

Home Visiting Community Advisory Board (HVCAB) –

Meeting Summary

Meeting Type: Home Visiting Community Advisory Board (HVCAB) Date: 09.16.24	Minutes Completed By: Jen Ettinger
Attendees:	
Ama Amponsah, Marneda Bailey, Noelle Bartkowski, Cindy Biederman, Sharronda Boston, Kimberly Cowsette, Kelly Ensslin, Jen Ettinger, Debbie Finch, Collette Green, Heather Hafer, Kimberly Hardy, Amy Harter, Christine Hoeflich Olley, Tynisa Howell, Jilissa Johnson, Joan Kelley, Alana Moffa, Mary Moor, Maricarmen Morales, Tara Oliver, Kirsten Olson, Trinette Redinger Ramsey, Erin Rich, Amber Shelton, Asia Summers, Emily Thompson, Kellie Turner, Stephanie Wagner, Gary Webb, Claudine Wiant, and Sarah Wood.	
Call to Order:	
The meeting began with introductions. The 01.22.24 minutes were approved with no corrections.	
Announcements/Comments: SHOUT OUTS!	
SHOUT OUT TO THE CARE COORDINATORS WITH THE MATERNITY CARE COALITION at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution! <i>Joan Kelley: Recognizing the care workers on the call from the Maternity Care Coalition in Baylor. As a part of the FIMR, I reviewed an infant death case where a mom had a late-term infant death. Mom was a former substance user and was on Suboxone and was incarcerated. I can't say enough good things about the care coordinators there. There was a care coordinator who engaged almost daily, if not more so, encouraged her to attend all her prenatal visits in the groups run there, and ensured she had excellent prenatal teaching. When she was discharged, the care coordinator ensured mom had everything she needed (cribs, car seats, diapers, etc.). I was most impressed when the coordinator found out that she had lost the baby; she was going to go to the facility to serve as the mom's post-partum doula to provide mental health care. We have never seen such excellent, hands-on prenatal teaching care and post-partum care. So impressive!</i> <i>Collette Green: Thank you so much; that warms my heart. Jillisa Johnson, who oversees the program and is on this call, will make sure this is conveyed back to her team. We are contracted by the DOC to provide doula services and caregivers in the community while the mom is imprisoned, pre- and post-natal care, and education. The golden standard of success to us is when we can refer them to home visiting upon release.</i>	
SHOUT OUT TO THE WESTSIDE FAMILY HEALTH GROUP! <i>Joan Kelley: I review records from everywhere. I am a registered nurse and just want to say Westside does an awesome job. I shared that with Dr. Michael Thomas, who sits on the FIMR board. They do an excellent job embracing the ladies making they have what need and engaging the women that come for their prenatal visits.</i> Thank you so much, Joan, for providing this amazing feedback to our programs!	
Introductions of New Attendees:	
Dawn Alexander, new role as Director of the Office of Early Learning (OEL) dawn.alexander@doe.k12.de.us <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dawn shares that home visiting is near and dear, and to be the director and support home visiting is an honor.• She has been in the role for three months and has significant initiatives planned to work with families and children.• DECC stands for Delaware Early Childhood Council, and this group is encouraged to attend public meetings.• Dawn comes with extensive experience in early childhood.	
Claudine Wiant, Prevent Child Abuse, Delaware, introduces Asaiah Beaman Fisher, the new wrap-around trainer for PCAD asaiahfisher@pcadelaware.org . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asaiah has extensive experience as an early childhood home visiting and outreach coordinator.• She previously worked for Children & Families First for approximately four years.• Project director at the lighthouse project, East Side Charter, and started her career with Americorp.• This is a part-time position for Asaiah; she is very passionate about wrap-around training.• Be on the lookout for the upcoming training schedule for 24-25.	
Home Visiting Program Updates	
Asia Summers, HFD: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, there are 20 open slots for home visiting, over 10 in New Castle, 5 in Kent, and 5 in Sussex.• Highest referrals received from Christiana Care, 211/HMG, Door of Hope, Beebe, DFS, Amerihealth, Tidal Health, and La Red.	

- Graduations are coming up, with 1 in NCC and 1 in January in Sussex County.
- Over 20+ families are celebrating graduation! We haven't been able to have an in-person graduation in quite a while because of COVID, so we are excited to be able to celebrate with our families.

Stephanie Wagner, PAT Polytech:

- At capacity except for Sussex County, where we can take English-speaking families.
- Three part-time positions are open for Kent and Sussex; finding people to apply for has been difficult.
- Getting great referrals from various places, HMG, DFS, Birth to 3, and Westside Health every month.

Christine Olley, PAT DECC:

- Hiring 3 home visitors for Kent and Sussex. Really looking to increase home visitors in Sussex.
- All staff have full caseloads, and Christine also carries a caseload.
- Positions are flexible for anyone coming in; they can work a large or small caseload.
- A lot of things are happening with families; keep referrals coming between the 3 PATS supervisors.
- Can service them in New Directions Early Head Start; I have about ten open spots and can take English, Spanish, and Creole in Kent County, and in Sussex can serve English and Spanish.

