

Maternal and Early Childhood Consortium

2017 Identified Priorities and Work Currently Identified to Address the Priorities

- Cultivating Collaborative and Coordinated Services
- Building Partnerships with Families
- Mitigating Maternal Substance Use effects on Infants and Young Children

Work being done by members of MECC to address these 3 priorities:

- Cultivating Collaborative and Coordinated Services
 - a. Action Team comprised of Ailene Keys, Toscha Blalock (Maternity Care Coalition), and Oglatha Ingram (Family Center of Pottstown) focusing on collaborating and coordinating home visiting services more effectively in Pottstown as a pilot to be developed, implemented and hopefully replicated to other pockets in the county where multiple home visiting programs exist (eg. North Penn area and Norristown) – process of identifying a framework/work flow for referrals and collaboration
 - b. Pottstown Action Team is partnering with Bright Start in Pottstown, as well as talking with the United Way about possible funding opportunities for home visiting coordination
 - c. Pottstown Action Team was also suggested to meet with Dave Craibel of the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation as a possible ally/assist opportunity
- Building Partnerships with Families
 - a. This is ongoing work to be done by all members of the MECC in their daily work – continuing to provide ongoing encouragement on the importance of each member in their daily work and how that collectively impacts building relationships with families
 - b. Focus on professional education and awareness about engaging with families and being more culturally competent, culture shift on how they work with and engage with families to have a partnership/relationship in their provision of services , as well as building trust to make referrals for clients to HV services
 - c. Exploring possibilities of joining other efforts underway in the county – BucksMont Collaborative for on Trauma, Bridges Out of Poverty initiatives, etc...
- Mitigating Maternal Substance Use effects on Infants and Young Children
 - a. Bringing speakers in to talk about what is being done on the national, state, and local levels to mitigate the effects of maternal substance use on infants –Cathy Palm invited to present in March at next large group meeting
 - b. Ongoing collaboration between HD and OCY with NFP Special Grants Initiative awarded from OCY to HD NFP program – two new positions (Community Development Coordinators) to be focused on NFP and one to specifically target building relationships with the COE in MC, substance use facilities, providers, etc. to get referrals to HV programs as a way of possibly preventing and mitigating effects of maternal SU on newborns/infants.
 - c. PADOH talking about adding NAS as a reportable disease to the Communicable surveillance at the county level, however, this is not necessarily preventative to the infant, as the infant would be tested after birth