

RHODE ISLAND EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

March 22, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Save the Bay

EARLY LEARNING RI

Meeting Agenda

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Meeting Overview

Child Care/Early Learning Program Licensing

Improving Access to Early Learning Programs for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

- McKinney-Vento, ESSA
- Family Home Visiting
- CCDBG
- Head Start

Policy & Program Updates

- State Pre-K
- RI College/CCRI Credit Articulation Agreement
- FY18 Budget and Pending Legislation
- UHIP Update

Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health

- Discussion: Identifying common challenges for early learning programs serving children birth through 8

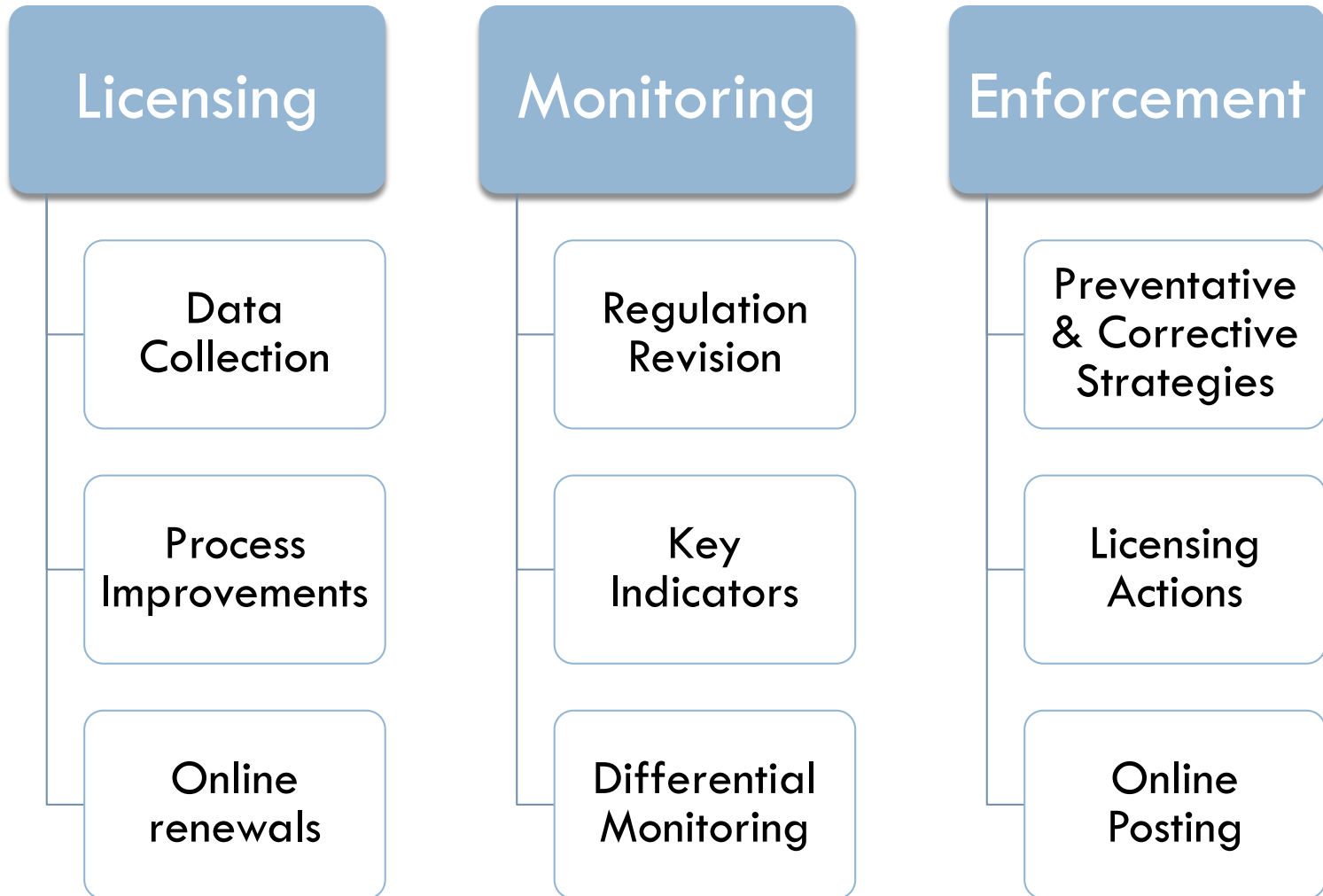
Public Comment

