

EBHV Connector

Volume 1, Issue 5



Online Newsletter for Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Prevent Child Maltreatment Grantees
Prepared by the FRIENDS NRCCBCAP



In the Spotlight: South Carolina

Lessons Learned

South Carolina is unique among ACF EBHV grantees by virtue of establishing six new Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) sites within its first year of implementation. The 6 sites cover 9 of South Carolina's 46 counties. The Duke Endowment, along with funds from South Carolina (SC) First Steps to School Readiness, secured funding for creation of the first four sites, which represented five counties: Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, Lexington, and Richland. Within a few months, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation committed to sponsor two additional sites. These two sites covered four counties: Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, and Horry. The ACF EBHV grant was critical in allowing State agencies such as First Steps (part of the SC Department of Education) and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), along with the grant-administering Children's Trust of South Carolina, to become both stakeholders and partners in this EBHV initiative.

Process-related Lesson Learned: Starting six new NFP sites required clear lines of communication. The South Carolina NFP Director is positioned at SC



First Steps, and works closely with a State Nurse Consultant at DHEC and the regional support staff from the NFP National Service Office. Fidelity to the NFP model is the essential focus of this support. Administratively, the main group *continued on page 2*

Inside This Issue...

- In the Spotlight
- FPO Corner
- FRIENDS National Resource Center's Focus
- Cross-site Evaluation News
- Resources

Upcoming Events

December
12/15 3pm ET--EBHV Peer Learning Network Call: Replicating Home Visiting Programs with Quality: A Useful Pathway for Improving Quality and Maximizing Outcomes

FPO Corner: A Federal Update

Dear Grantees,

It was great to participate in the calls over the last several weeks with each of your projects. We learned a lot from the conversations, and it was very exciting to hear about how you have moved forward in certain areas of your programs such as serving families, and data collection on your local evaluations. As we continue with the program, it is always important to remember the purpose of the EBHV grant program, which is to support the infrastructure needed for the widespread adoption, implementation and sustaining of evidence-based home visitation programs, and to generate knowledge about the use of evidence-based home visiting programs to prevent child maltreatment.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

In the Spotlight: South Carolina

that oversees the SC NFP implementation and expansion is the SC NFP committee. The committee meetings grew from less than ten individuals to almost twenty stakeholders during the second year of the grant. The new stakeholders represent additional Hospital and Health Department staff, a part-time grant-funded Technical Assistance Consultant focused on expansion and sustainability, a privately funded communications firm assisting sites with branding and community awareness, and a privately funded government relations firm also focused on community education and awareness. Given the growth in the number of stakeholders, it became necessary to ensure the core members of the committee had the opportunity to handle critical decision-making. As a result, the group recently began having executive meetings immediately after the monthly SC NFP meetings. This format has allowed us to gain insights from stakeholders and deal with pressing issues.

Service Administration Lessons Learned: Lessons more directly related to services have included development of a Statewide feasibility analysis, a SC NFP Resource Guide that documents key contacts and Statewide protocols and guidelines, an NFP Implementation Plan Guide, and a formal Mini-Application Guide for Expansion. We continue to learn more every month as sites begin their second year of service delivery. Geographic variations among sites, such as coastal locations where the population varies widely by season or rural areas with limited transportation,

present unique challenges. In addition, we are working to ensure that high quality and culturally adept services are provided to increasing numbers of non-English speaking residents. Fidelity is paramount as we continue this process.

Upcoming Evaluation Analysis:

Our web-based survey of key stakeholders is currently underway in an effort to assess stakeholders'

perceptions about the quality of the collaboration process. We will soon start face-to-face semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders to gather more in-depth information about the implementation process of NFP in SC.

This article was submitted by Ann Maletic, EBHV Research and Program Coordinator at the Children's Trust of South Carolina.

continued from page 1

FPO Corner: A Federal Update

We all have to work together to make sure that our work is a contribution to the field and generates the knowledge that helps us move the field forward. This is a research and demonstration project, and we have a tremendous opportunity to ask and answer important questions. We believe that we have to establish this policy-to-practice feedback loop at all levels so that what you are learning continues to impact not only the work that you do with your projects at the State and local level, but also contributes to our work at the national level. We also have a great opportunity to help inform and contribute to the larger MIEC Home Visiting program, and your experiences so far have already been helpful to that program.

