



Key Components of a Successful Early Childhood Home Visitation System: A Self-Assessment Tool for States

Smart Start National Conference
May 5, 2011

Agenda



- **Self-Assessment Tool for States on Home Visiting System**
- **Community Planning Tool on Home Visiting**
- **Self-Assessment of Home Visiting in Wisconsin**
- **Self-Assessment of Home Visiting in Maine**
- **Discussion/Q and A**



Key Components of a Successful Early Childhood Home Visitation System- A Self-Assessment Tool for States



KEY COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITATION SYSTEM

A Self-Assessment Tool for States

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that home visitation can be an effective method of delivering family support and child development services. For several decades, national home visiting models have been evolving. Home visitors have been honing their practice through ongoing research, evaluation, and innovation to meet the growing and ever-changing needs of our nation's families and young children.

Recent home visiting funds allocated by the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act present a tremendous opportunity to help meet the needs of the most at-risk infants, toddlers, and their families. While the new funds will expand evidence-based home visiting programs, they will also create inevitable challenges as states wrestle with how to replicate high-quality programs and maintain model fidelity. Strong and collaborative home visiting state systems provide the infrastructure to support these important decisions.

Tips for Using the Self-Assessment Tool

- **Involve key stakeholders:** This tool is most relevant when completed by and shared with a diverse group of stakeholders involved in home visiting efforts across the state. In states where multiple home visiting models exist, it is beneficial to involve representatives from all models so that the completed tool reflects the full breadth of home visiting efforts in the state.
- **Divide responsibility for the self-assessment:** The tool covers a broad range of content areas, from administration to evaluation. It is important to ensure that appropriate individuals complete the relevant content areas. This division of labor could be accomplished through multiple methods; however, a single entity that coordinates the process, synthesizes the information, and disseminates the results is important.
- **Use the results:** The tool has been designed to be action-oriented. Each component provides space for both next steps and an opportunity to rank the priority of that component for the state. The format will encourage states to create a plan for prioritizing and embarking upon those key next steps.

This self-assessment tool, developed by ZERO TO THREE, helps states:

- Define the home visiting system
- Assess the home visiting system's capacity
- Prioritize areas for improvement

In addition to assisting states in preparing for the federal home visiting grant application process, the tool will be useful for ongoing assessment and continuous quality improvement.

If your state uses the self-assessment tool, ZERO TO THREE would like your feedback on the tool, the process, and the results in your state. If you would like to share your experience, please contact Barbara Gehring at bgehring@zerotothree.org.



GETTING STARTED: HOME VISITING INVENTORY

Please list the state's existing home visiting program models, populations served, geographic area covered, and basic services provided.

Program Models	Populations Served	Geographic Area Covered	Basic Services Provided
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Key Components of a Successful Early Childhood Home Visitation System- A Self-Assessment Tool for States



- ***Purpose:***

- ***Define the home visiting system***

- ***Assess the home visiting system's capacity, and***

- ***Prioritize areas for improvement***

- ***Useful for federal home visiting grant application process but also for ongoing assessment and continuous quality improvement***



Debbie Rappaport

Key Components of a Successful Early Childhood Home Visitation System- A Self-Assessment Tool for States



- ***Eight components of systems-building detailed through strategic questions***
- ***Each component has room for state status and next steps***
- ***Encouraged to rank priority of individual components***
- ***Templates provided for state-specific additions***
- ***Priority ranking summary at end to set stage for action plan/next steps***

Key Components of a Home Visiting State System



- ***Needs Assessment and Program Planning***
- ***Evaluation and Quality Assurance***
- ***Program Standards***
- ***Professional Development and Technical Assistance***
- ***Early Childhood Partnerships and Collaboration***
- ***Public Engagement***
- ***Administration and Governance***
- ***Financing and Sustainability***




Debbie Rappaport

Tips for Using the Self-Assessment Tool

- **Involve key stakeholders**
- **Divide responsibility for the self assessment**
- **Use the results**

www.zerotothree.org/homevisitingtool

KEY COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITATION SYSTEM 

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Vision: A system is in place to identify service gaps and plan for program expansion and growth.