Next Steps



Child Care/Early Learning Program Licensing

Child Care Licensing



Child Care Regulation Revisions

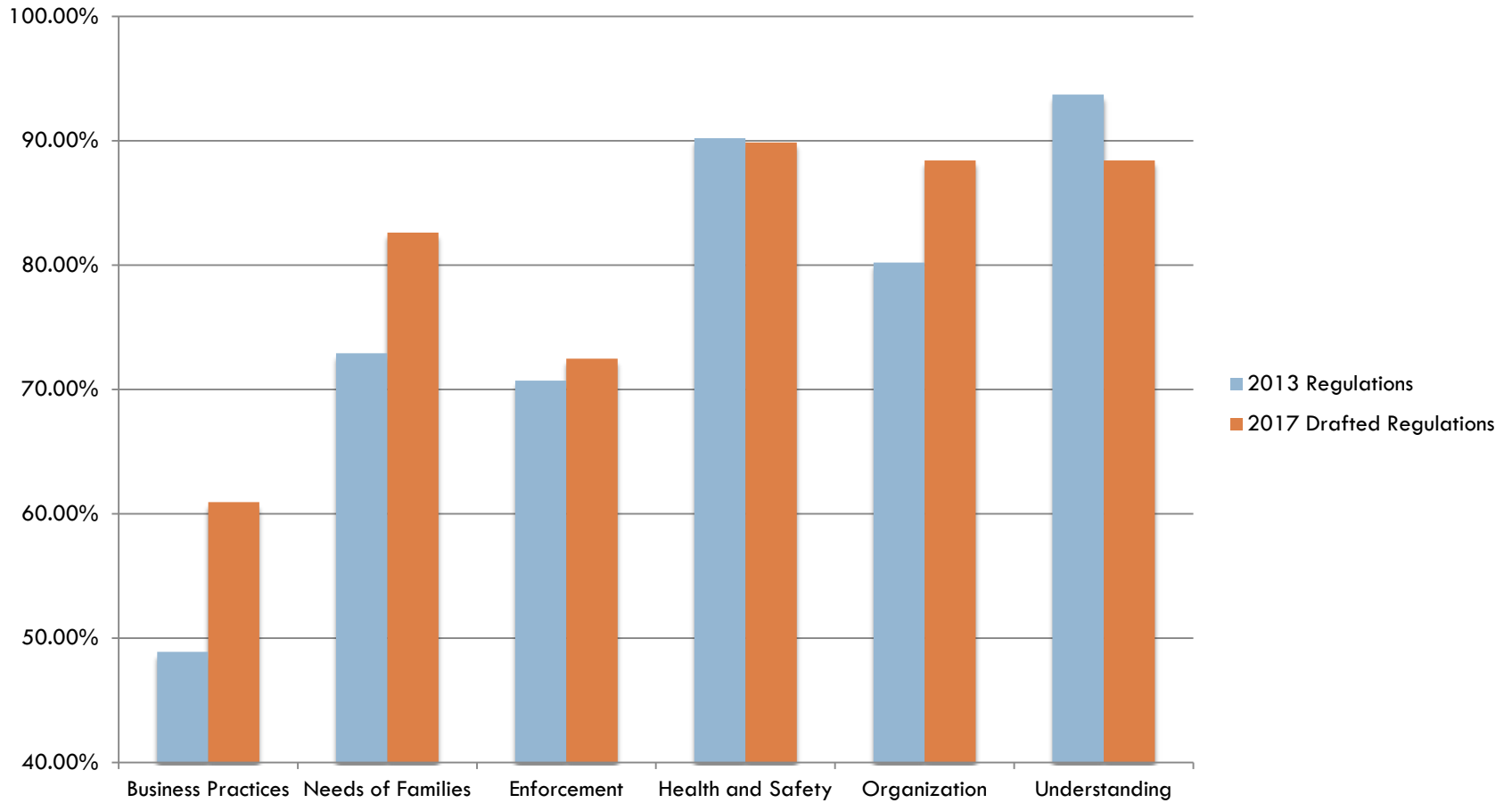
- 17 Statewide Listening Tours
- Online survey (current regulations)
- Meetings with Exceed Partners
- Internal revisions
- Initial meeting with ORR
- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Online survey (drafted regulations)
- Provider focus group

Child Care Regulation Revisions

- Maintaining the Exceed alignment
- Applying regulations to 400+ programs
- Combining child care and school age regulations
- Making adjustments for what wasn't working
- Deciphering intent of feedback
- Balancing the vision



Online Survey Comparison



Regulation Timetable



Next Steps

- ❑ Guidance Document
- ❑ Provider training/information
- ❑ Family Child Care Home Regulations



