



Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

In This Issue:

- **800 Gather for 2018 First1K Days Summit**
- **Hurricane Recovery**
- **Focus on Safe Sleep**
- **State HV Advisory Group Meeting**
- **FL MIECHV Awarded \$10.2M**
- **ECCS Impact Seeks New Site**
- **FL Receives Funding to Address Perinatal Depression**
- **Public Charge Rule & Home Visiting**
- **MOD Hosts Prematurity Summit**
- **FL MIECHV Friends & Happenings**

800 Participants, Early Childhood Experts Gather at 2018 First 1000 Days FL Summit in Palm Beach

More than 800 early childhood professionals in home visiting, infant mental health, early learning, and maternal and child health gathered recently in Palm Beach for the **2018 First 1000 Days Florida Summit**.



The highly-rated conference featured nationally recognized plenary presenters who provided the latest science on parental brain

changes, making the minds of young children, the importance of social-emotional development, and early literacy. A luncheon plenary featured the moving perspectives of parents and their experiences in accessing services for themselves and their families. They reminded the audience that parent involvement requires authentic

engagement and inclusion in decision-making.

The 2018 summit was sponsored by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Florida MIECHV and a host of other state and local organizations committed to improving outcomes for families with young children.

Florida Representative Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach) joined Senator Bobby Powell (D-Palm Beach) in welcoming participants and underscored the importance of advocacy to support state investments in early childhood programs.

Attendees had an opportunity to participate in more than 40 skill-building workshops on a wide range of topics from pregnancy to infant mental health, child safety and early learning.



Workshops focused on providing practical information and strategies to front-line staff, including how to reduce their own stress and compassion fatigue.

In addition to the break-out sessions, the summit featured vendors and a **Showcase of Best Practices** highlighting innovations from the field. Awards winners included – **First Place:** Little TYKES-Teaching Young Children Emotionally & Socially – Tykes & Teens; **Second Place:**

Promoting Social-Emotional Wellness in Infants & Their Parents Through Welcome to Our World – Forty Carrots Family Center; **Third Place:** The TEACUP Preemie Program: Maintaining Family Engagement through FirstPlay Infant Storytelling Massage – The Children's Healing Institute. Health Choice Network's Nurse-Family Partnership Program won the **People's Choice Award**.

Hurricane Michael: Help Our Programs Recover



Hurricane Michael had a devastating impact on Panama City and surrounding communities in the Panhandle. Both the Healthy Start Coalition and its FL MIECHV Parents as Teachers program serving Bay County are working hard to connect with families, after sustaining major

damage among staff personally as well as to their offices. The Nurse-Family Partnership program serving Gadsden & Jackson Counties has also been impacted significantly. [Here](#) are ideas for supporting their recovery.

Performance Measure 7: Safe Sleep

October is [Safe Sleep Awareness Month](#) in Florida. 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 2015-17. SUID includes SIDS, as well as certain unintentional injuries related to suffocation and strangulation, and other factors. Despite widespread public health campaigns, the state saw a disturbing increase in 2017. 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.

In 2017, caregivers participating in FL MIECHV-funded home visiting programs reported always using safe sleep practices for 63% of enrolled children. Safe sleep practices declined as children got older, with 69% of caregivers reporting safe sleep practices for children under 4 months old and only 56% for children 10-12 months old.

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. The next training is scheduled in Gainesville on October 29. Register in [LMS](#).

Why Families Don't Practice Safe Sleep

Studies show that, although expectant and new parents are aware of safe-sleep recommendations, they do not always follow them for a variety of reasons from retail marketing of bedding to cultural and family norms.

[Reducing SUIDs Through Safe Sleep Interventions: What's Next for Florida](#) provides a comprehensive snapshot of state and local efforts to prevent sleep-related deaths.

The 2016 study by the University of South Florida College of Public Health, funded by the state Department of Health Office of Minority Health & Health Equity, notes a wide range of interventions are being implemented through health care providers, Healthy Start, home visiting programs, child welfare and law enforcement agencies, and parenting support programs.

However, there is a need for consistent messaging and a comprehensive approach across the myriad of programs that touch expectant and new families, and other caregivers.



State HV Advisory Group Meets in November

The State Home Visiting Advisory Council will meet November 2 in Tallahassee to review data from the initial implementation of **CONNECT**, the state's new Coordinated Intake and Referral (CI&R) system. The group, comprised of representatives of the state's major home visiting programs, as well as key state agencies, was organized to facilitate and support local efforts to increase access to services through improved coordination and systems building. Healthy Start Coalitions began implementing CI&R in July as part of their contracts with the FL Department of Health. The approach was piloted with support from FL MIECHV in a two-year learning collaborative.



In addition to reviewing baseline data, the group will also hear presentations on new federal [Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment](#)

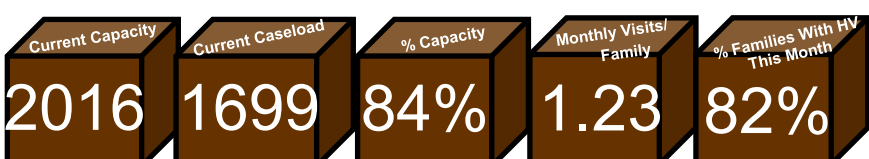
[Act \(CAPTA\)](#) requirements for plans of safe care, and the role of home visiting in providing follow-up support to families with babies experiencing Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

FL MIECHV Awarded \$10.2M in Home Visiting Funds

The federal Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) has awarded \$10.2 million in funding to the FL MIECHV initiative to support continued implementation of evidence-based home visiting in the state. The FY18-20 award will maintain funding for sites in 25 high-need communities and four contiguous counties. FL MIECHV currently funds one of three evidence-based home visiting models in these communities – [Nurse-Family Partnership](#), [Healthy Families Florida](#), and [Parents as Teachers](#) – and serves more than 2,000 families and their children annually.



