

MIECHV Newsletter

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program September 2014



Welcome to the MIECHV monthly newsletter. We hope you will find the content informative. Our website will launch Spring 2014.

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MIECHV Funding Update

The Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for states to apply for year 6 (FFY2015) formula funds and competitive expansion grants were released on September 2nd. The competitive application is due October 17th and the formula application due date is November 3rd. Awards for both are to be confirmed prior to March 1, 2015, in line with the recent six-month federal MIECHV reauthorization. The project periods for these funds will be March 1, 2015 - September 30, 2017 (two years and seven months). In the coming weeks, state and local partners will continue to closely work together to finalize ideas and elements of the grant applications.

Evaluation Activities

We'd like to remind home visitors the third and final round of data collection for the Working Alliance Inventory survey and in-depth interviews will begin very soon. Our field assessors, Mary Joy and Amanda Backer Lappin, have started their outreach efforts with home visitors, and will reach out to families in the coming weeks to solicit interest. Data collection will continue through the fall. We look forward to working with home visitors and families throughout this data collection period and sharing the results of what we learn about the home visitor-family relationship from the surveys and interviews with families and home visitors.

Data and Reporting News

The third year of annual MIECHV data reporting ends September 30, 2014. Further information was recently received regarding this year's data submission. This year, the federal funding agency, HRSA, has some additional federal obligations and timelines they must meet. For these reasons, they have offered and encouraged states the option to submit 11 months of data by October 15 rather than the full 12 months of annual data by the original deadline of October 30. All of the Kansas MIECHV home visiting programs generously agreed to submit their data through the end of August by September 15th. KDHE and KU-CPPR will compile the federal report to submit by October 15. This year's annual report is of particular importance as the state must demonstrate improvement across benchmarks from baseline. At this time, Kansas MIECHV shows improvement on all benchmarks.

Local Program Innovation

iPads for Home Visits

SEK-CAP Early Head Start (EHS) Family Educators began using iPads during home visits in January of 2014. Use of this technology has increased productivity and has given EHS a better picture of how children are doing. For example, during the Parent-

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Child Activity at each home visit, the EHS Family Educator is able to take videos and pictures, which can immediately be downloaded into the child's electronic developmental portfolio. This allows parents and staff to see how children progress towards their developmental goals. Parent use of a laptop and an on-line assessment tool to document observations of their child during an activity has been in place for quite some time. The iPad makes documentation much more convenient with its ease of use and better reception. Because documentation can be completed using the iPad during a family visit, Family Educators have more time to spend on intense and creative case planning.

Family Educators are able to access YouTube videos as part of "I am Moving, I am Learning" activities, which encourage parents and children to get physical exercise while they are learning. iPads also provide Family Educators access to helpful websites for parents, whether it is to look for housing, fill out a job or resource application, or access parenting or child development information.

Shelli Walrod, Home Based Program Manager for SEK-CAP Early Head Start, says, "Family Educators are delighted to use iPads". Emily Clem, Labette County MIECHV Family Educator, said, "The iPads have allowed us to be more productive in the home visit and to engage parents on a higher level."

Motivational Interviewing Tips

Motivational Interviewing (MI) helps prepare home visitors to effectively engage families through collaborative, person-centered guidance, which helps to elicit and strengthen personal motivation for change. The tips below are intended to remind home visitors what was learned during MI training and help them be intentional about putting these lessons into practice.

- MI is a form of guiding. It is not directing a parent what to do, and it is not just simply listening. MI uses questions and listening to help guide a parent toward healthier choices.
- Avoid the Righting Reflex! If you feel like telling the parent exactly what to do, step back a minute. Help them find solutions as opposed to just offering them up.
- When you are trying to build parent motivation, try to ask more open than closed questions. And try to use more reflections than questions.

What's Happening at the State Level

The August meeting of the State Home Visiting Leadership Group focused on initiating steps to implement the State Home Visiting Strategic State Plan, development of an operating structure for the group, and planning for the year 6 (FFY2015) formula funds and competitive expansion grants.

38th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

This year's conference is October 15-17 at the Hyatt Regency in

Wichita and will feature keynote speakers Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D. and Theresa Briscoe. There are many sessions that will be of interest and benefit to MIECHV and other home visiting partners. Workshop sessions to be offered by MIECHV partners and staff include, "Kansas MIECHV Program: Highlights, Innovations, and Findings" and "Using Cell Phones to Enhance Parents' use of Communication-Promoting Strategies and Parent Engagement in Home Visiting Programs. For more information and registration, go to www.kcsl.org and look under the Training tab for Governor's Conference. Early bird registration ends Sept. 30th.

Upcoming Activities and Dates for MIECHV Partners

September 10	"Mental Health Ethics within the World of Cyberculture", Sally King, LSCSW, 9:00-12:00, Location TBA, Kansas City, KS
September 11	Wyandotte County MIECHV Team 1:00-4:00, Unified Government Health Department, 3rd Floor, Kansas City, KS
September 12	SE Kansas MIECHV Team 10:00-2:00, Labette County Mental Health Center, Parsons, KS
October 3	State MIECHV Data/Evaluation/CQI Workgroup 9:00 - 11:30, CPPR, Lawrence, KS
October 23	Parenting and Infant Toddler Mental Health, Dr. Kathleen Baggett, 9:00-12:00, Location TBA
October 29	Wyandotte County MIECHV Team, 9:00am-12:00pm, Unified Government Public Health Department, 3rd Floor Operations Center, Kansas City, KS.
October 30	Parenting and Infant Toddler Mental Health, Dr. Kathleen Baggett, 9:00-12:00, Location TBA
November 6	"Mindfulness and Self -Care", Marla Baldwin, LSCSW, 9:00-12:00, Location TBA, Kansas City, KS
November 7	SE Kansas MIECHV Team 10:00-2:00, Labette County Mental Health Center, Parsons, KS
December 4	"Trauma Informed Care", Jessica Mostaffa, LPC, 9:00-12:00, Location TBA, Kansas City, KS

Past MIECHV Newsletters

Past newsletters have been archived and can be accessed [here](#).

Contact Us

If you have ideas for the newsletter, feedback, questions, comments, concerns, etc. please email kshomevisiting@ku.edu.