Young Children & Homelessness

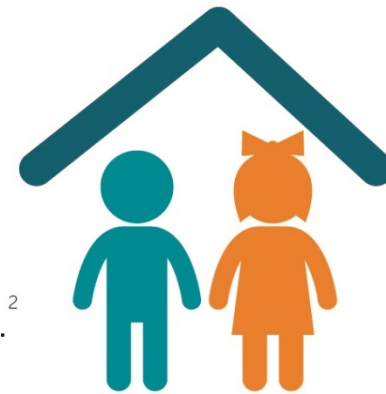


A person in the U.S. is most likely to experience homelessness in the **first year of life**.¹

A person is next most likely to experience homelessness at ages 1–5.¹

Almost half of children in shelter are under age 6.²

More than 150,000 very young children stay in shelters each year, and even more are sharing housing with others due to economic hardship.²



Homelessness during pregnancy and in the early years is **harmful to children's development**.³

Pregnant women experiencing homelessness are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care⁴ and their children are at increased risk for low birth weight.⁵

Ending Family Homelessness

Areas for Action:

- Develop a **coordinated entry system** with the capacity to assess needs and connect families to **targeted prevention assistance** and **temporary shelter**
- Ensure interventions and assistance are tailored to the needs of families with children:
 - Provide **rapid re-housing** assistance
 - Increase access to **affordable housing**
 - Direct **service-intensive housing interventions** to highest need households
- Improve linkages to **mainstream systems** to help families gain access to resources (employment, benefits, child care, etc.)
- Use **evidence-based practices** to serve families experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness (e.g. trauma-informed services, early childhood home visiting and early childhood education)

Children Experiencing Homelessness & Early Childhood Programs

Common enrollment/service barriers:

- ❑ Lack of awareness (hidden problem, difficult outreach)
- ❑ High mobility of families
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Lack of eligibility documents (health records, birth certificates, proof of income)

October 2016 Joint Policy Statement: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Education (available at www.earlylearningri.org)

October 2016 Aligning Early Childhood Programs to Serve Children Experiencing Homelessness: A Comparison of Preschool, Head Start, and Child Care Regulations: National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (available at www.earlylearningri.org)

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's

(Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program)

- Originally passed in 1987.
- Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - ▣ ESSA Amendments take effect October 1, 2016.
- Works hand-in-hand with Title IA and other federal education programs.
- \$85 million authorized funding to SEAs.
 - ▣ Largest percentage increase of all federal education programs.
 - ▣ SEAs award competitive subgrants to LEAs.

The McKinney-Vento Act

amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Provides students experiencing homelessness with protections and services to ensure they can enroll in and attend school...(ensures they remain in school of origin, provides transportation, removes barriers)

The amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act (in red) went into effect on **October 1, 2016**

- ESSA State plans must describe procedures to ensure that preschoolers experiencing homelessness have access to public preschool programs administered by the State educational agency or local educational agency.

The McKinney-Vento Act

amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Transportation:

- ▣ LEAs must provide transportation to and from the school/preschool of origin, including until the end of the year when the student **obtains permanent housing**, at a parent's or guardian's request (or at the liaison's request for unaccompanied youth).
- ▣ If staying in the same LEA, that LEA must provide or arrange transportation to the school of origin.
- ▣ If crossing LEA lines, both LEAs must determine how to divide the responsibility and share the cost, or they must share the cost equally.

The McKinney-Vento Act

amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Enrollment in Preschool:

- State McKinney-Vento plans must describe procedures that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs administered by the SEA or LEAs.
11432(g)(1)(F)(i)
- Preschools are included in the school of origin definition.
11432(g)(3)(I)
- Liaisons must ensure access to Head Start, **early intervention (IDEA Part C)**, and other preschool programs administered by the LEA.
11432(g)(6)(A)(iii)

The McKinney-Vento Act

amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

School of origin is the school attended when permanently housed or school in which last enrolled, including a preschool. 11432(g)(3)(I); Guidance N4; Fed. Data Guide

- ❑ Publicly-funded program for children 0-5 for which the LEA is a financial or administrative agent, or is accountable for providing early childhood education.
- ❑ Preschools operated, administered or funded by an LEA, including those funded by Title I or similar government grants.
- ❑ Head Start program receiving LEA funding or for which the LEA is the grant recipient.
- ❑ Preschool special education.
- ❑ LEA funded or administered home-based early childhood services.

What is Rhode Island's Family Home Visiting?



