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Maryland Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting News

Happy spring from the Maryland Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program! We have been hard at work on several projects over the last few months including: partnering with Medicaid on the home visiting pilot through the 1115 waiver; working to develop a training for home visitors, community health workers, and Infants and Toddlers staff who work with Substance Exposed Newborns; partnering with New Jersey on an innovative project focused on Family Goal Plans, as well as our biggest project – rolling out the Maxwell data system by July! We are energized and grateful for all the hard work by folks in Maryland and nationwide that helped ensure the re-authorization of the MIECHV program by Congress for another five years. This means we can continue our very important work that supports children and families who are most vulnerable. More details on the re-authorization below, under "Policy Tidbits."



HRSA Site Visit at Prince George's County Child Resource Center

The Maryland MIECHV team also had a wonderful site visit at the Prince George's County Child Resource Center (CRC) in March with colleagues from our federal funder, the [Health Services and Resources Administration](#) (HRSA). Dr. David Willis, Director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services, HRSA Administrator Dr. George Segounas, and Associate Administrator Laura Kavanaugh met with Executive Director Jennifer Iverson and Program Coordinator Alyson Jacobson from the Prince George's County CRC, as well as CRC home visitor Christine and one of her mothers, Fatimata. Fatimata spoke about the great help Christine has been to her as she navigates English (she already speaks six languages fluently!) and helps her four children grow and learn. We are so grateful for the great work being done by

Prince George's County CRC, and to HRSA for allowing programs like this one to help families thrive.

Finally, we said farewell to a longtime colleague and team member, Joan Patterson, who retired in April after more than 15 years with the health department. We wish her all the best and hope she is enjoying some much-deserved relaxation!



Mary LaCasse presenting Joan Patterson with a governmental citation

Unsung Chronicles of Home Visiting

Washington County Healthy Families

Contributed by Briana Bonner, B.S., Quality Assurance Coordinator

A Family Support Worker at Washington County Healthy Families works with a mother who is graduating from our program and has made a complete change for the better. This woman was a teenage mother in a domestic violence relationship. Since entering the program, she has received her high school diploma, is in her second year of community college, working full-time, and has left her abusive relationship. The family support worker stated that she is very proud of this mother and that her accomplishments are something that should be recognized.

Healthy Families Bon Secours

Contributed by Darrell Hillery, Program Supervisor

Renaka' Smith, a native of Baltimore City and participant of our Home Visiting program, has been with our program since October 2014. At the time of enrollment, Ms. Smith was pregnant with target child, August Lemon. During her pregnancy, Ms. Smith struggled with various challenges such as spousal abuse, depression, and an emotional detachment from her unborn child. Despite these various barriers, Ms. Smith managed to remain employed and stay engaged in the program, in addition to being consistent with all of her home visits. Since joining the Home Visiting program Ms. Smith has made great strides toward building a better relationship with her child. She has managed to develop an emotional and physical connection with her child, which has allowed her to build great parenting skills and create a better parent and child relationship. We are proud to announce Ms. Renaka' Smith's graduation from the Home Visiting program as of March 2018.

Provider Perspective

Oprah Winfrey Discusses Adverse Childhood Experiences



In the home visiting world, we know the profound effect that childhood trauma can have on school readiness, health, and a multitude of factors that determine one's capacity to thrive. Oprah Winfrey helped publicize this important issue [on a recent episode of 60 Minutes](#), during which she interviews a young woman who has received assistance for early childhood trauma-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from a non-profit called [SaintA](#). This non-profit helps find foster homes and provide counseling services for children who have been orphaned,

abandoned, abused, or neglected, and uses the [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) (ACEs) test.

The ACEs test is well-known in home visiting services due to its ability to determine the best course of care for children who have experienced trauma. The transcript of Oprah's interview [can be found here](#).

Program Spotlight

The Inmate Visitation and Parenting Assistance Program

An innovative program in Carroll County seeks to limit the trauma children with an incarcerated parent can experience by allowing parents to interact with their children outside of detention centers. The Inmate Visitation and Parenting Assistance Program in Carroll County, also known as the Family Ties program, allows hour-long visits for parents and children -- without barriers such as thick glass or telephones. To be eligible for this privilege, parents must agree to participate in Strengthening Families, a 14 session program that focuses on parenting skills and relationship building, with the overall aims of reducing recidivism, trauma to the children, and generational incarceration.

Find out more [in this article from the Carroll County Times](#).

Sustainability Success

Open Book Family Reading Club



The Anne Arundel County Public Library, in partnership with a local Judy Center and the Ordinance Road Correctional Center, has been offering incarcerated parents the chance to help their children learn to read through the Open Book Family Reading Club. The project began in 2014, and has since served 62 incarcerated parents and 94 children. Interested parents must be in good standing at the correctional center and meet with volunteers from the library and Judy Center for learning sessions to equip them with the necessary skills to teach their children. Once the required number of learning sessions are completed, the parent has a family visit with their child or

children, during which they focus on books, games, and songs that emphasize early literacy skills. The program also offers incarcerated parents the opportunity to tackle these special and important milestones with their children, despite their current situations. [Find out more about this creative program here](#).