Questions to Consider	Yes	If Yes, Is It Sufficient?	No	If No, Where Is a Place to Start?
1. If the state has multiple home visiting models, does it have centralized intake and assessment mechanisms in place or established criteria that determine how families are assigned to particular program models?				
2. Do centralized data systems collect information on key home visiting indicators and statistics?				
3. Has the state completed an assessment of gaps in service delivery?				
4. Is there a state plan to determine a process for program expansion?				
5. Is there a mechanism in place to provide funding, technical assistance, and support to new program sites?				

State Status and Notes

Next Steps

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Priority Ranking (on a scale of 1–10)

Home Visiting Community Planning Tool



ZERO TO THREE HOME VISITING COMMUNITY PLANNING TOOL



Introduction

Early childhood home visiting has been shown to be an effective service delivery model for at-risk young children and their families. When establishing new home visiting programs or expanding existing services using an evidence-based home visiting model, communities should consider several factors in order to ensure high-quality service delivery that is true to the intent of those who developed the model and that meets expressed community need.

Home visiting services are most successful when key components are integrated. These include the following:

- A community that understands the program and supports its development
- Program staff that are well-trained and supported through high-quality supervision
- Strong administrative support
- Ongoing evaluation of program implementation so that quality issues can be addressed in a timely manner
- An environment where the need for the program is clearly understood and there is no duplication of efforts
- A spirit of collaboration with other early childhood programs
- Strong local leadership to nurture the development of the services

Planning for new home visiting capacity is a long-term and ongoing process. This tool can be used by communities to:

- Identify community needs and strengths based on data.
- Explore current home visiting assets and service gaps.
- Choose an evidence-based program model.
- Analyze components of both program- and system-level implementation that are critical to the replication of high-quality home visiting programs.

¹ Erin Harris, "Six Steps to Successfully Scale Impact in the Nonprofit Sector," *The Evaluation Exchange*, Harvard Family Research Project, Volume XV no 1, Spring 2010, www.hfpr.org.

Home Visiting Community Planning Tool

- ***Can be used by communities to:***
 - ***Identify community needs and strengths based on data***
 - ***Explore current home visiting assets and service gaps***
 - ***Choose an evidence-based model***
 - ***Analyze components of both program- and system-level implementation that are critical to the replication of high-quality home visiting programs***



Sections of the Community Planning Tool

- ***The State of Your Community***
- ***Existing Home Visiting Services***
- ***Strengths and Gaps in Home Visiting Services***
- ***Matching Community Needs to Evidence-Based Models***
- ***Public Engagement***
- ***Recruitment, Engagement, and Retention of Families***
- ***Staff Qualifications and Professional Development***
- ***Partnerships and Collaboration***
- ***Coordinated Governance***
- ***Financing and Sustainability***
- ***Evaluation and Quality Assurance***

Reflections



- ***Self-assessments represent an ideal to strive toward.***
- ***Systems create economies of scale in tight budget times.***
- ***The federal grant process offers an opportunity to develop an integrated home visiting system.***
- ***Coalitions of home visiting programs improve the coordination of services.***
- ***Home visiting programs must connect with other services to create a continuum of care for young children and their families.***
- ***Home visiting programs should be integrated into the broader early childhood system infrastructure.***



My Contact Information

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ZERO TO THREE

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State tool: www.zerotothree.org/homevisitingtool

Community tool: www.zerotothree.org/hvcommplantool

Use of Home Visiting Self-Assessment In Wisconsin

Jennifer Hammel

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FUND DIRECTOR
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM

