



Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

In This Issue:

- **Equity Training Planned for FL ECCS Advisory Group**
- **Task Force Highlights Benefits of Programs to Prevent PPD**
- **FL MIECHV CQI in New Resource**
- **Focus on Family Engagement, Retention**
- **HV CollIN 2.0 Launched**
- **2019 CQI Activities**
- **ECCS Update**
- **MIECHV Training Catalog Available**
- **FL MIECHV Staff Present at AGM**
- **FL MIECHV Friends & Happenings!**

Racial Equity is Focus of State ECCS Advisory Group Training

The [state Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems \(ECCS\) Advisory Group](#) will participate in a two-day



workshop on Healthy and Equitable Communities in March to strengthen its efforts to address

structural inequities that impact families of color. The training will be conducted by the [Institute for Public Health Innovation \(IPHI\)](#), a Washington DC-based organization that trains and supports providers and policy-makers in equity and related work. The goal of the workshop is to provide advisory group members and representatives from participating place-based communities with a straightforward framework for understanding the root causes of health inequities and assist them in identifying effective strategies to promote equity. Training will be customized using two online surveys completed prior to the workshop.

The [FL ECCS Impact initiative](#) has adopted an equity lens in its efforts to build a system of care in communities that involves health care providers, agencies serving families with children ages 0-3, early learning providers, and families. Working in place-based neighborhoods, the initiative promotes early child development through improved coordination of

developmental screening and access to needed services with a goal of improving the developmental skills of 3-year-old children by 25 percent from current levels by 2021. FL ECCS Impact employs a collective impact approach and utilizes CQI methods to drive change at the community-level. Florida is one of 12 ECCS Impact grantees. The federally-funded initiative is administered by the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions through FL MIECHV (see related story, page 3).

Mothers & Babies Program Highlighted

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommends Counseling to Reduce Perinatal Depression

New recommendations released this month by the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#) cite counseling as an effective strategy for preventing perinatal depression, the most common complication of childbirth.

The [Mothers and Babies Program](#), offered through home visiting programs in the state, is one of two interventions highlighted in the report as effective. FL MIECHV supported statewide training on Mothers and Babies for home visiting staff as part of its efforts to build state capacity for identifying and addressing perinatal depression and improving maternal mental health. Mothers & Babies is an interactive program with lessons and activities proven to promote healthy mood, bonding with one's baby, and strategies for coping with stress. A statewide evaluation of its implementation through the Florida Healthy Start program, conducted by Northwestern University, documented improved outcomes.



According to the Task Force report, as many as one in seven women experience perinatal depression in and around pregnancy. The new USPSTF recommendation means that insurers will be required to cover counseling services — with no co-payments — under the Affordable Care Act.

Last year, 88 percent of caregivers enrolled in a FL MIECHV-funded home visiting program were screened for perinatal depression. About 14 percent of those screened were identified as needing services; however, less than 25 percent actually followed through with the referral provided. Improving depression screening and access to needed services is a focus of CQI efforts for selected MIECHV home visiting programs this year (see related story, page 2).

FL MIECHV Efforts Featured in New CQI Resource



FL MIECHV's CQI efforts are featured in a new HRSA publication, ["Lessons from the Field: Using Performance Data to Inform CQI."](#) This resource highlights the integration of performance data into CQI processes using case-specific examples from Florida, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The publication includes strategies used by the states in forming a CQI team, selecting a topic for improvement, developing a SMART aim, using data, and promoting peer

learning. It also includes a toolkit to guide CQI activities.

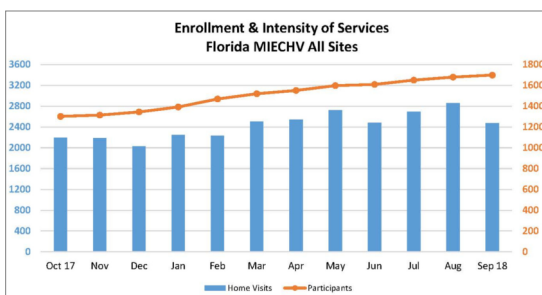
Focus on Family Engagement & Retention

Research shows successful participation and engagement in home visiting programs contributes to increased program retention and effectiveness. Recruitment of participants prenatally or soon after birth, frequent and regular home visits, and active participation for a meaningful duration contribute to improved and sustained outcomes for families with young children.

