

# EBHV Connector



Online Newsletter for Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Prevent Child Maltreatment Grantees  
Prepared by the FRIENDS NRCCBCAP



This is the first edition of the EBHV newsletter titled "EBHV Connector". We hope that you find this newsletter helpful. It is a great opportunity to get information from your FPO's, the cross site evaluation team (MPR-Chapin Hall) and the FRIENDS National Resource Center. In addition, this newsletter provides information on the unique work of each grantee.

## In the Spotlight: Minnesota EBHV

by Mary Jo Chippendale

One of the primary goals of the Minnesota Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) grant is to collaborate with tribal partners to determine whether the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) model can be successfully adapted to American Indian culture. Over the last nine months, the Minnesota EBHV grant team has collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Health Office of Minority and Multicultural Health staff and the NFP Midwest Program Development Regional Team Leader to coordinate a series of exploratory meetings with key tribal nursing directors. The tribal nursing directors for the Fond du Lac, Leech Lake and White Earth reservations reviewed the 18 NFP key elements in relation to their unique tribal government structures and programs. They identified a number of aspects of the model that may require adaptation before the model can be implemented effectively in their tribes.

The tribal nursing directors detailed their proposed adaptations in a memo to the NFP in June 2009. They proposed implementation adaptations that fall into five broad categories: nurse home visitor



Minnesota EBHV staff.

qualifications; home visitor supervision requirements and logistics; home visitor and supervisor trainings; family realities and  
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### Upcoming Events

February  
2/24 3pm ET--EBHV Peer Learning Community Call

### Save The Dates!

**2010 EBHV Grantees Meeting**  
August 2-4, 2010  
Washington, DC

### FPO Corner: A Federal Update

We would like to thank all the EBHV grantees for their hard work over the last year and a half. We have been impressed by the level of engagement, participation, and flexibility that has occurred. It is evident that all the hard work is based on your dedication to preventing child maltreatment, and improving the lives of children and families.

The first year was a planning year, and has been filled with many challenges and opportunities. We are happy to see the tremendous progress that all the grantees have made. Based on the new information regarding the change in

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## In the Spotlight: Minnesota EBHV

characteristics; and evaluation outcomes and data sharing concerns. They invited Dr. David Olds to Minnesota to discuss the NFP model and the proposed adaptations.

Dr. Olds met with the three directors in August 2009. A number of other staff from the Prevention Research Center (PRC) at the University of Colorado Denver and the NFP National Service Office also attended. The proposed adaptations

were discussed and Dr. Olds and the PRC staff briefly described an approach they have used to adapt the NFP model for other cultural contexts. The systematic adaptation process described would generate, pilot and formatively evaluate potential adaptations in collaboration with the community and would assure that the adapted model resonates with the community.

Meetings are taking place in

December 2009 with each of the three tribes to discuss the proposed adaptation process. In addition, Dr. Olds will be returning to Minnesota in March 2010, to be a keynote speaker for a two-day tribal nursing conference coordinated by the Leech Lake Health Division in collaboration with the MDH. This conference will highlight various curricula and best practices aimed at improving birth outcomes for American Indian families. &

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## FPO Corner: A Federal Update

funding for years 3-5, we know that this year will involve a different set of questions and issues. However, we are confident that all your hard work and upfront investments—commitment to high quality implementation and systems change—will be worthwhile as we continue to plan for the upcoming year.

As many of you know, the President's fiscal year 2010 budget request included a proposed \$8.5 billion over 10 years for a new mandatory program that provides funds to States for evidence-based home visitation programs for low-income families. The program would provide States with funding primarily to support home visitation models that have been

rigorously evaluated and shown to have positive effects on critical outcomes for children and families. At the same time, in order to encourage development and rigorous testing of new or more effective approaches, a portion of the additional funds would be available to States to support promising models requiring additional evaluation. The House and Senate each passed Health Care Reform bills that included different versions of authorization and funding of mandatory grant programs to fund home visitation.

Please view [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/olab/budget/2010/sec3f\\_nhv\\_2010cj.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/olab/budget/2010/sec3f_nhv_2010cj.pdf) for more information.

We would like to thank everybody who submitted information for the first

newsletter as well as the EBHV newsletter workgroup for their time and great input and suggestions. We are grateful for your ongoing partnership on this important grant program. We are very excited about sharing the great work that you are doing and strengthening our learning community in the future years!

Rosie Gomez &  
Melissa Brodowski  
Federal Project Officers  
Supporting Evidence-Based  
Home Visiting Programs to  
Prevent Child Maltreatment



## FRIENDS National Resource Center Focus: *An Update on TA Efforts* ***New Beginnings: Moving from Exploration to Installation***

The FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs (FRIENDS) is pleased to continue our work with you as the programmatic training and technical assistance provider. As we launch into this New Year, let's reflect on where we've been and prepare for where we're going.

Last year was a year of planning and preparing. From a "stages of implementation" perspective, last year's activities aligned with the Exploration stage: forming the right teams and advisory groups, analyzing data related to needs, identifying strategies to meet those needs, assessing the feasibility of these strategies, formalizing structures to support the desired change, and creating readiness for what is to come. This year, we transition from the exploration stage to installation. One key activity that occurs during the installation stage is the careful planning for and development of the implementation infrastructure, or Implementation Drivers, to support your home visitation program(s). For each of the implementation drivers, there is an opportunity to think about how it can be used to leverage and sustain the high quality programming that is being implemented:

**Selection:** How can we improve our current method of recruiting and selecting staff and partners to support our approach to home visitation?