- **Match parents with trained professionals to provide them with information, guidance, and support during pregnancy and throughout the first years of a child's life.**
- **Relationship-based**
- **Focused on the parent-child relationship**
- **Culturally responsive and respectful**
- **No-cost**
- **Voluntary**
- **One short-term and three evidence-based, long-term family home visiting models**
- **Thirteen local implementing agencies**
- **Statewide**



Rhode Island's Family Home Visiting Models

First Connections

Enrollment: prenatally- 3 years
Duration: until 3 years



Enrollment: first time mom less than 28 weeks pregnant
Duration: until 2 years



Enrollment: prenatally- 3 months
Duration: until 4 years



Enrollment: prenatally- 2 years
Duration: until 4 years

How Does Family Home Visiting Support Homeless Families?



- Prioritize families that are homeless for family visiting services. Homeless families are a priority population for the federal home visiting program.
- Seeks to improve the lives of young, at-risk children – a goal that is broadly shared by homeless providers.
- Reduce the risk of poor health outcomes and delayed development of young homeless children and the risk of family separation due to child welfare involvement.
- Strengthen the family functioning of a very vulnerable subset of low-income families.
- Capacity to assess needs and connect families to targeted prevention when possible and link to temporary shelter as needed.
- Support families in keeping their children safe, no matter where they are staying.
- Link families to the benefits, supports and community-based services to achieve and maintain housing stability.
- Identify and implement effective prevention methods to help families avoid homelessness.
- Support families in planning for and prioritizing their expenses, including housing.
- Utilize Local Implementation Teams to better understand housing challenges and resources for families by community.
- **The visits can take place in families' homes, in shelters, or in other community settings that are convenient for families.**

Child Care & Development Block Grant

The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires:

- Procedures to permit enrollment of children experiencing homelessness prior to completion of all required documentation (including grace periods for compliance with immunization and other health and safety requirements)
- Training and technical assistance on identifying and serving homeless families
- Specific outreach to families experiencing homelessness.
- Coordination with programs working with children experiencing homelessness
- Lead Agencies to collect and report whether a CCDF family is experiencing homelessness

Child Care & Development Block Grant

In September of 2016, the CCDBG Final Rule clarified:

- The definition of homeless to be consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act
- Children experiencing homelessness shall be given priority for services.
- Lead Agencies are required to coordinate with other relevant agencies to help families receiving services during a grace period comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements

Early Head Start & Head Start

- EHS and HS have a **long standing commitment** to children and families experiencing homelessness.
- This commitment continued in the new HS regulations issued September 2016.
 - ▣ Annual **Community Needs Assessment** provides the road map for priority, outreach and recruitment efforts.
 - ▣ Children that are homeless are **categorically eligible** for EHS and HS, with increased flexibility for paperwork requirements.
 - ▣ Programs throughout the state have built **connections** with shelters and housing support programs.
 - ▣ Last year we **supported 100 kids and families** who reported a homelessness status to us.
 - ▣ When possible programs will arrange transportation and/or modify requirements in order to support families.



State Policy & Program Updates

RI State Pre-K Program Overview

- Lottery
- Mixed gender and income (formula) delivery model
- Mixed delivery across settings
- Grantee quality (CECE and SPK)
- Competitive RFP process
- State and Federal Funds (PDG)

