



Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

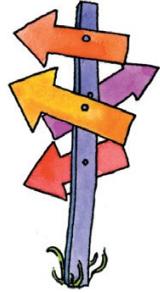
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April 23-25, 2014

## Willis, Dozier to Keynote “Many Paths...” Conference

Dr. David Willis, national MIECHV director, and Dr. Mary Dozier, ABC program developer, will keynote Florida’s first early childhood summit April 23-25, 2014 in Orlando. *Many Paths to Enhancing Parent Child Relationships* will highlight innovative approaches to providing infant mental health, home visiting and Part C services. The conference is a collaboration of the Florida Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative, the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health, and Florida Early Steps. The event will feature a variety of skill-building workshops around trauma screening, integration of services, prenatal alcohol exposure and substance exposed babies, motivational interviewing and strategies for working with fathers, military families, teen parents and families affected by domestic violence.



Early bird registration is \$85 until March 15. Register at [www.faimh.org/conf2014](http://www.faimh.org/conf2014). The event will be held at the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South (Room rate: \$119, Group code: FAI).

## Florida Teams Participate in New HV CoIIN

Local MIECHV sites in Pinellas and Duval Counties were selected to participate in the new Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement & Innovation Network (CoIIN) launched this month by the federal Maternal & Child Health Bureau. The mission of the HV CoIIN is to achieve breakthrough improvement, using a model developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, in selected process and outcome measures related to MIECHV benchmarks.

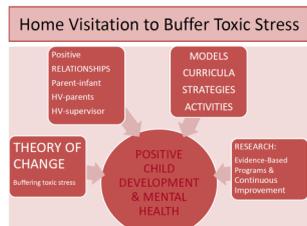


The Parents as Teachers (PAT) site in Pinellas will focus on processes around screening and service provision for developmental delay while the Jacksonville Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program will test ways to impact breastfeeding duration. Both teams will also have an opportunity to learn about innovative practices for family engagement and transition to other programs. The HV CoIIN will be led by nationally recognized faculty and content area experts.

The Florida sites will be supported by a state resource team including Dr. Peter Gorski, Dr. Joan Meek, and representatives from early intervention, public health, model developers, and state MIECHV staff. For more information, contact Allison Parish, Senior Manager ([aparish@fahsc.org](mailto:aparish@fahsc.org)).

## Pew Summit Focuses on Toxic Stress

The Fourth National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs, sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts, Every Child Succeeds and the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, highlighted the impact of toxic stress on families raising young children as well as the promise of parent support programs. Keynote speaker Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden, University of Maryland, underscored the importance of the “homeplace” in providing effective services that mitigate the effects of social, emotional and environmental stressors. Luncheon speaker Dr. Mary Dozier, University of Delaware, presented Attachment and Behavioral Catch-up (ABC), a new intervention for children who have experienced early adversity. Dr. Andrew Garner, co-author of the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on toxic stress, reviewed the science and challenge of translating knowledge into public policy. Workshops focused on quality improvement, data and accountability, father involvement, early childhood systems, staff recruitment and retention, and other issues.



Nearly 500 participated in the January conference in Washington DC. Florida attendees included: Jane Murphy, Hillsborough Healthy Start Coalition; Mary Jo Plews, Hardee, Highlands, Polk Healthy Start Coalition; Dr. Mimi Graham, FSU Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy; Shelia McCann, Health Choice Network of Florida; Dr. Maurine Jones and Sharon Ross Donaldson, Center for Health Equity; and Carol Brady and Allison Parish, FL MIECHV staff. Copies of summit presentations are available at: [www.homevisitingssummit.org](http://www.homevisitingssummit.org) under the presentation material tab.

## Focus on Benchmark 4: Domestic Violence

Research has shown that the presence of domestic violence in a family can diminish or even erase the effectiveness of home visiting programs in preventing child abuse and promoting healthy child development. This is one reason why it's so important for home visitors to address the issue early—within six months of program enrollment. Likewise, acting quickly to connect the person to services and to develop a safety plan are essential. Benchmark constructs 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 evaluate the processes of screening and providing timely and appropriate follow-up (table).

The Ounce of Prevention/HFF, FL MIECHV training partner, in collaboration with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, offers training to assist home visiting staff in identifying domestic violence and linking families to services at a local certified domestic violence center. The Ounce also provides training on model-specific screening tools. For more information contact Jennifer Ohlsen ([johlsen@ounce.org](mailto:johlsen@ounce.org)).

Construct and Performance Measure	Measurement Tool/Question
<b>4.3 Screening for domestic violence</b> Maintain or increase the percent of women screened for domestic violence within 6 months of enrollment	NFP: NFP Relationship Assessment HFA: Humiliation Afraid Rape Kick (HARK) Survey PAT: Women's Experience with Battering/Relationship Assessment Tool (WEB/RAT).
<b>4.4 Referrals made to domestic violence services</b> Maintain or increase the percent of women who are referred for domestic violence services within 7 days of screening positive for domestic violence	Did the [screening tool] identify the presence of or risk for domestic violence? Yes/No  For women who screened positive for domestic violence, we will look for evidence of referrals recorded in FLOHVIS.
<b>4.5 Safety Plan development</b> Maintain or increase the percent of women who have a safety plan within one month of screening positive for domestic violence	Did the [screening tool] identify the presence of or risk for domestic violence? Yes/No  For women who screened positive for domestic violence, we will look for evidence of safety plan status recorded in FLOHVIS:  <b>Question:</b> Safety Plan Status: - No safety plan in place - Safety planning in progress - Safety plan complete Both "safety planning in progress" and "safety plan complete" will be counted as meeting the performance measure.

