of change.

CI&R Pilot Recognized as Promising Practice

Efforts by FL MIECHV to pilot Coordinated Intake & Referral (CI&R) using the state's universal prenatal and infant screening process were recognized recently as a [Promising Practice](#) by the [Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs \(AMCHP\)](#). The national organization, which represents state Title V programs, reviewed CI&R pilot activities and evaluation results, and approved the project for inclusion in its Innovation Station database for potential replication by other states.



The CI&R pilot was launched in 2015 as part of systems building activities included in a competitive grant awarded to FL MIECHV by HRSA. Eight Healthy Start Coalitions – serving ten counties –

participated in the Action Learning Collaborative (ALC) and worked to develop effective local systems for identifying at-risk families and connecting them with programs that best met both their needs and preferences.

CI&R is being scaled and implemented statewide in FY 2018-19 through Healthy Start Coalitions as part of their contracts with the Florida Department of Health.

Spotlight on Tampa HV Programs in National Report

The FL MIECHV-funded Nurse-Family Partnership program in Tampa was spotlighted, along with Healthy Families Hillsborough, in a recent [article](#) by the [Hechinger Report](#) on home visiting and its impact on early learning.



Nurse Polita Williams weighs 8-month-old Jamir during a home visit. Photo: Jackie Mader/The Hechinger Report

The independent news organization, which focuses on inequality and innovation in education, visited the two programs to investigate how a greater investment in home visiting could contribute to improvements in early childhood outcomes. Both programs are administered by the Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County.

The article underscores the benefits of connecting home visiting to an array of other community services to address the complex needs of families, and cites the cost-effectiveness of this strategy.

New Blog Focuses on Linking Home Visiting, ECE

A new [Child Trends blog](#) series investigates the benefits that could be gained from increased coordination between home visiting and early care and education. Noting these two powerful approaches for supporting young children and their families have historically been siloed from each other, the series cites shared elements and the benefits of stronger integration in both practice and research.

The link between home visiting and early care and education was an impetus for the Early Learning Coalition of Polk County to seek MIECHV support for implementing its Nurse-Family Partnership program.

“Home visiting, specifically the NFP model, allows us to guide pregnant mothers and educate them to be more successful parents supporting the early learning of their child and helping them reach their full potential during these critical years,” explained Cheryl Kelly of the ELC. “We also recognized the disconnect between the lessons learned in the classroom and support of those lessons at home, especially in the formative years of children of first time parents.”





Bay PAT Families Enjoy World's Greatest Baby Shower

More than 200 families participating in Bay Parents as Teachers, Healthy Start and other community support programs attended the World's Greatest Baby Shower recently. The event featured baby weight checks, Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Treatment (SCRIPT) testing, safe sleep demos, and car seat safety checks! A record number of dads attended this annual awareness, outreach and education gathering.



Members of the FL ECCS Impact State Advisory Group, state staff and neighborhood partners, the Miami Children's Initiative & New Town Success Zone in Jacksonville, work on implementation strategies. Both initiatives focus on creating a cradle to college pipeline. USF evaluators crafted their own sign for MCI signposts to inspire children in Liberty City!



(l) Who says CQI isn't fun?! Bobbi Stephens, Pinellas PAT+, Anna Cismesia, Manatee PAT, and CQI consultant Judi Vitucci enjoy a lunch break at the FL MIECHV State CQI Advisory Group meeting in Tampa. (r) FL MIECHV staff Virginia Holland discusses data with members.



FL Governor Rick Scott was a surprise guest at the recent MIECHV site visit in Belle Glade. He stopped by to say hello to PAT Parent Educators Betty Nelson, Daisy Young and the FL MIECHV staff during lunch at the Banyon Tree.

The Belle Glade PAT program was funded by FL MIECHV in April, 2017 and is currently serving 50 families. The program is administered by Lutheran Services Florida.

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.



Funded by HRSA Grants # X10MC29478 & H25MC30342