Total FY 17 Budget: \$10,910,293.96

State: \$5,160,000.00

Federal: \$5,750,293.96

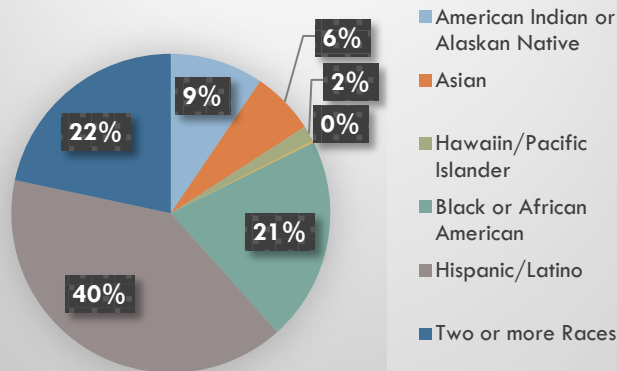


RI State Pre-K 2016-2017 School Year

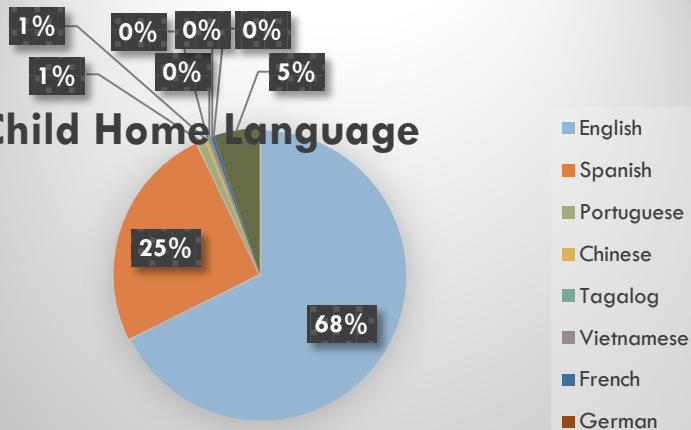
- 32 programs
- 56 classrooms
- 11 communities (Central Falls, Cranston, East Providence, Johnston, Newport, North Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick, West Warwick, and Woonsocket)
- Serving 1,008 children

RI State Pre-K Child Demographics Data

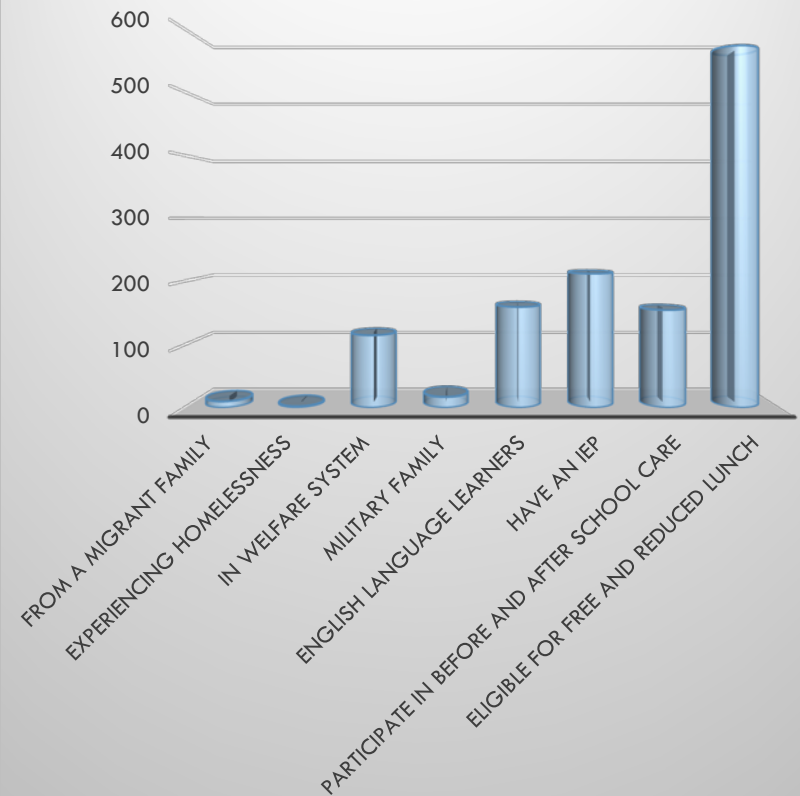
Race and Ethnicity of Children Enrolled



Child Home Language



Diversity of Pre-K Enrollment



RI State Pre-K New Initiatives

- Coordinated data sharing around recruitment and capacity with Head Start
- Strengthening Pre-K to K Transitions
- Comprehensive Services System
- Ongoing strengthening and streamlining of Monitoring
- New PD offerings

CCRI to RIC Program Transfer Plan

B.S. in Early Childhood Education

General Education Requirements

CCRI	RIC
ENGL 1010 Composition	FYW 100
ARTS, MUSC, OR Language Elective: MUSC 1170	MUSE 241 (Major Requirement)
ENGL Literature Elective – Choose One: ENGL 1040, 1200, 1230, 1290, 1370, OR 2040	GEN LIT 173
MATH: MATH 0600 for Proficiency or MATH Elective ***It is recommended students complete MATH 143 at RIC through Inter-Institutional Agreement	MATH 143
PSYC 2010 General Psychology	GE-SB PSYC 110
PSYC 2030 Developmental Psychology	Elective
PSYC 2070 Educational Psychology	CEP 315 (Major Requirement)
Science Elective – Choose One:	GE-NS
SOCS 1010 or SOCS 2040	Free Elective
Two Social Science/Foreign Language Electives	Modern Language 101 & 102 (RIC Second Language Requirement)