### Florida's Benchmark Plan

Legislation authorizing MIECHV funding requires that all programs collect data to evaluate program performance and outcomes across six benchmark areas for all enrolled families:

- ◇ Maternal and child health;
- ◇ Childhood injuries and abuse and neglect;
- ◇ School readiness;
- ◇ Domestic violence;
- ◇ Family economic self-sufficiency; and
- ◇ Coordination of services.



Across these six benchmark areas, there are a total of 35 "constructs" that have associated performance measures for showing improvement over time. Each of the constructs measures an important factor that can lead to improved health and development outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting.

The Benchmark Plan is available at: [www.healthystartflorida.com/MIECHV.asp](http://www.healthystartflorida.com/MIECHV.asp). For more information about the benchmarks or FLOHVIS, the FL MIECHV data system, contact **Virginia Holland**, Data Manager ([vholland@fahsc.org](mailto:vholland@fahsc.org)).

### Centralized Intake Process

## Tampa MIECHV Site Featured on WebChat



The centralized intake process developed by the Hillsborough Healthy Start Coalition, a local MIECHV site implementing the Nurse Family Partnership, was featured on a January webchat for state and local home visiting programs. Dr. Leisa Stanley, Brenda Breslow and Maria Tomayo described the local system which uses Healthy Start prenatal and infant screens to identify at-risk families and link them with an intervention most appropriate to their needs.

The Coalition worked with local partners, including the state Healthy Start, federal Healthy Start, Nurse Family Partnership and Healthy Families to develop a decision matrix, staff training and communications plan. The group plans to expand this process and include additional agencies in the future. A copy of the presentation is posted at: [www.healthystartflorida.com](http://www.healthystartflorida.com). For more information, contact Dr. Stanley ([lstanley@hstart.org](mailto:lstanley@hstart.org)).

## Welcome New MIECHV Staff

Cynthia Coaxum, BS, MA, ABD joined the FL MIECHV state staff in January as Contract Manager. Cynthia comes to MIECHV from a community Healthy Start Coalition with eight years of experience as a Government Operations Consultant/Contract Manager for the Florida Department of Health. Cynthia will monitor and provide support to local MIECHV sites on contract and related issues. You can reach Cynthia at [ccoaxum@fahsc.org](mailto:ccoaxum@fahsc.org).



## MIECHV DASHBOARD



Source: Based on reports from the five original MIECHV sites for the period April—January, 2014.



## New Parent Educators Receive PAT Training

Nearly 20 new Parent Educators joined PAT Trainers Robin Roberts and Guadalupe Kuilan in January for a week-long training hosted by the Manatee Community Action Agency, a new FL MIECHV grantee. The intensive training covered a variety of topics including the online curriculum, personal visits, group connections, parent educator resources, and model fidelity. In addition to acquiring a solid understanding of the PAT model, the participants also enjoyed the opportunity for questions and answers with the PAT trainers, as well as getting to know staff from other sites in Florida.

## HVs Attend *Partners for Healthy Baby* Training

Sixty home visitors from all over the State joined up to be the first group to be trained in the Healthy Start redesign effort. The two-day training focused on the prenatal component of the nationally recognized *Partners for a Healthy Baby* Curriculum. Participants represented various home visiting programs in MIECHV priority counties including Miami-Dade, Orange, Gadsden, Alachua, Polk, Hardee, Highlands, Lee, Collier, Hillsborough and Broward. Other counties joined as well in an effort to build capacity in the state.

The training not only included use of the curriculum to improve outcomes, but also taught skill-building and interactive approaches to make home visits more meaningful to families. Training also placed emphasis on risk-reduction messaging and meeting program goals.

Drs. Christine Chiricos and Terry Hoover of The FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy led the training.



## Upcoming Training

### Social-Emotional Competence in Infants & Toddlers

The second of a two-part webinar series on **Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Toddlers** featuring **Dr. Anne Hogan** will be held on **February 27, 2014** from 10 AM to noon and will focus on Social Skills and Social Thinking.

### Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME)

Three-Part Training Initiative featuring the developer, Dr. Robert Bradley:

- Part 1: Introductory webinar to learn administration and scoring of the **HOME** on March 7, 2014 from 12:30-4:30PM.
- Part 2: Sites practice and record experiences administering the tool.
- Part 3: Technical Assistance webinar to fine tune use of the tool through discussion of implementation experiences, challenges and successes, tentatively scheduled for mid-April.

### Perceived Stress Scale

A two-hour webinar on the Perceived Stress Scale featuring Patricia Armstrong, LCSW will be held on February 28, 2014 from 10AM to noon.

### Seeking Safety

A 2-day **Seeking Safety** training will be held in **Pinellas Park, Florida** on **March 24 and 25**. Seeking Safety is a present-focused therapy to help people attain safety from trauma/PTSD and substance abuse. The free training has space for 55.

**FOR REGISTRATION INFO CONTACT: KATIE HOOD ([khoo@ounce.org](mailto:khoo@ounce.org)).**

## 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.healthystartflorida.com/MIECHV](http://www.healthystartflorida.com/MIECHV).

