

Home Visiting Advisory Committee

May 27th, 2021

Attendance

- Adrian Lopez
- Bridget Lecheile
- Caroline Sedano
- Catherine Blair
- Courtney Jiles
- Dila Perera
- Ellen Silverman
- Erica Hallock
- Gretchen Thaller
- Izumi Chihara
- Laura Alfani
- Laurie Lippold
- Liv Woodstrom
- Marilyn VanOostrum
- Martha Skiles
- Melanie Maltry
- Melissa Kenney
- Nina Evers
- Nita Lynn
- Rene Toolson
- Samantha Masters
- Ivon Urquilla
- Minnette Mason
- Valerie Stegemoeller

Advocacy Updates

- Legislative session resulted in big wins for early childhood, including the Fair Start Act
- Additional funding for the HVSA revolves around three main buckets: expansion to additional families, investments in data infrastructure, and improving supports to home visiting programs.
- The HVAC is seen as having an important role as being representative of stakeholders and ensuring transparency, partnership, and feedback loops
- Much of the language is intentionally vague, with the understanding that the HVAC may provide recommendations that inform future investments.
- We have an opportunity to communicate what investments are necessary to further scale home visiting in the state.

Discussion

- Is enhanced data system collection meant at the state level? Not LIAs?
- As an HVAC and as members what does this language through the legislature reflect?
- Can you share more about "support of local implementing agencies"?

Finance 101

- Budget bills specify both 1. the amount of funding for a program and 2. its spending authority (appropriation)

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- For the HVSA, DCYF is allowed 10% spending authority to cover DCYF's operational expenses related to administering the account
- A small account balance for the HVSA is beneficial because it allows DCYF to manage fluctuations in revenue without affecting service delivery
 - This account balance has increased over the years due to HVSA/program underspend, but DCYF does not have the spending authority to spend it down and must go through a legislative process to do so.
 - The ideal account balance is 10% of total state funding, but it is currently much higher.

Cost study:

- Valerie is doing an analysis of the costs of different home visiting programs. There are limitations to the data available but are working on ways to get additional information to inform this.
- Suggestion to consider especially the longest-funded HVSA contracts (about ten years old) and what their award amount would be today if it had increased with inflation.

Discussion

What do you need to inform the legislative report?

Will the timeline/ process for the legislative report work for HVAC to meet the intent?

What are your overall hopes?

- Meeting in person to discuss these big topics together
- Talking through true cost of service

What are your overall fears?

Funding Recommendations

Expansion planning:

- Several buckets of ways to use the new money from the legislature:
 - 80% directly to programs
 - Expansions in SFY22 (100 slots) and SFY23 (350 slots, mix of tribal (50) and general (300))
 - FY22 expansion could be open to a subset of programs based on performance
 - Consider reasons why programs may not have strong enrollment (TANF funding, staff turnover) as well as other indicators of performance besides just enrollment
 - Contract adjustments: four approaches (universal, universal + backfill, parity-centric, cost study)
 - Consider an equity approach and try to get a better sense of what's going on with each program
 - Critical sustainability: temporary funding to support gaps in other funding sources for HVSA programs to mitigate impacts on staff
 - There would need to be deep thinking about this and what would qualify
 - 20% costs to HVSA infrastructure
 - 10% of costs goes to DCYF administration. Right now, MIECHV is bearing the brunt of administrative expenses with implementing the HVSA.

Breakout room feedback:

- Google Doc Notes:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dGDldG_3fRXUOHxY9bZJxW2wqswJmpLbCWHkVNVqjSo/edit

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- Like the parity approach to contract adjustment, concerns about using enrollment as a performance tool - especially if those agencies are serving harder to reach families.
- Consider multiple stages
- Equity in funding; programs need to be made whole. Consider how to support programs with limited infrastructure
- Concerns about the high amount of the new funding that will go to administration
- The FY23 contracts would start July 1, 2022? Would start in contract Oct. 1
- Are we held to the 100 slots, could it be less?

Voting

- General agreement on the overarching approach, but more information needed about specific details/dollar amounts.
- Voting Question: Do you agree with the DCYF recommendations based on our conversation today and the recommendation slide being shared? (PDF of slide shared in follow up email)
 - 6-Yes, I support the recommendation/ 1-No, I do not support the recommendation

Subcommittees – did not have time to convene, will schedule time for a June meeting

Workforce Development

Data and Evaluation