Major Requirements

CCRI	RIC
HMNS 1010 Intro to Helping & Human Services	ECED 290 Early Childhood Education & Social Work
HMNS 2100 Child Growth & Development Skills	ECED 302 Early Childhood Development, Birth to Eight
HMNS 1210 Field Experience & Seminar I – Child Dev	General Elective
HMNS 2120 Curriculum for Young Children AND HMNS 2140 Guiding Children’s Behavior	ECED 303 Creating an Early Childhood Learning Community
HMNS 2310 Field Experience & Seminar II – Child Dev	Free Elective
HMNS 2070 Characteristics & Needs of Special Populations	Free Elective
HMNS 2150 Parent & Child Relations	ECED 332 Building Family, School, & Community Partnerships
HMNS 2140 Field Experience & Seminar III – Child Dev	Free Elective
HMNS 2900 Human Service Capstone	Free Elective

Students May Also Complete the Following Courses

CCRI

RIC

HMNS 2080 Case Study Develop for Special Needs Educators

SPED 300 (WITH HMNS 2070) Introduction to the Characteristics & Education of Children & Youth with Disabilities

HMNS 2190 Infant/Toddler Care: Methods & Materials **AND** HMNS 1080 Health, Nutrition, & the Young Child

ECED 419 Early Care and Education, Birth to Three Years

HMNS 2060 Foundations of Teaching and Learning **AND**
HMNS 2710 Diversity and Cultural Competency Skills (Requires a grade of B or higher in each course)

FNED 346 Schooling in a Democratic Society

May 2017 Articulation Meeting

- Sign articulation for new CCRI Infant Toddler course with RIC ECED 419
- Propose articulation for new RIC Health and Wellness for the Young Child with CCRI Health and Wellness course

FY18 Governor's Budget & Early Learning

- \$1.1 million increase for State Pre-K
- \$390K increase for state funded Head Start
- \$1 million increase for CCAP to improve access to high-quality infant and toddler care
- Commitment to implementing new provisions from 2014 CCDBG reauthorization (graduated phase-out, 12 month eligibility, 3 month job search, infant/toddler prioritization, and expanded outreach to serve young children who are homeless)
- \$200K increase for RIDE to begin implementing Kindergarten Entry Profile
- \$2.5 million for English Language Learners in K-12

2017 Pending Legislation

- Remove sunset of cliff effect policy from CCAP (may be a budget article)
- Increase CCAP reimbursement rates by 5%
- Establish a tiered reimbursement rate system for CCAP with minimum increase of 5% and increases at each star level
- Restore CCAP eligibility for families up to 200% FPL
- Amend 2016 RI Family Home Visiting Act to ensure services for pregnant and parenting teens and young families in the child welfare system
- Establish Early Childhood Innovation Fund



UHIP Update

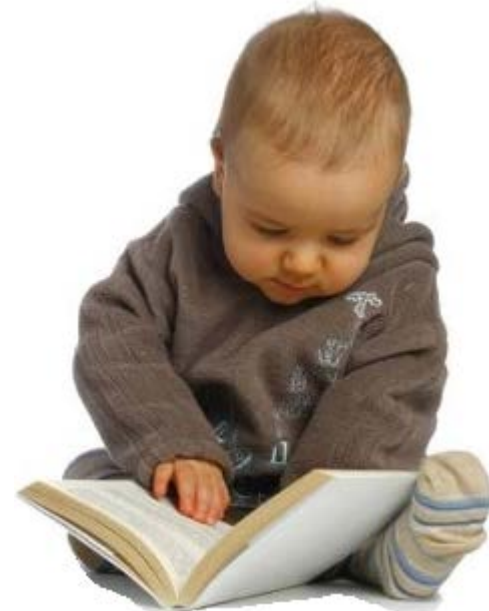


Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health

Findings from the Infant/Family Workforce Self-Assessment

Infant Mental Health: Celebrating babies and those who care for them!

- The developing capacity of the child 0-5 years of age
- to form close and secure relationships;
- to experience, manage, and express a full range of emotions;
- and to explore the environment and learn
- all in the context of family, community, and culture



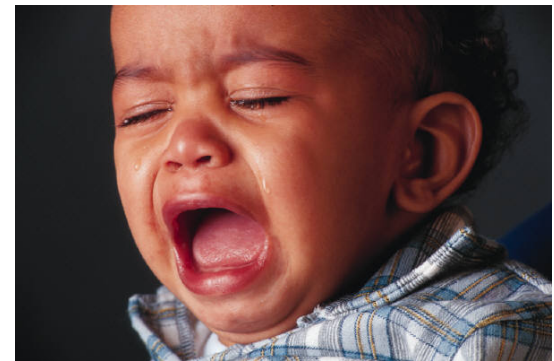
Infant Mental Health Perspective: What about the baby?