Promising Practice

Bedtime in a Box

New resource alert!

Bedtime in a Box, an initiative supported in Maryland by [Strong City Baltimore](#), supports literacy and learning among parents and children by providing parents with the tools and resources to implement a comprehensive bedtime routine that includes nightly reading. Each box includes books, educational bath toys, an alarm clock, a bedtime log, and a learning kit, among other tools. Boxes are age-appropriate and have been found to help augment classroom learning by including some of the same educational resources that children see in the classroom. Additionally, infant, toddler, pre-k, and kindergarten boxes are available for both English and Spanish speakers.



[Find out more about this creative resource, including how to get one, here](#).

CQI Corner

Contributed by Dr. Maelondy, Holman, EdD, Continuous Quality Improvement Consultant

In February, the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) consultant, Dr. Maelondy Holman, held a webinar for MIECHV sites to present a new spreadsheet that was designed to collect, record, and demonstrate quality work being carried out among Maryland's passionate and hardworking home visitors. The spreadsheet, which will be submitted and discussed on a quarterly basis, will afford the CQI consultant a chance to keep records of results and identify progress made over the course of the fiscal year.

Before being finalized and presented to all sites, the new CQI spreadsheet was piloted by both Harford and Prince George's Counties. They provided insight in terms of how they collect and submit data to the MIECHV team to see what type of form worked best for them. The MIECHV team would like to sincerely thank both SheTiel Coley and Alyson Jacobson for taking the time to review and revise the document to fit the needs of sites and the state.

Finally, Dr. Holman was asked to serve as a Community Advisory Member for the Virgin Islands Department of Health's Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Program. This is an exciting opportunity and she looks forward to learning and sharing knowledge with that agency. Dr. Holman views this as an opportunity strengthen her knowledge about how home visits are conducted by other agencies and to learn and teach best practices used to serve children and families across the nation. For more information, [please contact Dr. Holman](#).

Dynamic Data

Capacity Updates

Contributed by: Jarvis Patterson-Askew, MS, Data and Fiscal Program Administrator, MD MIECHV

In the past few months, Healthy Families America (HFA) has disseminated new guidance on caseload expectations for all of its programs. Coincidentally, the Maryland Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program has been in the process of re-evaluating caseload capacity for each site and in turn the entire state. We are grateful to all our sites for working with us to complete funding charts that allow us to see each site's current staffing.

Although Healthy Families America has decided to change caseload requirements to a range of 12 to 25, depending on tier placement of the family, Maryland MIECHV has decided that it is reasonable to remain at 15 families per full time employee in a family support worker's role.

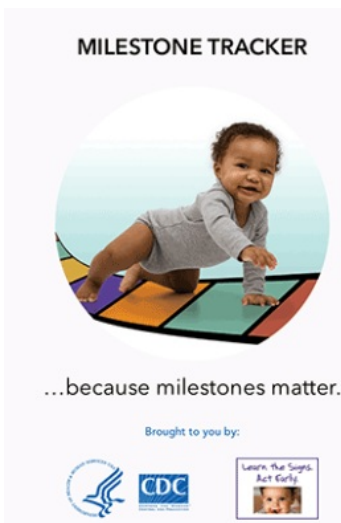
After completing the process of gathering all the necessary information from all sites under the Maryland MIECHV purview, the Maryland Department of Health MIECHV team has settled on a state-wide capacity of 1,233 families. In accordance with the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) capacity requirement, the state MIECHV program must remain at 85 percent of its total capacity.

Resources and Updates

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Milestone Tracker App

Milestones matter! The CDC has developed an app that can help mothers track their children's milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with easy-to-use illustrated checklists; tips for encouraging child development; and information for what to do if mothers are ever concerned about how their child is developing. Check out the app [here for Apple users](#) and [here for Android users](#).

The CDC has also created [a helpful flyer](#) that you can use to share this resource with the families you serve.



Upcoming Events and Trainings

MIECHV home visitors -- save the date! Our third annual MIECHV conference, "Shaping the Future of Home Visiting," will take place from September 18-20 at the Clarion Resort Fountainbleau, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. This event is required for all MIECHV-funded staff, and lodging, breakfast, and lunch will be provided. Registration to begin in August.

Questions? Contact [Colleen Wilburn](#).

Get in Touch

The newsletter team wants to hear from you! Please contact us with questions, comments, and suggestions for content. We can be reached by [email](#) or phone: (410) 767-7066. For more information on home visiting in Maryland, [visit our website](#). Not subscribed yet? [Sign up here](#).

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