MIECHV DASHBOARD



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

FL ECCS Seeks New Place-Based Community

The [FL Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems \(ECCS\) Impact](#) initiative is seeking a place-based community to lead local systems building activities aimed at demonstrably improving developmental outcomes for children age 0-3. Interested applicants must document experience in implementing a place-based approach to address community needs, with a particular focus on children age 0-3; have established partnerships with key early childhood providers; and, be committed to using a racial equity lens in their work. Responses to the [Request for Participation \(RFP\)](#) will be reviewed and scored by an external objective review panel. An [informational webinar](#) will be held on October 25th at 9:30 a.m.



The FL ECCS Impact Initiative is also joining forces with [Project HOPE](#) (Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Child Development), a multi-state effort led by [Boston Medical Center's Vital Village Network](#), [the BUILD initiative](#) and [Nemours](#), to address inequity in children's health and developmental outcomes through improved collaboration and systems building. The project, funded by the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), aligns with ECCS activities and will provide supplemental resources to strengthen work around health equity, social emotional development, public awareness and parent engagement, and public health data and surveillance.

FL Funded to Pilot Innovative Strategies for Addressing Perinatal Depression

Florida is one of seven states to receive grant funding recently from the [Human Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) to address the mental health needs of pregnant and postpartum women. The [Florida Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) will partner with the [Florida State University \(FSU\) College of Medicine](#) and the [Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative](#) to develop a model for screening and treating maternal mental health concerns.



Over the five-year grant period, DOH and its partners will develop a sustainable screening and treatment model to improve maternal mental health across the state. The new initiative focuses on increasing depression screening by prenatal care and primary care providers and linking them with professional support and community-based resources.

The initiative will be implemented in three pilot areas - Capital Area, Northeast Florida and North Central Florida. FL MIECHV will support capacity building within home visiting and mental health providers in these areas by providing additional training on [Moving Beyond Depression](#), an evidence-based treatment program piloted over two years in six sites.

Help Available to Aid With Insurance Enrollment

Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment for 2019 coverage begins November 1 and ends December 15. [Florida Covering Kids and Families](#), (FLCKF), a project of the University of South Florida, offers assistance and resources to link uninsured families with available health insurance options. FLCKF coordinates a statewide consortium of navigators who can provide one-on-one assistance to individuals. Telephone and virtual assistance is also available. With one application, an individual can view their health plan options and find out how much they can save. Visit www.CoveringFlorida.org or call 877-813-9115 for information.



Proposed Public Charge Rule: Impact on HV

A [proposed change](#) expanding programs considered under immigration provisions on the use of federal benefits or "Public Charge" was released earlier this month and is open for public comment through December 10, 2018.

The current rule is considered to determine if someone is likely to be a Public Charge only when applying to enter the country and when applying for status change to legal permanent resident—not for citizenship. Current policy on Public Charge only looks at cash benefits and long-term institutional care provided by the federal government.



The new proposal also includes non-emergency Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare Part D low-income subsidy, and certain federal housing assistance. CHIP is not included in the proposal and WIC and Low Income

Energy Home Assistance (LIHEAP) are also said to be excluded. The following have been explicitly excluded: education, child development, job training and employment programs, so it is unlikely that programs like MIECHV will be included.

Experts are recommending communication about changes to this rule be re-assuring to families and not detailed. Advocates fear a "chill-factor" among immigrants needing services because of uncertainty about the rule and its provisions. Some reassuring points are that public benefits newly included in the public charge definition that were received before the change will not be considered. This won't be retroactive. Also, it is very important for immigrant families to understand that citizen children receiving these benefits will not reflect on parents applying for status change. [Zero to Three](#), the [Center for Law and Social Policy \(CLASP\)](#), [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) and other advocacy groups are opposing the changes.

MOD Hosts Prematurity Summit November 29-30

The March of Dimes' 2018 Florida Prematurity Summit will be held November 29-30, 2018, in Tampa, FL. As part of efforts to support the ongoing work of the Florida Prematurity Prevention Partnership, the Summit will explore and address the disparities in birth outcomes in the state and nation, and provide participants with information and tools to build meaningful efforts towards birth equity. Register [here](#).



Thank you to Our Sponsors!

Marquee sponsors for the 2018 *First 1000 Days Florida Summit* were [FL MIECHV](#) and the [Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County](#). Gold sponsors included the [FL Department of Health](#) - Family Health Services, Early Steps and Newborn Screening; the [Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe](#); [FL Association of Healthy Start Coalitions](#), and [Florida Campaign for Grade Level Reading](#). Silver sponsors included the [Charles & Mary Barancik Foundation—First 1000 Days Sarasota](#); [Helios Education Fund](#); [Children's Services Council of Broward County](#), and the [Quantum Foundation](#).

[Mary Barancik Foundation—First 1000 Days Sarasota](#); [Helios Education Fund](#); [Children's Services Council of Broward County](#), and the [Quantum Foundation](#).

Bronze sponsors for the event included [United Healthcare](#); the [Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade](#); the [Center for Child Counseling](#); the [Florida Association for Infant Mental Health](#); the [Ounce of Prevention Fund of FL](#), and the [Parent Infant Program—FL School for the Deaf & Blind](#). **Summit supporters** included the [Association of Early Learning Coalitions](#) and the [National Fatherhood Initiative](#).



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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