Home visiting programs funded by FL MIECHV are expected to maintain an enrollment of at least 85% of their funded capacity, and to provide at least 1.5 home visits a month on average to participants. To maximize benefits, programs are expected to maintain families in services for at least two years.

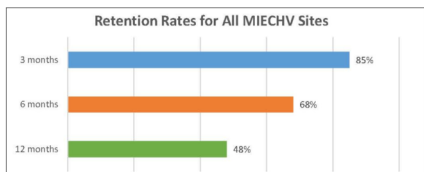
Achieving these expectations

requires an intentional and focused effort on the part of home visiting programs which target the highest risk families. FL MIECHV tracks enrollment, completed



home visits, retention and reach in a census report completed monthly by each local implementation site. The report is posted on the FL MIECHV website and summarized in a monthly dashboard. These data are also included in annual performance reports submitted to federal funders. Family engagement - including capacity, home visit completion and

retention - is also one of four CQI topics sites are working on in 2019 (see below).



FL MIECHV Local Implementation Sites Launch 2019 Continuous Quality Improvement Projects

With the start of the new year came new CQI projects. After reviewing performance measure data with the State CQI Team, it became apparent there was not a singular topic that would warrant a large scale Learning Collaborative as we have done in the past. Instead, local implementing agencies (LIAs) are participating in one of four Communities of Practice (CoPs).



The four areas of focus are family engagement (capacity, home visit completion and retention), caregiver depression screening and services, early language/literacy and parent-child interaction, and safe sleep. LIAs are using a driver diagram and change package to test strategies for improvement. PDSAs and data are uploaded monthly to Groupsites. In addition to online sharing, the teams in each CoP will have bimonthly phone calls to share wins and challenges they are facing within the topic. There will also be a time for teaching on the topic and coaching from the improvement advisor, as needed. These projects are scheduled to last through September 2019.

FL MIECHV Staff Present at Grantee Meeting

Representatives of state, territory and tribal MIECHV programs from across the country gathered in Baltimore at the end of February to share successful strategies and challenges in implementing evidence-based home visiting programs and early childhood systems development.



Plenary sessions featured presentations on early childhood trauma and the importance of elevating child dignity, and human interactions as the active ingredient of early childhood systems.

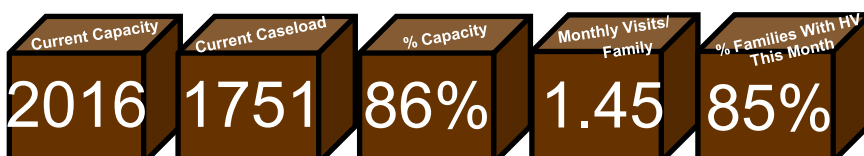
FL MIECHV staffers Allison Parish and Katie Hood shared information in workshops on the program's efforts to increase developmental screening and referrals using CQI, and to reduce the stress experienced by home visiting staff through training on mindfulness.

Catalog of MIECHV Training Available

FL MIECHV has compiled a [Professional Development Catalog](#) with training partners at FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy and Healthy Families Florida. The catalog includes descriptions of the available in-person training options, a list of archived trainings (available in the [Learning Management System](#)), and additional trainings available through the [Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals](#). If you are interested in scheduling a training or have any questions, please contact Sharon Clark (sclark@ounce.org).



MIECHV DASHBOARD



Source: Based on January, 2019 reports from four LIA cohorts (April, 2013, October 2013, October, 2015 and April, 2017).

HV CoIN 2.0 Off to a Great Start!

Following the success of the first Home Visiting Collaborative, Improvement and Innovation Network (HV CoIN), the Education Development Center (EDC) was provided the opportunity to roll out [HV CoIN 2.0](#).

While some topics from the previous CoIN are being scaled up in states across the country, a new Learning Collaborative focusing on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) started in January. The first Learning Session was held in Washington DC and included local implementing agencies (LIAs) and state MIECHV leads from six states.



Because Florida is the only MIECHV

program that has completed an IPV Learning Collaborative, Allison Parish, FL MIECHV Assistant Project Director, was asked to join the faculty. Ms. Parish directed the Learning Collaborative in Florida and was more than willing to share key documents and encouragement with the teams.