Outline

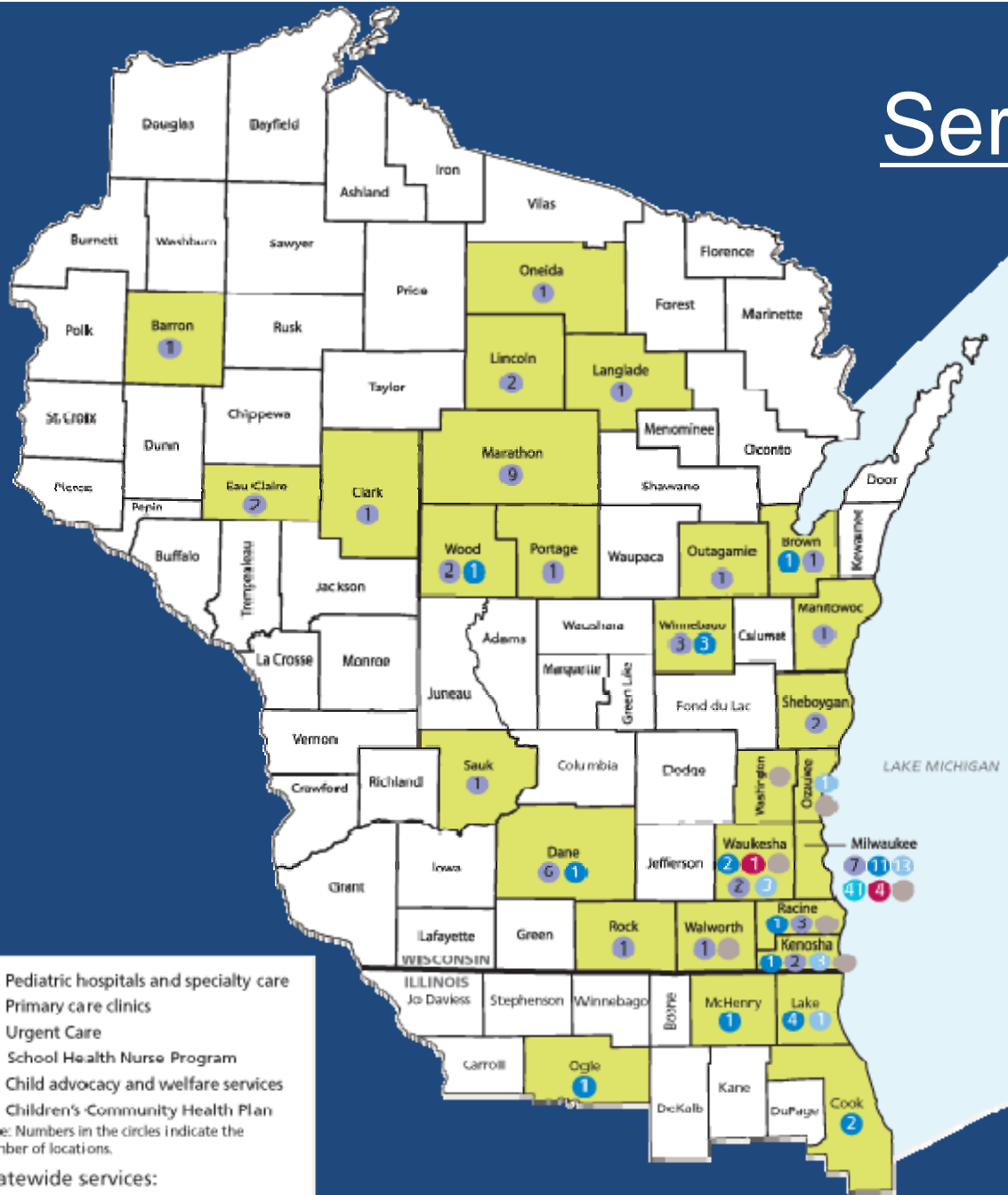
- Child Abuse Prevention Fund of Children's Hospital and Health System.
- Using the Home Visiting Self-Assessment: Home Visiting Landscape In Wisconsin.
 - Prior to federal funds.
 - Post federal funds.

