

MIFAMILY STRONGER TOGETHER NEWS

ARE YOU “REDI” TO SUSTAIN CHANGE? NEWLY FORMED MDHHS OFFICE MAKES GREAT STRIDES

Written By: Jihan Aiyash and Brant Wimbush, REDI Office

The office of Race Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) was established on October 26, 2020, with support from executive leadership and the MDHHS Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council. The office was created to address racial, social, health, and wealth disparities, both internally and externally, and its mission and vision align with the MDHHS core values of Human Dignity, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Ease (HOPE). The office is comprised of three departments. The Office of Equity and Minority Health (OEMH), the Leadership Development Division (LDD), and the Equity Development Division (EDD). All three divisions work in different capacities to align with the overall mission of REDI.

The [OEMH](#) was formed under [Public Act \(PA\) 653](#) and was smoothly nestled into the REDI Office because their mission is to provide a persistent and continuing focus on assuring health equity and eliminating health disparities among Michigan's populations of color. They provide an abundance of knowledge and training regarding health disparities on their [SharePoint](#) site.

The [Leadership Development Division](#) aims to cultivate greatness in the organization's current and future leaders, through the implementation of leadership development trainings, programs, and initiatives.

The [Equity Development Division](#) processes all [Technical Assistance Requests](#), which includes providing consultations, equity reviews, and DEI Committee Development guidance. Since December 2021, this division has serviced over 45 departments with technical assistance requests. EDD is gearing up to offer a robust training curriculum in the 2023 calendar year.

All three departments have flourished since REDI was operationalized. REDI plays an important role in the RFP (Request for Proposal) process revision. The RFP oversees thousands of grants and contracts at the State of Michigan. In efforts to improve equity and inclusion for grants and contracts, REDI was invited to collaborate in developing the evaluation portion in the process. The REDI office helps departments meet their goals to ensure equitable services are available for all our families.

The REDI office is excited to continue being comfortable with the uncomfortable, exist in “both/and” thinking when strategizing, and aiming for true Race Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at MDHHS.

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November is Native American Heritage Month

Check out the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HeCWUKoPRA>

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS: A VEHICLE IN PREVENTION

Written By: Heidi Coggins and Suzanne Greenberg, Children Trust Michigan

Today's family resource centers (FRCs) are a key prevention strategy for addressing many of the challenges that families face, whether they live in rural, suburban, or urban areas. The goal of FRCs is healthy families in healthy communities.

A family resource center is a place where opportunities and resources are available to families and communities. FRCs are a service and program hub that provides a safety net in a community. Services are designed to be comprehensive and integrated, serving the unique needs and strengths of the individual, the family and the surrounding community. While some centers serve the broader community or neighborhood, others are designed to reach a specific population. Some of these specific populations include but are not limited to a school community, teen parents, a specific ethnic community, a faith community, or families with special-needs children. The actual facility comes in a variety of locations such as a part of a larger agency, within a shopping center, a converted house, on a school site or a storefront building. Whatever its locality, when families and other community members enter, they know that they are welcomed and that this place belongs to them.

Children Trust Michigan (CTM) has established the first ever MI FRC Network. The four pillars of the network are collaboration, coordination, connectedness, and cooperation. CTM is also part of the national network, the National Family Support Network. Six pilot sites have been established based on populations who experience overrepresentation in the child welfare system, high poverty rates or lack of access to health, behavioral, and social services. They were selected based on geographic diversity and are listed below.

Keweenaw Family Resource Center—Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw Counties, Help Me Grow Family Resource Center—Calhoun County, Voices for Children—Genesee County, Family Futures—Kent County, Care House—Macomb County, SOS Community Services—Washtenaw County

What is the goal of an FRC?

FRCs aim to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect using the evidence-based Strengthening Families Approach. Five Protective Factors are the foundation of the approach, and they have been found to build family strengths and foster a family environment that promotes child and youth development.

What do FRCs do?

- Enhance parenting skills.
- Foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families.
- Prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Increase school readiness.
- Connect families to resources.
- Develop parent and community leadership.
- Support healthy marital and couples' relationships.
- Promote family economic success.



63% reduction of child abuse cases • 50% reduction of out-of-home placements • 26% lower rates of community-level child abuse investigations. <https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/family-support-programs>





WHAT IS 2-1-1?

Written By: Jennie Pollak , Deputy Executive Director, Michigan 2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free service that connects Michigan residents with help and answers from thousands of health and human services agencies and resources right in their communities—quickly, easily, and confidentially. Our community resource specialists provide information and referrals for needs like housing/shelter, household needs, utility payment assistance, employment assistance, education and childcare resources, health care, and mental health supports. Staff seek to understand the situation, offer appropriate resources and navigate systems and processes to help Michigan residents connect with local community resources that provide much-needed services.

Across the state, 2-1-1 maintains a curated, comprehensive, up-to-date database of health and human service agencies and resources. There are more than 7,000 agencies and nearly 37,000 programs and services within the 2-1-1 database and each agency is assigned a local database curator who builds a direct relationship to help keep information about the programs and services they provide accurate and up to date.

We use statistical data (not personally identifiable information) from calls and web visits to help shed a light on the nature of social needs in Michigan for government officials and decision-makers across the state. Additionally, we are exploring ways to integrate our resource database with health and human service agencies to expand access to community information for those they serve.

2-1-1 is available 24/7/365 days a year. Dial 2-1-1 (or 844-875-9211); text your zip code to 898211; [search for resources online](http://www.mi211.org) at www.mi211.org or connect via chat or email.

CENTRALIZED INTAKE PREVENTION PATHWAY 2-1-1 PILOT UPDATES

MDHHS implemented the 2-1-1 pilot project in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties 11 weeks ago. Families are referred to 2-1-1 through the MDHHS Centralized Intake unit screening process. Since the launch of the pilot, 259 families have been referred to 2-1-1 to assist families in connecting with community-based services to help support them when needs have been identified.

A check of the data supports that 223 families have been contacted by 2-1-1 to date, and of those families, 36 have answered or responded to the call.

Thus far, the data is showing that 50% of families contacted through the 2-1-1 pilot are experiencing difficulties in locating appropriate housing. Families have also expressed difficulties in locating and/or engaging in appropriate prevention services when attempting to do this on their own.

Gryphon Place is an agency that helps those in conflict and crisis and is currently partnering with MDHHS in this pilot. They have reported that parents and caregivers whom they have contacted have been receptive to help and open to sharing their needs. Gryphon Place has been successful in referring families to resources for housing, financial assistance, and support for behavioral and mental health needs.

In an effort to increase families' ability to communicate with Michigan 2-1-1 and Gryphon Place during this pilot process, they are making efforts to set up a voicemail box and email address for families to contact the hotline in the near future.

Stay tuned for more updates on the prevention pathway at Centralized Intake.

Contact Us:

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