



ZERO TO THREE
Early connections last a lifetime

ZERO TO THREE Communities of Practice on Home Visiting

Community of Practice: Integrating Home Visiting in the Early Childhood System

From the nine states that submitted applications for the Community of Practice (CoP) on integrating home visiting in early childhood systems, six states were selected (Illinois, Missouri, New York, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin). The CoP met five times between March and August 2016. Participating states shared examples of strategies for integrating home visiting into early childhood systems in seven categories:

- Collaborative planning and system-building
- Community engagement and public awareness
- Identification, screening, assessment, and referrals
- Family partnerships and engagement
- Professional development and workforce supports
- Evaluation and continuous quality improvement
- Data systems

Each participating state developed and presented an action plan for strengthening the integration of home visiting in their early childhood system-building efforts. A web-based interactive framework with definitions, strategies, and state examples of integrating home visiting in early childhood systems will be released in late fall 2016. A session on the CoP's work will be held during the National Home Visiting Summit in November.

Community of Practice: Home Visiting Advocates in States

This CoP includes 16 key home visiting advocates from 12 states—Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Texas. The group began meeting monthly by conference call/webinar in May 2016. For each topical session, one or two participants shared their expertise, lessons learned, successes, and challenges. The four topics covered to date were:

- Home visiting accountability legislation
- Practical and tactical strategies for advancing home visiting in states
- Coordinated/centralized intake and referral through a policy lens
- Messaging in home visiting

A full-day face-to-face working session was held on September 21 in conjunction with the Alliance for Early Success Annual Partner Summit. The majority of the day focused on developing a legislative agenda. This CoP is ongoing, and a few additional state home visiting advocates may be included in upcoming sessions.

Community of Practice on Building Mental Health Capacity in Home Visiting

This CoP on enhancing mental health capacity in home visiting will take place in 2017. A Request for Applications will be released in fall 2016, and five to eight state public-private teams will be selected for participation. At least five conference calls/webinars will be held between January and August 2017 for state teams in the CoP.

For more information about any of these Communities of Practice, contact Barbara Gebhard at ZERO TO THREE gebhard@zerotothree.org or 301-776-2910.