

To: The Committee on Children
From: Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood,
on behalf of the Connecticut Home Visitation Program Consortium
Date: November 4, 2019
Re: Home Visitation Program Consortium Annual Legislative Report

The Home Visitation Program Consortium respectfully submits the annual report to the Committee on Children, as required by Public Act 15-45 – An Act Establishing a Home Visitation Program Consortium.

Public Act 15-45 -An Act Establishing A Home Visitation Program Consortium

The consortium shall submit an annual report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children. Such report shall include (1) the status of the implementation of the recommendations for the coordination of home visitation programs within the early childhood system provided pursuant to section 17a-22dd of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) the level of collaboration among home visitation programs in the state, (3) any recommendations for improvements in the collaboration among home visitation providers and other stakeholders, and (4) any additional information that the consortium deems necessary and relevant to improve the provision of home visitation services in the state.

Leadership of Home Visitation Program Consortium

Beth Bye, Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), assumed the responsibilities of co-chairperson from former Commissioner David Wilkinson at the March 20, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Bye confirmed the continued role of Abby Alter, Children’s Health and Development Institute (CHDI), as the co-chairperson of the Home Visitation Consortium at the same meeting.

Visitation Program Consortium Meeting Frequency and Updates

The home visitation consortium convened three meetings during the period of July 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. The purpose of those meetings were to move forward the recommendations of the *Connecticut Home Visiting Plan for Families With Young Children*. This plan established a vision for a system of home visiting in Connecticut where all families will have access to the home-based services and supports they need and those programs will be fully embedded in other systems of care such as health, mental health, early childhood services, and early care and education.

The recommendations for action from the home visiting plan are:

1. Ensure Families Have Access to Appropriate Home Visiting Services;
2. Strengthen the Referral Infrastructure;
3. Establish a Core Set of Competencies and Coordinate Trainings;
4. Ensure Program Standards Promote High-Quality Programs;

5. Develop Outcome Measures and Report on Progress.

The early work of the consortium explored and discussed the five recommendations to gain a deeper understanding and to conceptualize the plan and an approach to the work.

The Home Visiting Consortium previously had the following small work groups:

Infrastructure Development. The goal of the workgroup was to ensure that all families have access to appropriate home visiting services by: 1) defining and establishing a collaboration infrastructure to guide home visiting development and implementation; 2) identifying additional funding from all available resources to expand the capacity of the existing home visiting system; 3) expanding the capacity of the referral infrastructure through Child Development Infoline (CDI) and other local community-based efforts.

Workforce Development. The goal of this workgroup was to establish a core set of competencies and coordinate training for home visitors across programs by: 1) conducting an analysis of the home visiting workforce; 2) developing core competencies that align across all early childhood disciplines and services; 3) creating a central training institute for home visitors that builds on existing resources and efforts toward enhancing the home visiting workforce.

Quality Development. The goal of this workgroup was to ensure standards that promote high quality programs and to develop outcome measures to report on quality indicators by: 1) identifying program standards and best practices for each program that strengthen services and may be integrated across programs; 2) develop Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework for early childhood home visiting that reflects population- level outcomes for home visiting program; 3) pursue a data and research agenda to identify unavailable and critical indicators to help define needs and assess balances of services.

At the March 20, 2019 Home Visiting Consortium meeting the members decided to suspend the work groups for at least a year while the OEC home visiting programs undergo a system redesign. The goal of this system redesign is to:

- Create a family-centric service array that links families with the appropriate level, intensity, and duration of home visiting programs in every community throughout the state;
- Identify and implement a standardized intake processes to ensure families are referred to the appropriate model of home visiting program; and
- Incorporate outcome and performance measures that will be used to inform future provider re-authorization eligibility and re-procurement competitiveness every three to five years. This cross-contract performance-based approach will be enhanced and reinforced within each contract by incentivizing positive outcomes for clients through outcomes rate card bonuses as well as by designing contracts for active contract management.

The Home Visiting Consortium will be given the opportunity to advise the Office of Early Childhood on the system redesign. Members of the consortium meet to discuss how to assure the different evidence-based home visiting models in the state work together to build a continuum of

care for families in Connecticut. In addition, members of the Home Visiting Consortium will participate in statewide Community Listening Sessions on the home visiting system redesign. The listening sessions will take place at nine different locations throughout the state in October, 2019.

At the July 24, 2019 Home Visiting Consortium meeting, a draft document of the Home Visiting Core Knowledge and Competencies (CKCs) was presented. The CKCs were developed through a group effort of many members of the consortium and staff from the Office of Early Childhood. The goal of the CKCs was to work toward alignment home visiting workforce skills and core competencies needed to successfully meet the needs of families in Connecticut. Final revisions are being made. Once these are completed the CKCs will be widely distributed to the home visiting workforce across the state.