

Perinatal and Infant Health: MCH Universal Home Visiting Initiatives

Objective 2.4: Increase the proportion of pregnant and postpartum women receiving MCH Universal Home Visiting services.

Activities During Federal Fiscal Year 2023

The following modules through the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals became required of newly hired MCH Home Visitors as of 7/1/23.

- Home Visiting 101-Importance of Home Visiting
- Home Visiting 102-Home Visitor Skills and Strategies
- Home Visiting 103-Professional Practice
- Virtual Home Visiting 101-Service Delivery Overview
- Virtual Home Visiting 102-Preparing Yourself and Families
- Virtual Home Visiting 103-Engaging Families
- Virtual Home Visiting 104-Facilitating Parent-Child Connections
- Virtual Home Visiting 105-Screening and Assessment
- Virtual Home Visiting 106-Supporting the Whole Family

Other trainings that were newly recommended and promoted for 2023 included:

- University of Kansas Tobacco Treatment Specialist
- Wichita State University Community Health Worker Certification
- Family Planning Health Worker Certification by Essential Access Health
- From ACES to Promoting Positive Experiences: Training Home Visitors by the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Perinatal Substance Use: Mandated Reporting and Best Practices for Supporting Families by Kansas Children's Service League

To increase provider awareness and ensure a strong home visiting system of care the Community Partnership Unit Director presented on universal home visiting during the July meeting of the Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council.

MCH Intensive Home Visiting Pilot Project: The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W), Kansas Overdose Data 2 Action (OD2A) Program staff, and MCH staff met monthly to discuss KUSM-W's progress toward providing intensive home visiting services for mothers of infants diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). The goal of the project was to engage mothers with infants diagnosed with NAS and connect them to treatment and/or other support services. There were challenges with getting a significant number of referrals for clients that met the criteria of having an infant with NAS. While hospitals and other partner organizations made referrals to the home visiting program, most weren't for clients with substance use disorder (SUD). Of the clients with SUD referred to KUSM-W, the majority were already receiving treatment for substance use in addition to other supportive services. Based on the last monthly report KUSM-W submitted for the project, 52 referrals were made to their home visiting program but only three people were receiving intensive home visiting

services related to mother's SUD. The project ended in August with the conclusion of OD2A's project period.

One success of the project was KUSM-W's outreach to potential referral partners. They increased the number of organizations in their Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS) network.

Universal Home Visiting Expansion: Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was awarded additional funds from the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund to expand universal home visiting across the state. The amount of funds KDHE awarded to local programs increased from \$250,000 in 2022 to \$1,173,971 in 2023. The additional funds were awarded to 16 MCH Aid-to-Local grantees through a separate application process. 3 of 16 awardees launched new universal home visiting programs and 1 of 16 expanded their home visiting program to additional counties. The remainder worked to increase the number of families served and visits conducted in their current service area. Among the 16 programs that expanded home visiting, the total number of families served increased from 1,003 in 2022 to 1,406 in 2023. Across all MCH Aid-to-Local grantees families served increased from 2,047 in 2022 to 3,548 in 2023.

Those counties that didn't increase the number of families served cited staff vacancies, lack of quality data entry, lack of referrals, or client recruitment, as barriers.

With the expansion of resources and an additional application, MCH staff set minimum screening and education requirements for universal home visits. The required screenings and education topics aligned with MCH state action plan priorities and included screening for maternal mental health, social determinants of health, infant development, and educating on post-birth warning signs, breastfeeding, safe sleep, and home safety topics. In addition, universal home visiting programs were encouraged to provide other assessments and education based on the families' strengths and interests.

Universal Home Visiting Expansion funds supported an agreement with the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (KU CPPR) to evaluate the implementation, program cost analysis, and impact of universal home visiting expansion. The report on the findings and deliverables will be provided in the next report but the activities leading up to the findings included an analysis of the award allocations and expenditures, development of a workforce survey, and a design plan for expansion community profiles.

In-Person MCH Home Visitor Training Planned: In-person MCH Home Visitor training was planned for November 2023. Planning activities included a survey of what location, date, session topics, and session format attendees preferred. The survey also included a question that asked for Home Visitor of the Year nominations. There were 58 respondents which was a good rate, considering 44 local MCH programs provided home visiting services at the time. Results of the survey showed a preference for training in Wichita on November 7, until someone spoke up and reminded everyone that

it was Election Day. It was decided training would be held on November 14. Other survey results showed respondents' interest in the following topics:

1. How other programs recruit, enroll, and engage clients
2. What evidence-based screening tools, education, and activities other programs rely on
3. How and when home visits can be billed
4. DAISEY data entry requirements

Five home visitors were nominated for Home Visitor of the Year. Promotion of the training began with a Save the Date announcement. A handful of programs asked, and were allowed to bring, all their home visitors even if they weren't funded by MCH or Universal Home Visiting Expansion, and thus not required to attend.



Maternal and Child Health Home Visiting Training

Tuesday, November 14 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wichita, Kansas | Marcus Welcome Center at
Wichita State University



Local MCH Agencies: The following are examples of local MCH grantee agencies that have made progress toward objective 2.4 during the reporting period.

- Neosho County Health Department received the Universal Home Visiting Expansion Project funds and increased the number of families served and the number of home visits provided from 2022 to 2023. The number of families served more than doubled from 48 to 103 and the number of MCH home visits conducted increased from 99 to 214. The program reported multiple community partnerships, which included Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center and My Family, that led to their success.
- Riley County Health Department was a great example of how to extend Becoming a Mom (BaM) services with home visiting. They exceeded their goal of having 70% of BaM participants receive an MCH home visit. The actual

participation was 90%. Their efforts led to an increase in home visiting clients from 2022 (126) to 2023 (188).

- Saline County Health Department received the Universal Home Visiting Expansion Project funds and used them to launch their expansion of MCH home visiting services into McPherson County. They conducted home visits with 24 families from McPherson County.
- Sedgwick County Health Department increased the number of home visiting clients from 118 in 2022 to 207 in 2023. Their Healthy Babies program protocols were provided as examples to other MCH home visiting programs in the state that were lacking written protocols or looking to update existing protocols. They continued to be one of the MCH grantees that also has a fatherhood program.
- Seward County Health Department received Universal Home Visiting Expansion Project funds and more than doubled the number of families served by home visiting from 194 in 2022 to 436 in 2023. They conducted outreach to OBGYNs, hospitals, WIC and community-based organizations to educate on the value and availability of home visiting services.
- Southeast Kansas Multi-County Health Department was another site that increased the number of clients receiving MCH home visits. In 2022 they served 161 families and increased to 192 in 2023.

Plans for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Home Visiting Workforce Training: During FY25, the Bureau of Family Health will again host the Kansas Home Visiting Conference. Conference planning is currently underway. This conference is open to all Kansas Home Visiting staff free of charge. The conference will include breakout session and keynote speakers on topics of interest to MCH home visitors. Some potential topics of interest include home visitor safety and DAISEY data entry and reports. The other part of the conference will include regional breakout groups for MCH home visitors to discuss challenges, successes, and opportunities for collaboration.

Home Visiting Expansion: KDHE Bureau of Family Health will continue to award funding for universal home visiting expansion during the plan year. This funding will support home visiting expansion in multiple counties throughout the state.