- The birth of a baby offers the hopefulness of a new relationship, growth and change
- A baby always has something to say
- A baby remembers the earliest relationship experiences

Infant Mental Health Principles: Early Experiences Matter

- **In the first 1000 days the foundation for the future is laid**
- Baby's brains take it ALL in...
- Family stress and toxic caregiving environments impact the baby's nervous system and stress hormone systems that can damage developing brain architecture and lead to lifelong problems in learning, behavior, and physical/mental health (Shonkoff, 2016).
- Babies are good at showing us when they are suffering...



Breaking the Cycle of Adversity

Creating the right conditions for infant and early childhood development is critical to prevent the need to address problems later on.

Science of “serve and return” is clear:



Babies REQUIRE
Positive, Nurturing, Committed
Relationships
to thrive

Infant Mental Health-Informed Work: It's Everybody's Business!

- Thorough understanding of IMH principles is crucial
 - ▣ to guide ALL work that involves infants' optimal development and social/emotional well being
 - ▣ at ALL levels of focus: Promotion, Prevention, Intervention
- IMH principles apply for work in early care & education, home visiting, early intervention, health care (pediatrics, nursing, psychiatry), behavioral health care, child welfare/foster care/courts, etc.—whenever a baby is involved.

Infant/Family Workforce Skills Gaps

Despite evidence suggesting the critical impact of relationships on healthy outcomes, we face substantial challenges in building, training, and sustaining a skilled infant/family workforce that is well versed in “relational health”

(Shonkoff, 2016; IOM’s Transforming the Workforce 0-8, 2015)

It’s challenging to truly listen to a family’s story...and to keep the baby in mind.

*When the workforce is not supported, program quality suffers...
and our most vulnerable infants, toddlers, and families suffer*

RI-IMH Professional Competencies[®]

Area of Expertise:	As Demonstrated by:
1.Theoretical Foundations	Working knowledge of important theoretical foundations
2. Law, Regulation, Agency Policy	Understanding of implications of laws and regulations
3. Systems Expertise	Understanding of human service delivery system, impact on infants, young children and families, ability to navigate those relevant systems
4. Direct Service Skills	Observation and listening; screening and assessment; responding with empathy; treatment planning; advocacy, etc.
5. Working with Others	Ability to build and maintain relationships as the foundation of working in the field, as well as mentoring, collaborating and resolving conflict
6. Communicating	Active listening, speaking effectively, writing clearly
7. Critical Thinking	Analyze information, exercise sound judgment, maintain perspective, etc.
8. Reflection	Contemplation, curiosity, and self-awareness critical to process the emotional content of the work; understand the power of parallel process; effective use of supervision

RI-IMH Endorsement®



- An internationally recognized workforce development system that identifies standardized IMH competency requirements for infant/family professionals
- Informs and affirms each professional's specialized education, work experiences, trainings, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences
- Reflects RI's commitment to supporting a high quality workforce that integrates IMH practices in all programs that serve infants, toddlers and families.
- To date, over 1,700 people have earned IMH Endorsement® (5 in RI!)

RI-IMH Endorsement® Eligibility

	I	II	III	IV
Requirements:	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Mentor
Education	High School Grad/GED, CDA, or Associate's degree AND/OR minimum 2 years in the infant, early childhood, and family field	Bachelor's or Masters degree AND minimum 2 years in the infant, EC, and family field	Masters or Post Graduate degree AND minimum 2 years post MA in infant, EC, family field	Masters, Post Graduate, Doctorate, Post Doctorate AND minimum 3 years post MA in infant, EC, family field
In-Service	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 30 hours
Code of Ethics	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Reflective Supervision or Consultation	N/A	Minimum 24 clock hours within a 1-2 year time period while working with infants, toddlers, and families	Minimum 50 clock hours within a 1-2 year time period while working with infants, toddlers, and families	<u>Clinical:</u> Minimum 50 clock hours within a 1-2 year period while working with infants, toddlers, families. <u>Policy/Research/Faculty:</u> None
Reference Ratings	Three (3) from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant or parent/service recipient	Three (3): 1.Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant or parent/service recipient 2.Person providing reflective supervision/consultation 3.Supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant or colleague	Three (3): 1.Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant or parent/service recipient 2.Person providing reflective supervision/consultation 3.Spervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, colleague, supervisee	Three (3): Specific to applicant's role
Exam Required?	No	No	Yes	Yes (ALL)

RI Infant/Family Workforce Survey

- Purpose: Document the IMH knowledge and work experiences of RI's infant/family workforce.
- Better understand the needs for additional academic, professional development, and reflective practice opportunities that would support the diverse professionals who comprise the infant/family workforce in RI.