Our philosophical approach in all this work is to be participatory and utilization-focused. We clearly want to engage all of you along the way—it's an iterative process and we welcome

feedback and engagement along the way. We plan to continue to be responsive and adaptive to grantees, and we encourage you to take advantage of all the available resources (FPOs, Mathematica liaisons, and FRIENDS T/TA coordinators) that can assist you with the successful implementation of your grant.

Over the next few weeks, we will be transitioning the grantee assignments to new staff at OCAN (Lauren Kass, Charisse Johnson, and Jean Nussbaum). They are looking forward to talking with each of you as part of the upcoming grantee calls in December/January and learning more about your projects. We have informed them of your hard work throughout the past few years, and your ability to keep the intent of the project on strengthening the families that you serve through your projects.

Rosie Gomez &
Melissa Brodowski
Federal Project Officers



FRIENDS National Resource Center Focus: Resources Provided to EBHV Grantees

It's hard to believe that this last October began the third year of the EBHV project. As we venture into a new year, it is a perfect time to refocus on our goals and opportunities for the upcoming year.

To help support you, the FRIENDS NRC Team would like to review the resources we have available to you:

Individualized programmatic training and technical assistance with the FRIENDS Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Coordinators, as requested through your Federal Project Officer (FPO)—FRIENDS and their national partners work with Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) State leads on areas such as peer review, implementation of new programs, data-driven decision-making, and logic model development for planning and evaluation purposes including continuous quality improvement. If these, or similar topics, are areas your project may want to learn more about, please talk with your FPO who can refer requests to the FRIENDS NRC.

The following is a list of the TTA Coordinators and their State assignments.

Mary Jo Alimena Caruso – DE and RI mjcaruso@zoominternet.net

Cassandra Firman – CA, CO, HI, and UT cfirman@wavecable.com

Alicia Luckie – OH, IL, MN, NJ, NY, SC, and TN apluckie@elmore.rr.com

Edi Winkle – OK and TX ediwinkle@windstream.net



If you would like to discuss a training topic before making a request to your FPO, please call the assigned TTA Coordinator and they will be happy to offer more information.

Coordinating and facilitating monthly Peer Learning Network (PLN) calls – Topics are identified from your input provided through phone calls, discussions with the cross-site evaluation team, and suggestions made to your FPO. If there is a topic that you would like to see highlighted on a future PLN call, or a topic that can be addressed in a small peer group call with sites and individuals who may be interested in a particular area, please contact your FRIENDS' TTA Coordinator.

EBHV Newsletter—New initiatives, lessons learned, progress made on evaluative studies, and adaptations to program models are among the many topics that would be of interest to other sites, so please consider submitting an article for publication in the newsletter!

Supporting EBHV website—FRIENDS maintains the EBHV website at <http://www.supportingebhv.org/>. Please provide suggestions that you would like to see posted on the website. Since its inception, the website has grown tremendously, but to keep the content up-to-date, we are always looking for additional information.

Also, visit the FRIENDS NRC website at www.friendsnrc.org. This website has information on child abuse prevention, outcome accountability and evaluation, parent engagement, and network development. &



Cross-site Evaluation News

Mathematica Policy Research and Chapin Hall

Monitoring Replication: Building Early Childhood Home Visiting Capacity with Fidelity

Maintaining fidelity to a program's design is critical both for achieving effective outcomes and for taking initiatives to scale. Despite the benefits of implementing programs as designed, many social service models have been taken to scale without sufficient attention to fidelity. Systematically monitoring implementation helps maintain program consistency and quality. The process also can flag the need to adjust recommended procedures to accommodate unique features in a program's participant base. For the EBHV national cross-site evaluation Mathematica Policy Research and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago developed a fidelity monitoring system. To design the system, Mathematica and Chapin Hall consulted with the developers of the five home visiting models selected by the EBHV grantees (Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, SafeCare, and Triple P) to gain an understanding of the models' existing requirements and priority outcomes. Furthermore, Mathematica and Chapin Hall developed a system that incorporates two important components of fidelity: (1) structural aspects of the intervention that demonstrate adherence to basic program elements such as reaching the target population, delivering the recommended dosage, maintaining low caseloads, and hiring and maintaining well-qualified staff; and (2) dynamic aspects of the participant-provider interaction.

