

Maternal Infant Health Program Weekly Update



Please share this information with all
MIHP team members.

Monday, October 19, 2020

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Urgent! Call for Parent Representatives for HV Advisory Committee

As reported in the September 14th edition of the MIHP Weekly Update, the Home Visiting State Advisory Committee is seeking eight parent representatives as members on the committee who have children age five or younger, and who are or were enrolled in evidence-based home visiting models. These models include: Early Head Start--Home Based, Family Spirit, Healthy Families America, Infant Mental Health, **Maternal Infant Health Program**, Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers.

If you know of parents who may be interested in participating, please forward this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentRepApplication> and ask them to complete and submit their application **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

About the Advisory Committee

Purpose: To support efficient and effective operations that result in change, improvement, and impact on home visiting and the home visiting system. Additionally, the Advisory Committee aims to advise and assist the State of Michigan in magnifying and implementing a collective vision for the home visiting system and the work it carries out.

Frequency of meetings: The Advisory Committee meeting and subcommittee meetings occur at least quarterly and on the same day. *Note that meetings are currently held exclusively via video conference, however they are typically held with in-person and video conference options.*

Member Information:

- Parents are asked to serve on the Advisory for a two-year period.
- Parents are expected to attend a majority of the Advisory meetings each year, attend at least one meeting in person (once in-person meetings are held again).
- Parents will be asked to sign a Letter of Commitment.
- Parent members will be reimbursed for the childcare and transportation expenses and paid for their time.

Additional Information

- If any parent needs assistance for the application process please call or email Michelle Stevens at 517.371.9049, mstevens@ecic4kids.org

Parent Representatives who are currently serving on the Advisory Committee may continue in their role but will need to complete the application as well.

Please reference the above article for additional information on the Home Visiting Advisory Committee.

MI Bridges Referrals to MIHP

The home visiting programs in Michigan, **including MIHP**, have been collaborating with MI Bridges to add all of Michigan's evidence-based home visiting programs into their system. As you may know, when families submit their MI Bridges application, they are provided a list of community-based organizations for which they are eligible. This page will now include all home visiting programs. Families will be able to read the descriptions of the various programs offered in their county and then choose to provide their information to the programs in which they are interested. This is a big step forward in helping to center family voice and choice within our system.

If you currently don't have all of your agency information entered into the 2-1-1 system, you will need to enter it now in order for your program to populate on the community resource page. You also must be a *Referral* (not just Access or Navigation) partner within the MI Bridges system. **If you currently have information entered into 2-1-1, please review to ensure that it is correct and up to date.** If possible, please add or edit your information by **October 23rd.**

All MI Bridges Referral Partners are required to take MI Bridges Referral Training as outlined during the registration process. The training will cover the referral functionality, including how to locate referrals, assign to staff, close referrals, and suggest other referrals.

The link below is an infographic with links to help you enter or update your information in the 2-1-1 system, as well as a link to register to become a Referral Partner. As always, please feel free to reach out to the MDHHS MIHP team with any questions.

[MI Bridges Referrals](#)

PMAD Online Support Groups available

The Michigan Statewide Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder (PMAD) Coalition is now a State Chapter of Postpartum Support International (PSI), increasing access to PMAD resources for Michigan families. PSI has tripled the number of online support groups during the pandemic and has added new groups for Black moms, South Asian moms, dads, and birth moms. Please share with beneficiaries who might benefit from additional support. [Click here for the online support group schedule.](#)

Speaking Up and Speaking Out

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) and the Michigan Home Visiting Initiative are excited to announce the release of the publication, **“Stepping Up and Speaking Out: The Evolution of Parent Leadership in Michigan.”**

Stepping Up and Speaking Out draws on learnings from parents, providers and administrators across the state. This publication is about the unspoken ingredients needed to build a parent leadership system and provides examples and strategies that can be implemented so parents can emerge as leaders and agents of change.

When parents are supported in becoming leaders, families are stronger; children, families and programs have better outcomes; and systems are more effective because parents help shape decisions that are equitable, culturally competent and customer centric. Join us as we continue the journey to promote and build authentic parent voice and leadership in programs, policy and systems.

Thank you for being an advocate of family and parent leadership. [Download the publication](#) to learn how to build family and parent voice, and please share with your powerful networks. Together we can make family and parent leadership a priority in the early childhood field. This publication is available in English, Spanish and Arabic.

