



EVENT BRIEF

ZERO TO THREE EXAMINES HOME VISITATION STATE SYSTEMS

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June 25, 2010

On Tuesday, June 22, Zero to Three held a webinar titled, “Building Successful Early Childhood Home Visitation State Systems.” Lisa Schreiber, a consultant to Zero to Three, provided a brief overview of the new *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*, created as part of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010*. Additionally, four representatives from model states discussed many successes and challenges surrounding home visitation programs in Colorado, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington. Beth Jacob, the Manager of Pew’s Home Visiting Campaign, concluded the webinar with an update from Pew.

SPEAKERS

- Lisa Schreiber, Consultant, Zero to Three Policy Center
- Melissa Kelley, Executive Director, Colorado Parent & Child Foundation
- Sunday Gustin, Home Visitation Program Director, New Jersey Department of Children and Families
- Catherine Bodkin, Chair, Home Visiting Consortium, Virginia Department of Health
- Joan Sharp, Executive Director, Council for Children & Families, Washington State
- Beth Jacob, Manager, Home Visiting Campaign, Pew

SUMMARY

Lisa Schreiber

Lisa Schreiber opened the webinar by sharing some information about the *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*, created as part of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010*. The program received \$1.5 billion in mandatory funding and will be dispersed to states over five years to high quality, voluntary, evidence-based early childhood home visiting programs, and as much as 25% of the funds may be applied to promising home visiting models. At-risk populations are the targeted recipients of these programs including low income, pregnant women under 21 years of age and individuals with a history of substance abuse or child abuse. State

assessment plans are due July 9, 2010, and state needs assessments are due September 1, 2010.

While the criteria specifying the evidence needed to demonstrate program effectiveness to qualify for funding has not been released, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) jointly announced the list is to be published and made available in mid-August. Schreiber also detailed the State Self-Assessment tool that was created by Zero to Three to help states define and assess their home visiting system, while also encouraging prioritization of areas that are in need of improvement. The tool contains eight systems-building components including needs assessment and program planning, program standards, public engagement and financing and sustainability. The tool can be an efficient way to analyze home visitation programs.

Melissa Kelley presented on behalf of Colorado's Home Visitation Coalition. Currently, there are promotion, prevention and intervention home visiting programs in Colorado that served more than 20,000 families last year. The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) has a designated line item in the state budget through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Funding for all other home visiting programs is derived from various public and private sources including federal grants and individual donors. Strengths of the Colorado system include a comprehensive and inclusive home visiting plan, stated Kelley.

Sunday Gustin provided information on New Jersey's home visiting system. The Department of Children and Families funds the majority of these programs in the state including Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnership and some Parents as Teachers sites. Other programs such as additional Parents as Teachers and Parent-Child Home Program sites receive local public and private funding. Over 3,000 families have been served by these programs this year. Gustin noted having committed state-level leaders and early strategic planning as a strength in New Jersey.

Catherine Bodkin represented the Virginia Home Visiting Consortium. There are numerous national and state-level programs currently implemented in Virginia including Head Start and Early Head Start, Healthy Start, BabyCare and Project Link. At least one of these programs exist in 128 out 137 counties and cities throughout Virginia, and 27,245 children were served in 2008. Funding is received through various avenues including federal agencies, local foundations and the United Way. Bodkin emphasized several system strengths including a shared vision for healthy child development, commitment to standardized screening tools, core training topics for home visitors and shared data indicators across programs.

Joan Sharp described the Washington Evidence Based Home Visiting System, which includes various programs such as Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and the Parent-Child Home Program. Funding is provided by one state agency, CAPTA Title II which is now transitioning to become the Children's Trust Fund. Around 4,700 families are served by these programs each year. The programs are evidence-based, and there is a

legislative and philanthropic commitment to these programs, which Sharp views as a significant strength.

Beth Jacob ended the program by announcing a series of four webinars to be held by Pew which will highlight best and promising practices in implementing state home visiting systems. The first webinar titled, “Using Evidence to Guide and Direct State Home Visiting Investments” will be held July 22, 2010. Other topics will include implementation, impact and systems organization.

CONCLUSION

For more information about this webinar visit: <http://www.zerotothree.org/public-policy/webinars-conference-calls/home-visitation-webinar.html>.