**Training:** How will we build and/or maintain a training system to get home visitors off on the right foot and support long-term use of our home visitation program(s)?

**Coaching:** How will we build and/or maintain a coaching system to support competent delivery of our home visitation program(s)?

**Performance Assessment:** How will we integrate ongoing assessment

and feedback into our performance assessment practices to monitor the quality of the home visitation, training, supervision, and coaching of our home visitation program(s) to support continuous quality improvement?

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### Cross-site Evaluation News: *Mathematica Policy Research and Chapin Hall*

The Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) grant program is an effort to learn what it takes to support the implementation, scale-up, and sustainability of home visiting programs in a way that maintains fidelity to the program model, with the intended ultimate result being improved outcomes for families and children. With their grants, grantees are undertaking "systems change" activities and strategies aimed at developing infrastructure to support home visiting programs and improve their fidelity.

Each grantee is evaluating its own efforts. To capture lessons learned across grantees, the cross-site evaluation design examines five

areas or domains: (1) systems change (infrastructure building), (2) fidelity to the selected evidence-based model, (3) the costs of home visiting programs, (4) family and child outcomes, and (5) the process of grant implementation. However, there will be a focus on the systems and fidelity domains given the recent change in grant funding. Detailed information about the design of the cross-site evaluation can be found in a summary of the evaluation design report, titled "Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Prevent Child Maltreatment: Overview of the Cross-Site Evaluation" (see link in *Resources*).&



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## **FRIENDS NRCCBCAP Focus: New Beginnings**

**Decision Support Data Systems:** How can we develop or improve our data systems to ensure that the data system reports on valid, reliable, and meaningful outcomes measures (inter-mediate and long-term), as well as fidelity? Can we improve the data collection process to make it more practical? Can we build the data collection process into the normal work routine? Can we better use this information in making decisions at the family, home visitor, supervisor, organization, and systems level?

**Facilitative Administration:** How can we improve our administrative practices to better support and sustain the high quality use of our home visitation program(s)? How can we develop and institutionalize a system to ensure that practice

feedback about barriers (to implementing the home visitation model as intended) flows unfiltered to the appropriate leaders in the system?

**Systems Interventions:** How can we enhance our efforts to work with external partners (other departments, organizations, agencies, family members) to ensure the availability of the financial, community, and political support required to sustain our home visitation program(s)?

Of course, it is this integrated and aligned infrastructure that will continue to be developed and improved throughout the implementation process and throughout the lifetime of your home visitation program(s). And it is this infrastructure that will ensure the delivery of effective services to the

family and children who are reached by your programs.

The FRIENDS Team is comprised of experts in program implementation through our partnership with the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) and complex systems with Human Systems Dynamics Institute (HSD). We will continue to support you by disseminating ongoing resources and information through the website, newsletter, grantee conference, and webinars. We are also available for individual technical assistance on an as needed basis. To request individual TA, please contact Melissa Van Dyke with NIRN at [melissa.vandyke@unc.edu](mailto:melissa.vandyke@unc.edu) or Alicia Luckie with FRIENDS at [apluckie@elmore.rr.com](mailto:apluckie@elmore.rr.com). &



## Resources

Currently, dissemination materials are available to grantees on a project-specific website, known as the EBHV Peers SharePoint site. Dissemination materials, including the annual and design reports, will be made available more widely on a public website being developed for the grant program. Updates on the release of these materials to the public will be provided in future newsletters.

### Peer Learning Network – Training Materials Available!

Mathematica Policy Research and Chapin Hall conducted the first in a series of five planned evaluation trainings on November 19, 2009. The trainings are designed to provide the EBHV grantees and their local evaluators guidance and assistance in conducting the highest quality local evaluations, as well as establishing procedures and practices for the cross-site evaluation. The first training focused on assigning identification numbers to evaluation participants, gaining consent from families and home visiting staff to participate in the local and cross-site evaluations, and conducting random assignment. Materials from this training are available to the EBHV grantees in the [Training Materials folder on the EBHV Peers SharePoint](#) site.

### Cross-Site Evaluation – Reports Available!

In October and November 2009, the Mathematica®-Chapin Hall team, in collaboration with the Children's Bureau, released four cross-site evaluation reports: the full evaluation design report, an executive summary of the report, a literature review on systems change, and a report of first-year cross-site evaluation activities. The reports are available to the EBHV grantees in the [Dissemination Materials folder on the EBHV Peers SharePoint](#) site.

Koball, Heather, Heather Zaveri, Kimberly Boller, Deborah Daro, Jean Knab, Diane Paulsell, Margaret Hargreaves, Debra A. Strong, Lizabeth Malone, Patricia Del Grosso, and Yange Xue. "Cross-Site Evaluation of the Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting Grantee Cluster: Evaluation Design Volume 1." Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, October 2009. Available from Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton, NJ.

Koball, Heather, Heather Zaveri, Kimberly Boller, Deborah Daro, Jean Knab, Diane Paulsell, Margaret Hargreaves, Debra A. Strong, Lizabeth Malone, Patricia Del Grosso, and Yange Xue. "Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visiting to Prevent Child Maltreatment: Overview of the Cross-Site Evaluation." Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, October 2009. Available from Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton, NJ.

Hargreaves, Margaret, and Diane Paulsell. "Evaluating Systems Change Efforts to Support Evidence-Based Home Visiting: Concepts and Methods." Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, November 2009. Available from Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton, NJ.