Neighborhood COVID-19 Testing Sites

The MDHHS “Neighborhood Testing Sites” program has “stood up” 20 local sites around the state to date, offering **FREE** COVID-19 testing to the residents of Michigan. This initiative was created by the Racial Disparities Task Force, under the direction of Lt. Gov. Gilchrist, to reach Michigan’s most vulnerable citizens and disparately affected neighborhoods, and to ensure that residents have access to COVID-19 testing and other resources in their own community.

Please review the attached list of sites and spread the word among your families and community partners. Additional sites are added periodically.

These Neighborhood Sites are strategically placed in local churches and community centers within local neighborhoods, all of which offer:

- No cost testing
- No prescription needed
- No ID or insurance required (bring insurance card if you are using your insurance)
- Available to those who are asymptomatic
- Advance registration by phone. Please note the links to register for each site are different (phone number is the same).
- ADA compliance
- Language Interpreting Services available, including ASL

The COVID-19 test is administered via saliva swab vs nasal swab; it is less invasive and requires a different level of protective gear. It’s a more comfortable environment overall. Additionally, neighborhood testing sites will always have face shields available. Staff will wear a face shield and remove their mask when communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. All sites have access to on-demand language interpreting and VRI for ASL, and each site staff have been trained on how to arrange interpreting services.

[Neighborhood Testing Sites](#)

Supportive Groups for Home Visitors

In this uncertain time, we are all adapting to new ways of supporting very young children and families while also adapting to changes in our own lives. Holding the profound worries of vulnerable families alongside your own can feel stressful, and, at times overwhelming. In order to provide support, the State of Michigan will be partnering with the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) to offer free virtual groups for home visitors in Michigan.

These one-hour group sessions, each limited to eight attendees, will allow home visiting professionals to connect with a facilitator and a small group of other professionals to share their experiences, stresses and growth in the current climate of home visiting.

These FREE groups are only available to Michigan home visitors at this time. You do not need to be a MI-AIMH member to register. Groups will be starting the week of Nov. 2, 2020 and will run two times per month until April 2021, based on the schedule of the group you select. Please note that you will be encouraged to attend ALL of the dates for your cohort. Participants will be asked to complete a survey early on in the process and at the end to measure success. **Registration will end at close of business on Oct. 29th.**

Home visitors are allowed to select only one group. Please note that these sessions are not reflective supervision or crisis intervention and cannot be counted on your endorsement application/renewal.

You may select a group that works for you regardless of facilitator location and/or model familiarity. These groups are open to all home visiting staff in Michigan who work for MIHP or other home visiting models. Be sure to select Early On as one of your programs (during registration) if you provide ANY service to Early On in addition to other programs.

Click [HERE](#) to see the schedule of groups and facilitators and to register.

Celebrate Babies Week

It's official! Governor Whitmer has proclaimed the week of October 19th - 23rd as Celebrate Babies week! In recognition of this important week, we present two highlights for you to share with your families:

Governor's Proclamation

A state proclamation was signed by the governor to increase awareness of significant issues in the state. This came together through a joint effort by the social action committee, Celebrate Babies planning committee, Michigan's Children and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. This proclamation will be integral as MI-AIMH continues to advocate within the state for a just and equitable system that supports ALL infants, toddlers, and young children. As Michigan continues to be a leader for relationship focused early childhood care, other states can use our proclamation as an example as they too continue to build their advocacy and Celebrate Babies and all the hard work early childhood professionals do all year round!

As you continue planning how you will Celebrate Babies, make sure to share this proclamation far and wide and visit <http://www.celebratebabiesweek.org>

Celebrating Babies and Relationships Through Yoga

Join MI-AIMH board member Danielle Rice for Yoga focused on infants, toddlers, and preschools and their caregivers! This event is OPEN to the public and FREE!

Here are some of the benefits of yoga:

- Yoga is a healthy playful activity caregivers can enjoy with their children.
- Yoga helps build motor and sensory skills.
- Yoga helps to boost children's self-esteem.
- Yoga teaches calming techniques.
- Yoga helps to increase children's body awareness and mindfulness.
- Yoga supports positive mental health in children and their caregivers.

Please email Tiffanie at MI-AIMH if you have any questions: tmartinez@mi-aimh.org

[Click HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Link for Updating Email Addresses

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MIHPListServUpdate>

Topic Submission

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

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. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.