Children's Hospital and Health System

CHHS VISION

To establish and support the healthiest pediatric population in the nation through both the seamless integration of exceptional clinical care, research, **EDUCATION**, **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** and advocacy; and **POWERFUL COLLABORATIONS** with local, regional and national **PARTNERS**.

Service locations



- Family support
- Child advocacy
- School nurses
- Poison Center
- Medicaid HMO
- Primary care
- Urgent care
- Emergency care
- Specialty care
- Surgical care
- Tertiary care
- Quaternary care
- Research

Determinants of health



Child Abuse Prevention Fund

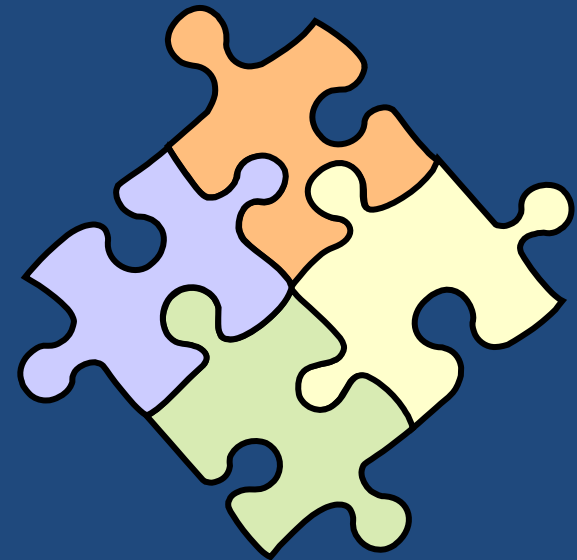
MISSION

- Ensure a safe environment for children through financial support of child abuse prevention and family wellness activities throughout Wisconsin.
- Advocate support for children and families.
- Educate professionals and the public about the role of prevention in eliminating child abuse.

Home Visiting Self-Assessment

Representatives from:

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.
- Early Years Home Visitation Outcomes Project.
- Parents Plus, Inc. (PIRC Agency).
- Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund.
- Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.
- University of Wisconsin-Extension.
- Penfield Children’s Center.
- Head Start/Early Head Start.
- Supporting Families Together Association (State CCR&R/FRC Association).



Self-Assessment Process

- Assessment occurred July/August 2010.
- Individual representatives completed self-assessment.
- Child Abuse Prevention Fund collated data.
- Series of meetings to discuss individual sections and come to agreement/consensus on emphasis for work.

Results

- Needs Assessment.
- Evaluation and Quality Assurance.
- Program Standards.
- Early Childhood Collaborations.
- Professional Development.
- Public Engagement.
- Administration and Governance.
- Financing and Sustainability.

Home Visiting in Wisconsin

PRE-FEDERAL HOME VISITING EXPANSION

Funding Streams:

- Medicaid.
- POCAN/Family Foundations.
- TANF.
- Children's Trust Fund.
- County Agencies.

Home Visiting in Wisconsin

PRE-FEDERAL HOME VISITING EXPANSION

Funding Streams:

– Private funders.

- Child Abuse Prevention Fund (since 1989; variety of program models usually as a start up grant).
- Local United Ways (Brown, Dane and Milwaukee).

Home Visiting in Wisconsin

PRE-FEDERAL HOME VISITING EXPANSION

Training and Evaluation

- Core training provided by University of Wisconsin-Extension (not program model specific).
- Early Years Home Visitation Outcomes Project.

Self-Assessment Data Use

- Held the findings since November due to change in governor and legislature.
- Some data are being used to inform the development of the SIR.

Home Visiting in Wisconsin

NOW

- Bundling into one RFP:
 - POCAN/Family Foundations: \$1.2 million administered by the Department of Children and Families with a change in focus.
 - TANF Funds \$850,000.
 - Federal Funds \$1.6 million.
- Training and technical assistance provider contracts re-bid.

