

Home Visiting Consortium Meeting
May 4, 2016
9:30-12:00

In attendance: Myra Jones-Taylor (co-chair), Melissa Mendez (co-chair), Kareena Duplessis, Judith Meyers, Linda Harris, Cathy Lenihan, Kathy Bleacher, Mickey Kramer, Pam Langer, Margaret Donald-Miller, Elisabeth Teller, Darcy Lowell, Lynn Johnson, Faith Vos Winkle, Sue Giglio, Alison Fennel, Esther Santana, Jennifer Hernandez

9:35: The meeting was opened with a welcome from Commissioner Myra Jones-Taylor and group introductions.

9:45: The February minutes were reviewed by the group and approved. Motion to approve- Judith Meyers/ Mickey Ramos – All in favor; opposed (0); abstained (0)

9:50: Melissa Mendez opened the next agenda topic with a reminder to the group that the task at hand is to work on the recommendations from the home visiting consortium report to the legislature. At the February meeting, the group did some reorganization of the five areas and synthesized the five to three. Since that meeting Commissioner Jones-Taylor, Melissa Mendez and some additional interested individuals met to further explore the agreed upon areas – Infrastructure Development, Workforce Development, and Quality Development. The three groups and the goals of each group were reviewed by Melissa Mendez.

The goal of the Infrastructure work group is to *ensure that all families have access to appropriate home visiting services* by: Defining and establishing a collaboration infrastructure to guide home visiting development and implementation; identifying additional funding from all available resources to expand the capacity of the existing home visiting system; expanding the capacity of the referral infrastructure through CDI and other local community-based efforts.

The goal of the Workforce Development work group is to *establish a core set of competencies and coordinate training for home visitors across programs* by: conducting an analysis of the home visiting workforce; developing core competencies that align across all early childhood disciplines and services; create a central training institute for home visitors that builds on existing resources and efforts toward enhancing the home visiting workforce. Melissa Mendez shared that this was the easiest group to put together because we have a high level of work on this already in CT.

The goal of the Quality Development work group is to *ensure program standards that promote high quality programs and develop outcome measures to report on quality indicators* by: identifying program standards and best practices for each program that strengthen services and may be integrated across programs; develop RBA framework for early childhood home visiting that reflects population level outcomes for home visiting program; pursue a data and research

agenda to identify unavailable and critical indicators to help define needs and assess balances of services.

Melissa Mendez shared the project matrix that has been used as the Early Childhood Comprehensive System project matrix. The worksheet helps think about the goals and provides a structure for developing strategies, timelines and tracking progress. Melissa Mendez would like to have tangible things in place by the end of 2016 to move the home visiting plan forward. This structure will allow us to identify who is working on each goal, identify if there are any holes and invite others to join the work.

10:10 Before Commissioner Myra Jones-Taylor excused herself from the rest of the meeting she shared that the state budget is being looked at today and OEC is hoping to have some clarity soon as to how the budget will affect OEC and programs. The Commissioner shared that maybe the Family School Connections programs could maybe be picked up by the State Department of Education (SDE) although OEC would not be able to transfer any money to SDE. These home visiting programs serve families with children aged 5-12.

Darcy Lowell asked about cuts to state programs and the relationship of Maintenance of Effort requirement for the MIECHV grant. The Commissioner shared that the Maintenance of Effort requirement has been a consistent message to both the Governor's office and the legislature.

Cathy Lenihan shared with the group that we successfully submitted the MIECHV formula grant application and we received the full award of 9.1 million. This is a 1.4 million dollar reduction from the current funding of MIECHV but CT did well as compared to some other New England states.

10:20 The group divided into three workgroups to work on the three identified priority areas. Melissa Mendez instructed each group to identify a primary note-taker and someone to report out to the larger group.

11:20 – Group report outs

Infrastructure Development Group: The group decided to hone in on the first bullet – define and establish governance and collaboration infrastructure to guide home visiting development and implementation. The group would like to look at governance structures within human services in other states. The group would also like to come up with a matrix of what home visiting services are available for the prenatal-5 population. They also had a discussion about what defines a home visiting program. The group will develop a template by June 1st and organize a conference call for determining next steps.

Quality Development: The group decided to concentrate on the first bullet – *identify program standards and best practices for each program that strengthen services and may be integrated across programs*. Melissa Mendez encouraged the group to look at the work from Wisconsin,

they have identified 5 common indicators including social emotional health. The group can look at their work and look at the tools they used and what were the outcomes. The group also discussed the difference between quantity data and quality data. The next steps for the group is to identify a summer intern that could work with the group to create a matrix that looks at home visiting programs and identifies, target populations, program standards, process measures, outcome measures and key domains. Melissa Mendez and Cathy Lenihan will also schedule a meeting with DCF to better understand their in home services.

Workforce Development: The group started by looking specifically at the first bullet – conducting an analysis of the home visiting workforce to identify who's in the group? What home visiting programs should be included? The group identified their next step as identifying what they want to know about the demographics of the home visiting workforce (age, educational experience etc.) Lastly the group started to discuss the idea of core competencies across all programs. Once they have this information they will work towards alignment of the workforce, the skills and core competencies. This workgroup would also like to work with a summer intern.

11:45 Cathy Lenihan provided the group an update on the MIECHV Innovation grant. CT has selected the program priority area of – developing and retaining a trained, highly skilled MIECHV-funded home visiting workforce. The Family Support Services division is collaborating with other community partners to develop and implement this grant if we win the highly competitive award. Darcy Lowell suggested that we look into the FAN training that was developed by the Erickson Institute.

11:50 Melissa Mendez opened the meeting up for public comment. Sue Giglio and Esther Santana shared that the meeting was interesting and informative. No other public comment.

Melissa Mendez shared that the next meeting will be August 31, 2016. Judith Meyers asked if we should select a different date because this date could pose a problem with vacations and children going back to school. Melissa Mendez shared that this date was selected based on the availability of the co-chairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58