Noelle Bartkowski, Christina PAT:

- We are in the process of hiring a part-time educator, which will close at the end of the month. It has been difficult because it is a difficult job.
- We do have room to enroll families.
- We are excited that, beginning in October, we will reopen two playgroups: one in Wilmington and one in Bear.
- We have an educator who specializes in working with teen parents! She is starting to work in 4 of our high schools and runs parenting groups in the high school during the day.
- Still have a waiting list that is getting smaller, but please continue sending referrals.

Marneda Bailey, NFP:

- Reporting on the NCC expansion team, Liset is out, but the NCC group has about 15 spaces to fill.
- Kent and Sussex have a few more, and we have 25 vacancies.
- The nurse went on medical leave, so we had to bump up the caseload of the other nurses for Kent and Sussex. Some have been covered by NCC virtually by zoom visits; the nurse has returned and is building caseload.
- I am currently interviewing for nursing positions in NCC and Kent/Sussex County. We have a Spanish-speaking nurse in both of those counties, but we are looking for someone who is bilingual or multilingual.
- We do not have a waiting list and ask you to please send qualifying parents our way!

Eunice Holman, Westside Family Health, HVCHW Program:

- We currently have one home visiting community health worker but hope to onboard a new person. We had a really good interview and hope to fill the position in the New Castle area.

Heather Hafer, Home-based coordinator for the CFF, Early Head Start:

- We have two home visitors serving Sussex County and 1 opening in the caseloads.
- Referrals welcome and hope that once we fill those caseloads, we can build up a waitlist for both home visitors.
- We have one English-speaking and one Spanish speaking home visitor.
- Hoping to build a waitlist so that when our children transition out, we have those ready to transition in.

Debbie Finch, 211/HMG:

- August has been a great month, with 529 calls. We processed 297 development screenings and registered 31 moms for home visiting services.
- Provided support with United Way by giving out 1000 backpacks.
- We started the winter coat giveaway, which will kick off on November 1st. We will share the flyer when we have it.

- It was informative, and it was good to see everyone talking; great job!
- I am so thankful to everyone who joined us and those powerful conversations with us all being hybrid.
- DPH will bring back *Sprout Learning* training in Nov. HFD and NFP first to see interested staff.
- Networking meeting in Jan. to include HV All.
- Being in person is so beneficial, and the room has good energy.
- Cross-collaborating and connecting with teams – we get so much out of it.
- A lot of interagency collaboration and a valuable – feeling of celebration for a very difficult job.
- Helpful to boost morale; headshots were a worthwhile, valuable investment, and staff felt valued.

Update on the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Pilot

Amber Shelton, DOE:

- In January, all 3 PAT agencies began implementing phase 1 of this pilot.
- All affiliates are receiving support from the consultant.
- Providing support and gathering data.
- Reflective supervision training is conducted at different times; the last 1 is next month.
- Hoping to complete the pilot in Dec and will continue to look at the data to ensure there is enough to make an informed decision.
- The purpose of the pilot is to identify any gaps when creating the model in DE.
- DE currently does not have an infant mental health association, so the hope is to get honest feedback to roll out to the MIECHV programs with Best Practices in mind.
- Being piloted before getting rolled out to MIECHV in 2025.
- PAT will continue to utilize and determine what is sustainable.
- The purpose is to support staff, alleviate turnover, and keep families engaged.

Presentation: ABC Parenting Institute, University of Delaware: Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) Program for Newborns, Infants, and Young Children *slides forwarded to MSHAC email distribution

Mission: To nurture parent-child relationships through science-based practice and community partnership.

They are designed to increase responsive parenting through key parenting behaviors: nurturance, following the lead with delight, avoiding frightening behavior, and calming the dysregulated child (ABC Early Childhood).

- ABC Parenting Institute was developed by the University of Delaware and has existed for 15 years. The non-profit was launched in July 2024 with funding from Longwood Funding.
- Evidence-based 10-session program; video recorded sessions.
- Children who received ABC demonstrated lower rates of disorganized attachments, more normative cortisol patterns, a significant increase in caregiver sensitivity and positive regard, and a significant decrease in caregiver intrusiveness. *Seeing long lasting effects.
- ABC Institute is looking for family referrals; parents who complete the program will receive a financial incentive.
- Ability to train HV staff in ABC

Contact Information: Lindsay Zajac, PhD, lzajac@abcparenting.org and Vinaya Rajan, PhD, vrajan@abcparenting.org.

Resources shared with the group:

Delaware Libraries has a list (shared by Dawn Alexander) a way that non-profits can share information and may help with hiring. Can also have 1) send flyers/info via email to partner agencies and non-profits statewide; 2) receive information about other non-profits' opportunities. You can also request that your non-profit be listed on the DE Listserv webpage. Request to be registered at PARTNERS@LISTSERV.LIB.DE.US

Good Friends of the First State (shared by Claudine Wiant) are interested in monetarily assisting women and girls in crisis. It's a brief, intermittent monetary relief. The referrals must come from a licensed social worker or program manager, but it's on a referral basis. The money will go to where the need is. Email: goodfriendsofthefirststate@gmail.com and website <https://www.goodfriendsofthefirststate.org/>

Next Meeting:

TBD

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.