Home Visiting in Wisconsin

NOW

- Evaluation benchmarks will include additional federal indicators.
- Program models eligible for funding are those 5 represented in WI currently: HFA, PAT, EHS, HIPPY and NFP.

Resources

Link to Wisconsin's Home Visiting Needs Assessment prepared by DCF staff

http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/home_visiting_needs_assessment/default.htm

Link to Wisconsin's combined RFP

<http://vendornet.state.wi.us/vendornet/asp/BidDetail.asp?Systembidnumber=16173&LegalNoticeReferral=16173>

Resources

Link to the Early Years Home
Visitation Outcomes Project

<http://www.chw.org/display/PPF/DocID/45172/router.asp>

Contact Information

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Children's Hospital and Health
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Capfund.org

Self Assessment of Home Visiting in Maine

May 5, 2011

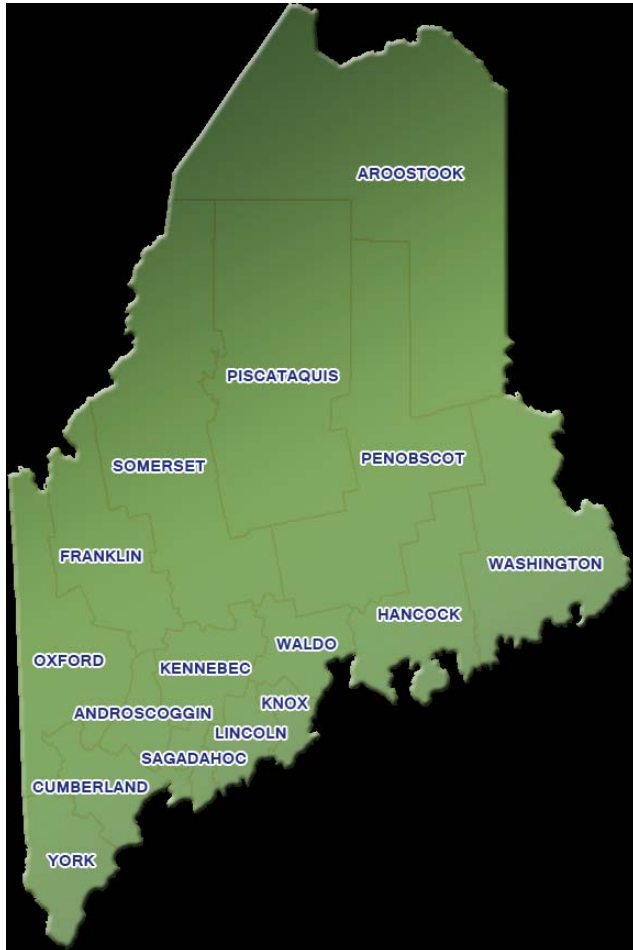


Maine Families Home Visiting

- Statewide home visiting program
- State-funded professional development
 - IN-state PAT and Touchpoints Training Teams
- Standards of Practice
- Ongoing quality assurance and evaluation
- Funded solely by tobacco settlement monies



Maine Families



- Network in all 16 counties
- Primarily rural geography
- Unique partnerships with other community providers
- Core public health home visiting delivery system



Other Home Visiting Programs

- Public Health Nursing/Community Health Nursing
- Early Head Start
- Non-state funded programs



