

Child Health: Other Childhood Activities

Activities During Federal Fiscal Year 2023

Early Childhood Systems Building: As one of four state agencies involved in the early childhood systems building initiative, KDHE continued to serve as the lead to carry out the below projects under the plan.

- **Bridges:** Helping families navigate systems after early intervention services have ended to help bridge transition gaps identified by the needs assessment.
- **Holistic Care Coordination:** Establishing models of holistic, coordinated care in primary care settings across the state to support child development and growth for all children but especially those who have a special health care need.
- **Family Engagement and Leadership:** Strengthening family voices in leadership through development and learning, program and policy advisory roles, and engagement.
- **Peer to Peer Supports:** Expanding peer to peer support and information sharing opportunities for families in Kansas.
- **Child Care Systems Improvement:** Increasing capacity of the child-care system and assuring equitable access to high-quality early childhood care and education programs.

Each of these initiatives are aligned with the Title V State Action Plan. Plans for the coming year for Bridges can be found in the CSHCN Plan narrative and for the Holistic Care Coordination, Family Engagement and Leadership, and Peer to Peer Supports in the Cross-Cutting Plan.

Child Safety Learning Collaborative: In September 2023, Title V leadership and Kansas' State Injury and Violence Prevention Director applied to participate in the 2024 cohort of the Child Safety Learning Collaborative (CSLC). The CSLC, an initiative of the Children's Safety Network (CSN), works with MCH and Injury and Violence Prevention programs to create environments in which all infants, children, and youth are healthy and safe. CSN works to equip states and jurisdictions to strengthen their capacity, utilize data, and implement effective strategies to make reductions in injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits. The selection results will be announced in early 2024.

Help Me Grow: In 2017, the Kansas Title V team worked with the National Help Me Grow (HMG) organization for Kansas to become an affiliate state. When Kansas was awarded the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) in 2019, the HMG work was moved to the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (KU CPPR). During that time progress focused on the 1-800-CHILDREN call line, mobile app, and a searchable website, along with a focus on strengthening work around the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ). The PDG award ended in April of 2023 and the HMG work began to transition back to the Title V team in FY23. Monthly transition meetings between KU CPPR and the Title V leadership helped to form the HMG vision for the future. The primary goal of the work over the reporting period was for new Title V

leadership to understand the vision of HMG, build a better relationship with key partners, and develop an internal leadership team to lead the work moving forward.

The four core components to a strong HMG structure are: (1) Centralized Access Point: 1-800-CHILDREN was designed to assist families and professionals in connecting children and families to community resources; (2) Family & Community Outreach assists parents/caregivers and providers in understanding healthy child development and linkages to supportive services within their communities; (3) Child Health Care Provider Outreach supports early detection and intervention efforts while supporting providers in connecting families to appropriate community resources in their area. Providers are supported and encouraged to screen children birth through five using the 'Ages and Stages Questionnaires' (ASQ), so any child showing a delay can immediately be referred to the right community resource for assistance; (4) Data Collection & Analysis is to assist with ensuring all other components are working effectively, help to identify gaps or barriers, and guide quality improvement work. These four components work cooperatively and interdependently with each other to form the HMG system.

Plans for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Finance Policy Work: The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Financing Policy Project (IECMH-FPP) through Zero to Three (ZTT) supports states' advancement of IECMH financing policies that will contribute to the healthy development of very young children, with emphasis on a full continuum of developmentally appropriate supports and services inclusive of promotion, prevention, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. The IECMH-FPP is unique in its tight focus on financing of IECMH services, and an intentional focus on IECMH policy leaders in states. It is designed to be driven by and responsive to the needs of state-level policy influencers who are responsible for holding the vision of an IECMH system and driving progress forward. Goals of the IECMH FPP include:

1. Develop and share strategies for financing a robust continuum of IECMH supports and services;
2. Develop and share strategies for communicating IECMH messages to Medicaid and other policymakers, identifying and using policy levers, and using equity-driven approaches to advance policy priorities;
3. Work towards creating and implementing state action plans; and
4. Identify examples of successful state or community policy/practice change to share with one another and the field at large.

FPP-IECMH Anticipated outcomes:

- Increased understanding of IECMH among state leaders to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers.
- Increased connection and collaboration across IECMH state leadership to address complex program, system, and policy challenges.
- Increased diversity of funding to support IECMH promotion, prevention, and intervention/treatment supports and services.
- Increase in equity-driven policy planning practices in states.

- Increased number of states integrating DC:0-5 in policy and practice to improve IECMH assessment and diagnosis.
- Increased number of diverse and well-qualified IECMH providers to serve infants and toddlers.

In Kansas, this is a collaborative effort between KDHE/BFH, KDHE/Medicaid, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF), State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH), and local providers. Current goals include creating a crosswalk of the DC 0-5 and workforce/training strategies. This includes identification of provider types that could/should bill Medicaid, action planning for each provider types that includes training/education needs, pathways available to support billing, any qualifications required to bill, and IECMH endorsement. In May 2024, the Kansas Team is working with a ZTT Consultant to complete a systems finance mapping project. KDADS is working to execute a contract with a vendor to facilitate community data exchange conversations and a Summit to bring together key IECMH stakeholders for a DC 0-5 training session and action planning in Fall 2024. The BFH and Title V will help support these activities and any additional activities identified following the Summit.

Children's Safety Network Learning Collaborative: Kansas Title V and the State Injury and Violence Prevention Program were selected for participation in the 2024 cohort of the Child Safety Learning Collaborative (CSLC) run by the Children's Safety Network (CSN). Over the next 18 months, Kansas will work on self-harm and suicide prevention efforts in the state alongside eight other states also building their work in this area. CSN will provide technical assistance, change ideas, work plan templates, and support for all teams engaged in this work. Leveraging the existing Youth Suicide Prevention Committee as partners in the work, the Title V MCH Director and State Injury and Violence Prevention Director will work to expand efforts in the state on the resources available in the state to address self-harm and suicide concerns. The overall goal of increasing education and resources for children and youth for self-harm and suicide prevention will be broken into several 90-day aims that the team will work to complete. Regular reports will be submitted to CSN to ensure Kansas is making progress on these efforts and to guidance and technical assistance as needed.

Universal NPM: Medical Home

Medical Home: According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a medical home “is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care that facilitates partnerships between patients, clinicians, medical staff, and families. A medical home extends beyond the four walls of a clinical practice. It includes specialty care, educational services, family support, and more.”¹ Seven qualities have been identified that are essential to a medical home which include accessible, family-centered, continuous,

¹ Medical Home. American Academy of Pediatrics. <https://www.aap.org/en/practice-management/medical-home/>.

comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. With medical home becoming a universal NPM for Title V agencies, KS Title V intends to use the next year to identify how to integrate this with existing efforts. Specifically, the Child Health Consultant, with the support from the Title V MCH Director, will work to identify whether the composite measure or a sub-component will be the focus of our efforts in the coming years. Results of the Title V Needs Assessment and the HMG work will be used to drive data-informed decisions around the greatest area of need in Kansas related to the medical home.