

HELP ME GROW ADVISORY MEETING

DATE: January 13, 2026,

TIME: 10 AM

LOCATION: VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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| Members in Attendance | Daphne Evans, Aguida Atkinson, Audrey Cooper, Jamie Naudain, Mary Moor, Vik Vishnubhakta, Jenny Grady, Megan Hayes, Erin Nescott, Annie Norman, Debbie Finch, Diane Frentzel, Ashley Steinbrecher, Trinette Redinger-Ramsey, Susan Elizabeth Cordle, Daphne Romanelli, Lauren Kelley, Sarah Wilson, Shannon Hughes, Ken Livingston, Maria Shroyer, Keenon Mann, Roberta Banks (Admin Asst) Paulina Gyan, (Facilitator) |
| Agenda Item Welcome/Introductions | Paulina Gyan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes approved by Mary Moor and seconded by Erin Nescott.• Provided an overview of the day's agenda. |
| Discussion Points | KIDS COUNT, University of Delaware PRESENTATION – Erin Nescott <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Erin Nescott presented an overview of Kids Count Delaware, highlighting their role in collecting and providing high-quality data about children's well-being to inform policy changes.➤ She discussed their national partnerships, including the Annie Casey Foundation and Partnership for America's Children.➤ She highlighted KIDS COUNT's role in analyzing child well-being data at state and sub-state levels and emphasized the importance of credible data in understanding children's needs and collaborating with nonprofits to advocate for policy changes.➤ In discussing the 30th anniversary of Kids Count Delaware, she outlined plans for the 2026 focus book, which will focus on credible data, framing language for organizations, and analyzing federal policies' impact on Delaware's children.➤ She invited feedback from attendees on priority topics for the upcoming publication.➤ She also spoke about KIDS Count's recent documentary created to mark their 30th anniversary in the state. |

- The conversation ended with a request for photos of children to be featured in an upcoming book, with instructions to send them to a Dropbox or Janice Barlow's email.

HMG @ 211 DATA REPORT – 4th Quarter

- *Vik Vishnubhakta reported on Help Me Grow at 211 data (HMG@211) through Q4 2025 (October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025).*
- *This presentation was slightly different than those preceding Q3 2025 based on the data made available via the new 211 data system.*

In summary:

- *Number of Contacts: 1,211*
- *Callers heard about HMG from a variety of governmental and personal referral sources.*
- *Majority of callers were first-time callers.*
- *The top three problems/needs were related to (in descending order by count) Basic Immediate Needs, Developmental Health, and Maternal Health.*

Vik highlighted a significant increase in contacts over a 6–7-year period, with peaks occurring in August and November due to seasonal programming. The data showed that most callers were female, first-time callers, and from New Castle County, with English being the primary language spoken.

- Maria and Paulina discussed the increase in WIC referrals, which was attributed to a new system of weekly referrals from WIC clinics to HMG@211 that began in May 2023.
- The evolution of the Help Me Grow program and its role was highlighted, particularly its partnerships with organizations like WIC and Home Visiting, and the impact of these collaborations on data, including public assistance tracking.
- The data showed an increase in food-related needs due to the government shutdown, with basic immediate needs becoming the largest composition of problem needs in Q4 2025.
- Deb Finch and Audrey Cooper discussed the surge in call volume following the shutdown and the program's capacity to handle such spikes.
- Dr. Atkinson inquired about the nature of developmental health calls, which Deb clarified were primarily from processing ASQs, often initiated by schools and childcare providers.
- The conversation ended with a discussion on the program's preparedness for potential future shutdowns, with Deb noting the lack of extra staff but commitment to staying informed about emerging needs.

- The team discussed challenges with serving non-English speaking communities, particularly Spanish and Haitian Creole speakers, noting that while translation services are available, language barriers often prevent successful referrals to community resources.
- Audrey and Debbie shared their efforts to connect with the Latino community through presentations and outreach, though they acknowledged that maintaining accurate information about which organizations have bilingual staff remains difficult due to high turnover.
- Vik suggested a future focus group to gather feedback directly from callers who have received referrals to understand what has worked and what hasn't in serving these communities
- Also discussed the new HMG@211 data system (211OPS) which has enabled staff to be more efficient in their data collection and tracking and is also compatible with other systems such as the Stand-By-Me data system.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

FACE – Family and Community Engagement

Daphne reported that the committee met in December and reviewed the strategic plan. They discussed the following:

- *Sections of the strategic plan that fell under the FACE*
- *Shared upcoming BBB events slated for February 13 and March 14.*
- *Plans to follow up on Parent Leadership/Advocacy Group – looking at other HMG state models.*
- *Next meeting scheduled for February 19 at 10 am*
- *Held an Online BBB on January 10th with 3 families (made up of 5 children) attending. Online BBB is open to 15-20 individuals.*
- *Finalizing the outreach plan for spring/fall.*

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| | <p>DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on HMG Annual Report -a public facing document • Working on completing the Fidelity Assessment from HMG national center • Their next step is to finalize the HMG Annual report. <p>CENTRALIZED ACCESS POINT – HMG@211</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debbie shared HMG accomplishments for this period – • Follow up on 5600 Ages and Stages (ASQ) screens • Provided outreach at the Winter Wonderland event assisting about 2100 children. • Launched a new data system which allows customized reports, overall bringing efficiency to their work. <p>PROGRAM UPDATES:</p> <p>CHADIS Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussion to streamline the referrals through CHADIS platform – opportunities for improvement. • Working on a white paper on the CHADIS project –Vik and Chadis staff. <p>HMG Simulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning another in Kent County for next year. • Considering sometime in the fall. |
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| Conclusion | |
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| | <p>PARTNER UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Frentzel announced that the Readiness Teams are scheduled to meet on January 14 at 12 noon. • Shannon Hughes also highlighted changes in kindergarten enrollment patterns at the early childhood education program at the Capital school district. |

Next Meeting is scheduled for April since Paulina will be away in March.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81217510537?pwd=wwQfatbLNg32hbRILLBGA0dfohObFy.1>

Meeting ID: 812 1751 0537

Passcode: 690629

***Any Other Business and Wrap
Up***