HV CoIN 2.0 IPV Learning Collaborative presenters (l-r) Dr. Monique Fountain Hanna, HRSA Senior Regional Medical Consultant who oversees the project; Allison Parish, FL MIECHV Assistant Project Director, and Casey Keene, Child Survivor and IPV Advocate.

Florida MIECHV has continued to excel in this area with 92% screening and 94% referrals completed by the end of the fiscal year. During the Learning Session, Ms. Parish shared valuable lessons and invited Casey Keene to speak, as well. Ms. Keene and her mother, Kathy, spoke at Florida's first Learning Session to help ground the

teams in the experiences of IPV survivors. For the HV CoIN 2.0 meeting, Ms. Keene gave an inspirational talk about the resiliency of children who witness IPV and the importance of supporting the non-abusing caregiver in her parenting of these children.

Florida ECCS Funds a New Place-Based Community and Receives Funding from Nemours

The new year brought exciting opportunities for [Florida's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems \(ECCS\) Impact Project](#). Following a competitive application process, [Champions for Children](#) in Tampa was selected to become an ECCS place-based community (PBC).

Because the applicants all had strengths to offer, they were invited to join the statewide ECCS Advisory Group. It is expected that the PBCs will grow by learning from each other, and state policymakers on the Advisory Group will benefit by hearing from a greater variety of community-based experience.

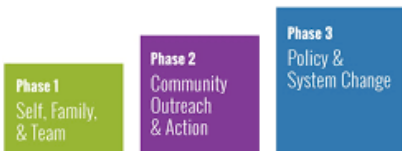


FL ECCS will be able to enhance their work through funding from [Nemours Children's Health System](#) as part of the [Project HOPE \(Harnessing Opportunity for Positive, Equitable Early Childhood Development\) Consortium](#).

HOPE is designed to generate real progress toward equitable outcomes for young children (prenatal to age five) and their families by building the capacity of local communities, state leaders, cross-sector state teams, and local coalitions to prevent social adversities in early childhood and promote child wellbeing. The following activities will take place over the next 16 months:



- The [Early Learning Coalition of Orange County](#) will receive funding for the [Parramore Kidz Zone](#) in Orlando to participate in the NOW (Networks of Opportunity for Child Wellbeing) Project offered through [Boston Medical Center's Vital Village](#).
- Community leaders from the ECCS-funded PBCs will attend the [Circle of Security \(COS\) Parenting Training](#) on March 4-7 facilitated by Dr. Neil Boris. Once trained, each community will offer COS 4 groups for parents and caregivers focusing on early intervention models to increase attachment and security.
- Parent leaders from the PBCs and state team will attend the [Community Organizing and Family Issues \(COFI\) Institute's](#) train-the-trainer workshops to teach others how to build their leadership, advocacy, and community organizing skills using a three-phase model (right).
- Consultants will be engaged to assist with 1) exploring options for an integrated early child development data system, 2) identifying and strategizing on promoting early childhood policy changes, and 3) social-emotional health promotion. All of these will have the advancement of racial equity as a critical component. Responses to an [Invitation to Negotiate](#) are due March 8th.
- The ECCS state staff, state parent leader, and representatives from each PBC will attend the [2019 Collective Impact Convening](#) in May.



It will be a busy year for the Florida ECCS Impact Project!



Finding the Gold Within

Home visiting staff from the Tampa Bay area participated in "Finding the Gold Within," the popular self-esteem workshop conducted by Dr. Mimi Graham, executive director of the FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy.



National HV Summit

Staff from FL MIECHV, Healthy Families Florida, NFP Broward, NFP Alliance of Miami-Dade, and North Central Florida PAT attended the 8th National Home Visiting Summit in Washington, DC. (l) Poster presentation on service integration by NFP Alliance of Miami-Dade. (r) NFP Broward staff assemble hygiene kits for the homeless in the DC area as part of conference activities.



Celebrating 20 Years!

Congratulations to Laceta Leonard (seated, center front) on her 20th anniversary with Healthy Families Orange! Laceta serves as Clinical Supervisor for the program which is a FL MIECHV-funded expansion site.

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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