

Weekly Update

Maternal Infant Health Program



Please share this information with all MIHP team members.

Monday, July 19, 2021

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Supporting Fathers

The “norm” for generations has been to focus on the mother/infant dyad, which excluded the father in most aspects of pregnancy, birth, and the early childhood years. However, this belief is changing for the better. While engaging and including fathers has improved, there is much more that needs to occur—especially with social programs, and government and organization policies and procedures seemingly stuck on excluding fathers.

The National Fatherhood Initiative® shares:

“We have a human service culture that focuses on the well-being of mothers and children, which creates a lack of incentive to engage and serve fathers.”

<https://www.fatherhood.org/our-mission> accessed 7.17.21.

This is such an injustice to fathers, their children, families and society!

Jessica Seinfeld, founder of the social services philanthropy [Good+ Foundation](#), writes in a CNN social opinion piece:

“Researchers have long known that when children grow up in communities without fathers, they tend to face worse outcomes, including in particular much greater incidences of poverty. A [2018 study](#) by researchers from Harvard, Stanford and the US Census showed that children who grow up in communities where fathers are present have higher incomes, lower incarceration rates, and better job opportunities than similarly-situated children in communities with fewer fathers. Family structure matters less than the general level of fatherly engagement. Even if a father is not living with his children, his presence and engagement has a measurably positive effect on child poverty.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/30/opinions/investing-in-fathers-to-tackle-child-poverty-seinfeld/index.html>

We must as a community support fathers. We need to do our part not only as community members but as health care community members providing MIHP services. While the program name is not inclusive, we as providers can include and encourage men in the active participation of the care of the children involved in their lives. Encourage those who are not active in their child's life and provide robust support to men who are engaged and caring for children.

There are resources available to assist MIHP agency staff in understanding how dads feel and can offer ways to invite and engage fathers in the important role of nurturing and caring for the children in their lives.

Nationally, the Father Engagement Academy™ by the National Fatherhood Initiative® offers a free learning center with resources and technical assistance for fatherhood programs & practitioners. Access this resource at

<https://www.fatherhood.org/>

A Michigan father, Cole Williams, has presented at the Michigan Home Visiting conference and has terrific resources on his website including videos and interviews. Access his videos at <http://www.colespeaks.com/videosandmedia>

The Children's Center Fatherhood Initiative offers support, education and empowers men caring for children. Access this organization at

<https://www.thechildrenscenter.com/bridging-the-gap/fatherhood-initiative/>

Fraternity of Fathers through zero to thrive is not only located in Detroit but now in the Grand Traverse Bay area. Information can be found at <https://zerotothrive.org/strong-roots-programs/fraternity-of-fathers/>

Dad's Count in Kent County educates and encourages fathers and father figures in the involvement of their children's lives. Access this resources at https://www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthPromo/dads_count.htm

The 4Dad Fatherhood program in Kalamazoo provides services to:

- Expectant Fathers
- Fathers of children under 2 years
- Non-biological Fathers

This resource can be found at <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/mch/4dad/>

There are many other national and local organizations and resources. If you or your agency does not know of resources for fathers, make the effort to find these resources in your community. Let your colleagues know of these learning opportunities and offer these resources to your families.

Hepatitis C Testing and Training

ACOG Hepatitis C Testing Guidance

In May 2021, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) released updated clinical guidance [recommending hepatitis C testing for all pregnant individuals during each pregnancy](#). Testing is recommended during the first prenatal blood assessment. Testing for hepatitis C during pregnancy serves as an opportunity to promote a dialogue between pregnant individuals and their provider about hepatitis C transmission and risk factors.

While there is currently no hepatitis C treatment approved for use during pregnancy, pregnant patients who test positive for HCV should be connected with hepatitis C care so individuals may begin direct-acting antiviral treatment postpartum and after completion of breastfeeding. Furthermore, systems should be in place to inform the pediatrician responsible for the care of the newborn about the mother's hepatitis C carrier status and identify infants who should receive testing at a pediatric visit.

The ACOG also recommends testing individuals for HCV pre-pregnancy in accordance with the recommendation that all adults be tested for HCV at least once in their lifetime. Individuals testing positive for HCV pre-pregnancy should be connected with care so they may complete direct-acting antiviral treatment before becoming pregnant.

For an HCV testing algorithm in pregnant women and infants, [click here](#).

Caring for Women with Hepatitis C Webinar

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently launched the [We Treat Hep C Initiative](#) to eliminate hepatitis C and improve access to hepatitis C treatment among Michigan Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries. As part of the We Treat Hep C Initiative, Michigan Medicaid removed the prescriber requirement. As a result, all providers with prescriptive authority are now able to prescribe hepatitis C treatment.

To support Michigan's efforts to eliminate hepatitis C, AbbVie is hosting a webinar that will feature discussions on caring for women with hepatitis C. The presentation and discussion will be led by Elaine Engelsman, DNP, FNP-BC. The date, time, and registration link can be found below:

- July 22, 2021 - Caring for Women with HCV (12:15 P.M.) [Register Here!](#)

Join our Listserv!

Providers with prescriptive authority are the key to this cure. To be notified of new training opportunities and events, please send a request to MDHHS-Hepatitis@Michigan.gov to be added to the listserv.

Grief and Bereavement Resources

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Grief Support Referral Program for families who experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss is no longer in existence, so please do not make referrals to the program.

With the tragic loss of a mother, pregnancy, or an infant, it is important that families receive grief and bereavement support during this extremely difficult time. As a provider, it may be difficult to know where to connect families for these services. We encourage providers to refer to the [Michigan Maternal, Pregnancy, and Infant Loss Support Resources](https://bit.ly/33sgnNb) (url: <https://bit.ly/33sgnNb>). This document offers resources to consider when connecting families to support services after experiencing a loss. For more information, please visit [Michigan Fetal Infant Mortality Review](http://www.michigan.gov/FIMR) (url: www.michigan.gov/FIMR)

For questions, please contact:

Audra Brummel, Michigan Fetal Infant Mortality Review Coordinator

Email: BrummelA@michigan.gov

Meet the Team: Suzette Burkitt-Wesolek



Suzette is the Quality Improvement Specialist for the Maternal Infant Health Program. She began her career in the Progressive Care Nursery at Hutzel Hospital and has over 30 years of experience in the health care industry including maternal/child health, immunizations, quality, utilization, and case management, home visiting, public health, and maternal/child hospital nursing. She began with MIHP in 1993 as the Infant Support Services (ISS) Coordinator and home visitor for Maternal Support Services (MSS) and ISS.

Suzette received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Madonna University and later a Risk Management Certification from the School of Healthcare Risk Management at Madonna University.

Suzette was born in Lansing and her parents brought her home to the campus of Michigan State University. She truly “bleeds” green. She lives in Williamston with her husband of 42 years and has four children and 8 grandchildren. She loves to travel, Glamp (camp in her trailer), and spend time with her family.

Coordinator Directory

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

Topic Submission

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

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 or by clicking [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.