

# Weekly Update

## Maternal Infant Health Program



Please share this information with all  
MIHP team members.

**Monday, December 20, 2021**

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# MDHHS Holiday Schedule and Weekly Update Changes

State of Michigan offices will be closed this week and next week on Thursday and Friday to celebrate the holidays. We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. Thank you for all you do to improve the health and safety of your families and communities.

Also, based on responses received through our recent agency survey, the MIHP Weekly Update will transition to a **bi-weekly format** starting with the January 3rd edition. Given the shortened work weeks, we will not publish an edition next week. Look for the next issue on the 3rd.



## Statement on Infant Formula Shortage

*From our partners in the MDHHS WIC office:*

The infant formula shortages in Michigan stores are being monitored and the WIC Division is working with our formula distributor (Abbott Laboratories) daily to make sure that we are meeting the needs of our retailers. As the national shortages have increased, Michigan WIC has worked with Abbott Laboratories to receive sample formula to assist local agencies and the current demand to meet the needs of WIC clients.

In working with families during the prenatal period, infant feeding is a vital conversation. When discussing infant feeding plans, in addition to the multitude of benefits of breastfeeding for infants, mothers and families, the current situation should be brought to the attention of families considering formula or combination feeding. Breastfeeding, even partially, may ease some of their concerns. Please refer your breastfeeding families to WIC or other community organizations for breastfeeding support.

## Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative Opportunity

Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) have shared a new opportunity for evidence-based home visiting programs in Michigan to participate in a *Home Visiting Transitions Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative (QI LC)*. The Home Visiting Transitions QI LC will be composed of seven Michigan based home visiting programs, as well as state level staff, and offer tools, resources, and network connections needed to improve transitions for families served by home visiting programs.

Research and feedback from parents in Michigan highlight the importance of program-to-program transition planning and support. This collaborative will focus on transitions between home visiting programs, between home visiting programs and other types of providers, as well as between home visiting programs and Preschool/Kindergarten settings.

[Please see the attached flyer for more information and the link to apply for this opportunity.](#) Space is limited to seven programs.

## MIHP Consultant Position Posted

The position of Public Health Consultant for the Maternal Infant Health Program at MDHHS has been posted and we are seeking candidates. This individual will work with the MDHHS MIHP team to provide program monitoring, consultation, and technical assistance to MIHP agencies and providers. Please share the link below with your networks or individuals who may be interested in working with an amazing team at MDHHS and with dedicated, hardworking MIHP agencies throughout the state.

[Click on this link to access the posting](#) and instructions for applying.

## Infant Crier Fall 2021 Edition



As the editors of the Infant Crier, it feels important to highlight the Commitment Statement created by the Centering Equity Committee, as we believe the Crier is another reflective space where we can uphold commitments to equity and inclusion throughout our community.

The MI-AIMH Centering Equity Committee, which is comprised of the MI-AIMH Executive Director, Central Office Staff, Board Members and Leaders, and Members, declare the following Commitment Statement:

As a committee, we commit to prioritizing diversity, racial equity and inclusion in all of MI-AIMH's decision making, policies and practices. We recognize that actions and practices that MI-AIMH as a system has created, developed and engaged-in over time have perpetuated racist and inequitable practices, which has directly caused harm to Black, Brown, and Indigenous People of Color. The MI-AIMH Centering Equity Committee will work to dismantle white supremacy and create a foundation of culturally sensitive, anti-oppressive practices within the organization and among its members. The committee is dedicated to an ongoing critical review of all information disseminated by the organization that excludes, divides and is rooted in oppressive practices. We commit to reflecting and adapting our current practices and systems that have caused harm. The committee will work closely with the broader organization to ensure that voices from all races, cultures and viewpoints are represented within all parts of the organization. We value the diversity and unique perspectives among our membership and the families we serve. The committee will be intentional in amplifying the voices of professionals and communities that have long been excluded from the core of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health field and the MI-AIMH organization.

Initial Action Steps of the Centering Equity Committee:

1. To hold the MI-AIMH organization and its leaders accountable to uphold equitable practices
2. To intentionally embed Irving Harris Foundation's Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children and Families into all practices carried out by MI-AIMH
3. To revise racist and oppressive materials, publications and communications
4. To cultivate reflective spaces to engage in ongoing dialogue in regards to oppression, power, privilege, bias, white supremacy and racism that allows for a culturally reparative parallel process to unfold that reaches systems, professionals, communities, families and children

## Link to MDHHS Publications

[Sign up here to receive program updates and communications.](#)

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## Coordinator Directory

[Click here to access the Coordinator Directory](#)

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## Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MIHP Weekly Update, [please submit your ideas here.](#)

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## Previously Released MIHP Weekly Updates

To review any previously released MIHP Weekly Updates, they can be found by [visiting the MIHP webpage Michigan.gov/MIHP.](#)

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Our communication for the Maternal Infant Health Program has been streamlined to a single email address and phone number. Please forward all email to [MIHP@michigan.gov](mailto:MIHP@michigan.gov). For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.