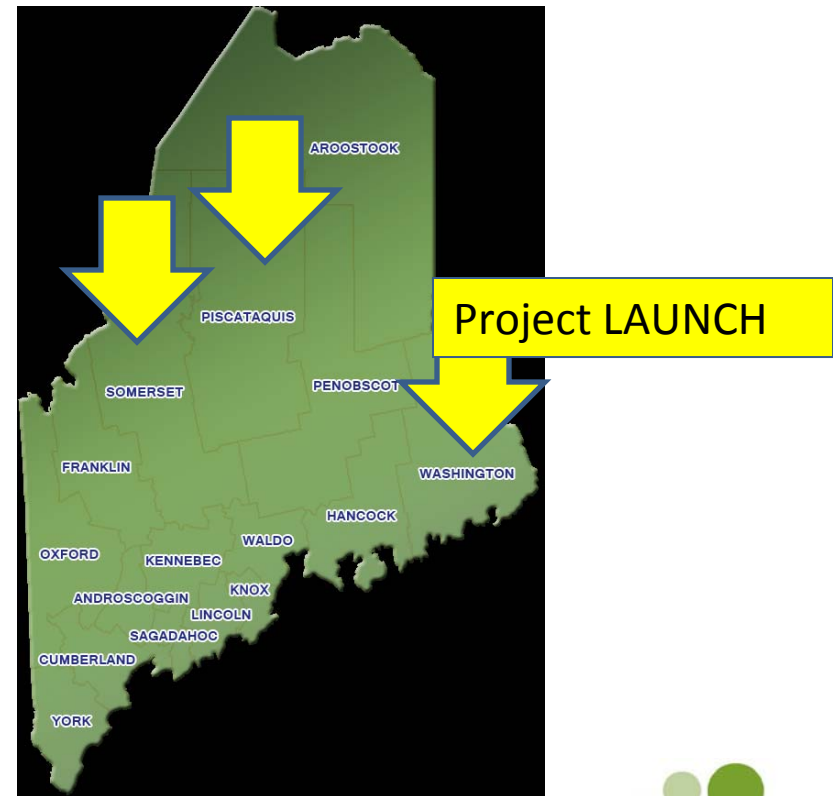
Federal MIECHV Needs Assessment



- Isolated families in rural communities
- Rising trend of drug-affected births
- Poverty
- Substance abuse
- Gaps in infrastructure
- Need for stakeholder buy-in and input

MIECHV Needs Assessment

- Communities defined at county level
- Three counties with significantly higher needs and fewer resources
- Opportunity for program replication from Project LAUNCH



State Plan Development

- Public Hearing on Needs Assessment findings through the Maine Children's Growth Council
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Focus Groups with underserved populations
- Intent to build on the resources already in place and reward authentic collaboration locally



Stakeholder Meetings

- Held two day-long meetings in Fall 2010
- Facilitated by Zero to Three
- Revealed some places of common interest:
 - Data Collection/Evaluation
 - Professional Development
 - Defining Home Visiting (and “continuum”)
 - Coordinated Referral system



Self Assessment Findings

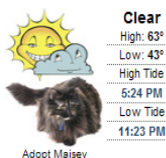
- Collaboration Measure revealed some distrust of the process
- Conflicting messages from various state agencies
- Increasing sense of self-protection in dramatically changing political environment
- Unrealistic expectation of state funds

Change in Plan

- Self-identified stakeholder groups to meet to develop workplans that would address the issues of the Self Assessment
- Release of Governor's Budget showed proposal to eliminate all funding for Maine Families Home Visiting
- Redirection of stakeholder energy
- Uncertainty about MIECHV



Stakeholders Unite



56° **Maine Sunday Tele**
Sunday, April 24, 2011

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April 20

Maine Voices: Don't drop child abuse prevention funds from state budget

Much of the pain these children suffer is avoidable through early intervention.

WISCASSET — I've been in law enforcement for 24 years. I've seen a lot of bad things happen to good people, but among the toughest cases I've seen involved innocent children who were victims.

According to the most recent report from 2009, almost 4,100 children in Maine were substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect in that year.

An untold number of cases go unreported or undetected. In 2009, five Maine children under the age of 3 were killed at the hands of adults who were supposed to be caring for them.