The fidelity monitoring system Mathematica and Chapin Hall designed for the EBHV cross-site evaluation provides a set of indicators that state planners can use in crafting their own fidelity monitoring systems and assessing the implementation of home visiting models across different communities. The system includes a set of indicators covering three primary areas: (1) program-level characteristics (including caseload dynamics and service structure), (2) direct service staff characteristics, and (3) participant-level characteristics and service experiences.

- *Program-level characteristics* describe the service delivery location, including the number of families that can be served and the expected and actual pace of referrals and enrollment. They also indicate the extent to which the location meets a model's initial and ongoing structural fidelity guidelines. Information on funding sources and levels indicates the extent to which the service delivery site is able to secure and sustain the funding needed for full program operations.
- *The characteristics of direct service staff* help program managers understand the relationship between staff characteristics, family retention, and ultimately, family and child

outcomes. Descriptive information on the home visitors and supervisors will indicate if staff have the necessary qualifications and experience to deliver a model as designed. Caseload information can be used to determine whether the service delivery location has sufficient home visitors and supervisory personnel to maintain caseload standards and provide appropriate oversight of the service delivery process. Over time these data also can be used to determine how long home visitors remain with the program and assess the effect of changes in home visitors on family retention.

- *Participant-level indicators* can be used to document program participants' characteristics as well as capture how individual participants experience the service delivery process and the extent to which these experiences mirror the model's intent and quality. Documenting participant descriptive characteristics indicates whether service delivery locations are enrolling families targeted by their respective national models and whether engagement and retention rates differ across participants with different personal profiles and levels of demographic risk for poor outcomes. Data on service dosage and the content of the

continued on page 5



Resources

Pew Inventory of State Home Visiting Programs

Pew Center on the States
http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=61051

Based on Pew's 2010 survey of State child welfare agency directors, the Pew Home Visiting Inventory provides stakeholders with a State-by-State and national snapshot of home visiting programs, models, and funding structures.

The Recession and Child Maltreatment

First Focus
http://www.firstfocus.net/sites/default/files/Recession_Maltreatment_ChildWellBeing.pdf

This paper synthesizes evidence of the effects of recession on child well-being. It examines four domains - health, food security, housing stability, and maltreatment - and reviews the relationship of each to the well-being of children during recessions.

Findings from the 2009 Child Maltreatment Prevention Environmental Scan of State Public Health Agencies

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/PHLI_CM_environmental_scan-a.pdf

This resource documents the findings of a scan of State Public

Health agencies conducted as a part of the CDC's Public Health Leadership Initiative in 2009. Based on information collected from staff at each State agency, the report provides highlights topics including agency commitment to child maltreatment prevention, role in maltreatment prevention, and available programs and services.

Healing the Damage: Trauma and Immigrant Families in the Child Welfare System

American Human Association
<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/docs/protecting-children/PC-toolkit-trauma-immigrant-families.pdf>

Social workers that engage with immigrant families often face unique challenges related to the families' culture, language, legal status, and other factors. This resource provides information and guidelines for responding to these

families' needs in a way that maximizes their strengths, protective factors, and resources.

Practice, Policy, and Implementation: An International Annotated Bibliography of Family Engagement Strategies in Child Welfare

American Humane Association
<http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-children/programs/family-group-decision-making/practice-annotated-bibliography/>

This document includes summaries of over 60 articles and reports related to the practice of a variety of approaches to family engagement in the child welfare field. Documents included in this report cover topics including family group decision making, the involvement of children in family conferences, and case studies of families involved in engagement activities.

continued from page 4

Cross Site Evaluation Update

home visit provide additional information on service engagement levels and on the degree to which intended program content is being provided to participants. Participant level data can also provide information about issues that might limit parents' ability to focus on the child's needs. Such information can inform States about the types of ancillary services communities

may need to fully support parents of infants and young children.

Additional information about the fidelity monitoring system, including examples of the types of indicators included in the system, is summarized in an evaluation brief due to be released in December 2010. The brief will be available on the EBHV project website (<http://www.supportingebhv.org/>). 