Survey

- 175 participants (64% response rate)
- 166 offered complete data
- 4 community-based social service agencies
- Electronic format
- Self assessment

Determining Endorsement® level

- Demographics
 - Current Role
 - Education
 - CDA (yes/no)
 - Certificate from I/TMH program (yes/no)
 - Years paid work experience
- Self Assessment of Endorsement Level: We offered descriptions of the 4 Endorsement® levels, and asked participants to decide which one most closely matched their experiences.
- **21 participants (13%) reported “not yet eligible”**

Perceived Levels of RI- IMH Endorsement® (n=145)

Level I: Infant Family Associate	17%	Caregivers who are in a position to strengthen the social-emotional development of infants/young children (2 years experience/AA or CDA)
Level II: Infant Family Specialist	50%	Providers who have primary focus on social-emotional needs of infants/young children with attention to the child's relationships (2 years post BA providing services that promote I/ECMH)
Level III: Infant Mental Health Specialist	23%	Providers whose role includes intervention or treatment of the child's primary caregiving relationships (2 years post grad supervised work providing culturally sensitive relationship focused I/ECMH services)
Level IV: Infant Mental Health Mentor	10%	Clinical/Policy/Research or Faculty

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #1: Theoretical Foundations

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	46%	49%	57%	61%	53%
In-Service Training	60%	62%	61%	50%	58%
Paid Work Experience	46%	62%	61%	50%	55%
Receive RS/C	30%	37%	50%	31%	37%
Not Yet	6%	9%	8%	4%	7%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #2: Law, Regulation, Policy

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	22	36	47	47	38%
In-Service Training	73	62	61	52	62%
Paid Work Experience	36	57	60	54	52%
Receive RS/C	25	35	33	11	26%
Not Yet	5	10	10	2	7%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #3: Systems Expertise

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	18	24	35	43	30%
In-Service Training	50	56	62	46	54%
Paid Work Experience	32	60	82	79	63%
Receive RS/C	24	30	43	29	32%
Not Yet	26	10	3	0	10%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #4: Direct Service Skills

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	4	42	56	49	45%
In-Service Training	68	60	63	57	62%
Paid Work Experience	59	72	79	64	69%
Receive RS/C	34	38	47	34	38%
Not Yet	1	5	7	4	4%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #5: Working with Others

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	33	29	47	39	37%
In-Service Training	62	50	57	46	54%
Paid Work Experience	59	79	81	76	74%
Receive RS/C	41	47	57	39	46%
Not Yet	0	4	4	1	2%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #6: Communicating

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	56	55	56	64	58%
In-Service Training	44	40	98	36	55%
Paid Work Experience	60	79	82	83	76%
Receive RS/C	37	30	51	36	39%
Not Yet	0	2	0	0	<1%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #7: Thinking

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	36	39	67	43	46%
In-Service Training	51	32	50	39	43%
Paid Work Experience	51	78	87	86	76%
Receive RS/C	39	43	57	30	42%
Not Yet	1	3	1	0	1%

RI Workforce Training/Support

IMH Competency #8: Reflection

	I Infant Family Associate n=25	II Infant Family Specialist n=72	III Infant Mental Health Specialist n=34	IV Infant Mental Health Mentor n=14	Average
Academic	27%	30%	49%	39%	36%
In-Service Training	43%	34%	46%	42%	41%
Paid Work Experience	50%	73%	68%	56%	62%
Receive RS/C	37%	41%	55%	43%	44%
Not Yet	0	5%	10%	4%	5%

Raising a Collective Voice: Build a Bridge for Babies

- We need to narrow the knowledge and skills gap:
 - ▣ Increase community awareness of the importance of IMH principles and relationship-based practices in all programs serving vulnerable infants/toddlers and families
 - ▣ Offer relevant IMH resources/trainings/reflective practice supports aligned with IMH competencies
 - ▣ Establish coordinated systems that acknowledge specialized skills and competencies
- We need to work together across systems to support RI's infant/family workforce — our babies can't wait!



Public Comment

2017 Council Calendar

All 2017 Early Learning Council Meeting are at Save the Bay

- June 28, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- September 20, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- December 13, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.