Sun Journal

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Letters

Prevention services are cost-effective

By Stephen Jacobs
Apr 01, 2011 12:27 am

Maine Families is a home visiting program serving families throughout Maine, supported by revenue from the Fund for a Healthy Maine. It is a cost-effective, evidenced-based program with positive outcomes for children (and families) related to school readiness, reduced risk of child abuse and neglect, and supporting the physical and emotional health of children.

The proposed state budget eliminates all funding for home visiting, sounding the death knell of Maine Families statewide.

In Androscoggin County, Maine Families is offered by Advocates for Children and, since last July, 235 families countywide have accessed services.

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Save Home Visiting for Maine Families
Community Organization

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Write something...

Leah Brandi Deragon
Finding hope for Washington County's lost children
new.bangordailynews.com
Gabriel Baker is a red-headed, 3-year-old bucket of giggles. His energy seems limitless. He is playing with the cat, he is climbing on the couch, drawing on paper, "driving" one of his beloved train sets, showing off a craft project from Sunday school — all in the blink of an ...
18 hours ago • Like • Comment • Share

Alisa Rose-Marie Libby
This program has helped me out so much and so many other families out y would they stop this next year? with out them id have no cue and not be the mother today thank you all so much pray to god that they will keep this going for the o new moms out there like i once was im going to do every thing in my power to k them going.
Friday at 10:30pm • Unlike • Comment

You and Laurie Dunton like this.

Write a comment...

Save Home Visiting for Maine Families
Information on coping with the Period of Pu at all Maine hospitals.

Program aims to re
new.bangordailynews.com
BANGOR, Maine — A n conjure up visions of a and that magical first s expect to that their coz into a howling, hiccupi
Thursday at 4:06pm • Like • Comment

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Community Network

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NEIGHBORS GROWING TOGETHER | APR 2

Family Planning, Head Start, home visiting programs in budget jeopardy
By Shlomit Auciello | Mar 30, 2011

When the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee meets March 31, one of the portions of the proposed state budget it is scheduled to review is the Fund for a Healthy Maine, a program that disburses \$53.6 million that comes into the state ...

Children's Hospital Boston
Boston Touchpoints Center

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Pediatrics

April 21, 2011

I am writing in response to the proposed cut in Maine's state budget that would result in the elimination of the Maine Families Home Visitation Program. I practiced pediatrics for over 50 years, participated in the parenting of over 25,000 patients and have been at the forefront of evidence based practice. I understand what families need to be emotionally healthy. I developed the Brazealton Touchpoints Center (BTC) to share this knowledge across the country and for 15 years we have been enhancing the practice of over 25,000 physicians, nurses, child care providers, and home visitors. My colleagues and I have provided training and support to early intervention professionals in Maine for many years. In 2001 I spent an evening with over 100 parents listening to their concerns and offering suggestions to their questions, all reflecting the same angst parents across the country have. "Am I doing the best for my child?" The next day my colleagues and I addressed over 350 professionals.

For the past four and a half years we have worked intensely with state and community based providers in your state so that over 100 Home Visitors from the Maine Families Program can enhance their practice and provide the kind of support and information that parents crave. When parents have the opportunity to develop a relationship with a caring professional and understand the individual roadmap which their child is following, then everyone wins.

The Maine Families Home Visitation Program has become a crucial component of the home visiting continuum of services in Maine, addressing the social and developmental needs of new parents and their children. Independent evaluation of the Maine Families Program demonstrates the effectiveness of the program to reduce

Moving Forward

- Use the MIECHV Needs Assessment and State Plan to inform where/how state and federal funds should be allocated by a tiered system
- Continue purposeful systems work on smaller scale (depending on final state budget) using priorities identified from the ZTT Self Assessment Tool

For More Information

- Sheryl Peavey, Maine Families Administrator
 - Sheryl.peavey@maine.gov
- Maine MIECHV
 - <http://mainecgc.org/miechv.html>
- Maine Families
 - www.mainefamilies.org

