

Minutes of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on the
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Evaluation
Public Teleconference
March 23, 2011

Committee Members: Naomi Goldstein (co-chair), Peter van Dyck (co-chair), Hortensia Amaro, Mark Appelbaum, Robert Bradley, C. Hendricks Brown, Greg Duncan, Catherine Gallagher, Rob Grunewald, Bette Jacobs, Sharon Lynn Kagan, Marie McCormick, Frank Putnam, Ed Schor, Paul Spicer

Date and time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, March 23, 2011

Location: Teleconference

Purpose: Provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary through the Administrator, HRSA, and the Assistant Secretary, ACF, with respect to the design, plan, progress and results of the evaluation of the MIECHV program.

MIECHV SAC staff: Carlos Cano, T'Pring Westbrook (Designated Federal Officials)

Meeting Summary

The discussion followed the issues and general timing presented in the meeting agenda (Attachment A). Below is a summary of the discussion during this first meeting of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Evaluation Committee.

Following welcoming remarks by the Committee's co-chairs and from Drs. Terri Adirim and George Askew on behalf of HRSA and ACF respectively, staff from both agencies presented the Committee with information on its charge as well as an introduction to the MIECHV program including its legislative authority, program goals, implementation timeline, and current status. Staff also presented information about the evaluation requirements in the legislation. Committee members commented and made recommendations on broad features of the design presented for discussion by the contract team engaged by HRSA and ACF.

The Committee commented on a broad range of topics:

Sampling Design

A number of Committee members endorsed a stratified clustered sampling design to yield a study sample that would reflect the diversity of MIECHV at less cost than a sample covering all 56 MIECHV grantee states and territories. Committee members did not support a sample design

focusing on metropolitan areas only. Members emphasized the importance of selecting a sample with diversity in participant, program and site characteristics.

Implementation Study

Committee members highlighted the importance of examining the implementation of MIECHV. The Committee felt the information obtained about program implementation would have the potential to inform and improve program operations.

Sub-Studies

Committee members recognized both the challenges and benefits of conducting a large impact study. Members suggested considering sub-studies within the main study to answer very specific research questions while using resources effectively. Topics offered for consideration included a sub-study on fathers, an examination of early childhood systems, a comparison of newly operating versus established home visiting programs, and in-depth qualitative exploration of families' experiences in the home visiting program.

Community Characteristics

Committee members suggested specifically adding community or neighborhood characteristics to the overall theoretical framework for the evaluation design.

Timeline

Committee members acknowledged the difficulty of providing findings on child and family outcomes in time for the report to Congress due in 2015. Members discussed the desirability of continuing the study after the required report to Congress in order to collect and analyze data on child and family outcomes.

Audience

Members suggested considering a range of audiences, in addition to Congress, that would find the evaluation useful, such as state policy-makers and local practitioners.

The meeting concluded with the co-chairs thanking the participants for their contribution and announcing the likely scheduling of the subsequent in-person meeting of the Committee in or around the first week in May, 2011.

Attachment A

AGENDA

SECRETARY'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MATERNAL, INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM EVALUATION

WEB-BASED MEETING

MARCH 23, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE
- Peter van Dyck (Co-chair)**
- Associate Administrator for Maternal and Child Health, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Naomi Goldstein (Co-chair)**
- Director, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- 9:30 a.m. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- 10:30 a.m. BREAK
- 10:45 a.m. INTRODUCTION TO THE MATERNAL, INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM
- Audrey Yowell**
- National Program Coordinator, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, HRSA
- 11:15 a.m. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
- 11:30 a.m. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EVALUATION; THE DOHVE PROJECT
- Naomi Goldstein**
- Director, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, ACF
- 12:00 p.m. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
- 12:15 p.m. BREAK

1:00 p.m. GOALS, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS FOR A DESIGN FOR THE NATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE MIECHV PROGRAM

Virginia Knox

Director, Family Well-Being and Children's Development, MDRC

Anne Duggan

Professor, Pediatrics/Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins University

Charles Michalopoulos

Senior Fellow, MDRC

2:00 p.m. COMMITTEE: DISCUSSION AND EXPECTED NEXT STEPS

3:00 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS; ADJOURNMENT