

## Early On® and Home Visiting: Building Strong Systems for Young Children




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## Objectives

- Develop a shared understanding of what is meant by evidence-based, prevention focused 'home visiting'
- Understand the role of home visiting within a comprehensive early childhood system.
- Understand how prevention focused home visiting and Early On® can work well together.

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Working  
together. Are  
we asking each  
other the right  
questions?




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## Legislation

- Michigan Public Act 291 of 2012
- Accountability legislation passed in 2012
  - Standardizes definitions of home visiting
  - Directs state appropriations to programs that are evidence-based or are a promising practice
    - Excludes one-time home visiting programs
    - Excludes Part C
  - Requires reporting to the legislature on a set of indicators
    - [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/homevisiting/PA291\\_MICH\\_MHW\\_Report\\_Final%20Transmittal\\_478337.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/homevisiting/PA291_MICH_MHW_Report_Final%20Transmittal_478337.pdf)
  - Requires inter-agency collaboration/data sharing

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## Definitions

Are we all saying the same thing?

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## Home Visiting\*

- An evidence-based program implemented with fidelity to the model;
- Implemented in response to a Community Needs Assessment;
- Includes home visiting as a primary service delivery strategy;
- Offered on a voluntary basis;
- For pregnant women or children aged birth to five, who are at-risk (prevention).

\*Public Act 291 of 2012

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## At Risk

### EXAMPLES OF RISK FACTORS:

- Chronic diseases at time of conception/during pregnancy
- Inadequate health care/prenatal care
- Substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol, drugs)
- Poverty
- Crime/exposure to violence
- Domestic violence
- Education (high school drop-out)
- Teen parents
- Unemployment
- Homelessness

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## Prevention

- The action of stopping something from happening or arising.
- An approach in which services are offered to the people who are identified as being at risk, and they receive services with the expectation that the:
  - risk conditions **will be reduced**;
  - potential **resulting** conditions/disorders will be **prevented or reduced**.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK32789>

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## Intervention

- The systematic process of assessment and planning employed to remediate a social, educational, or developmental issue.
- An act that alters the course of a condition by initiating treatment.
  - The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.

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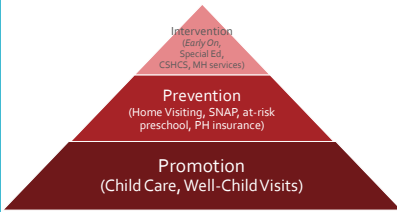
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## Intervention and Prevention within the Early Childhood System




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## Evidence-Based\*

- Research-based and grounded in relevant, empirically based knowledge.
- Linked to program-determined outcomes.
- Has comprehensive home visiting standards to ensure high-quality services and continuous quality improvement.
- Has demonstrated significant, sustained, positive outcomes.
- Has been evaluated using rigorous randomized controlled research designs OR are based on quasi-experimental research using 2 or more separate, comparable clients samples.
- Results have been published in a peer reviewed journal.
- Follows a program manual or design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, durations, and frequency of services.
- Operates with fidelity to the program or model.

\*Public Act 291 of 2012

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## Promising Practice\*

- Does not meet the criteria of evidence-based programs, but does:
  - Have data or evidence demonstrating effectiveness;
  - Must have an active evaluation or demonstration of a plan and timeline for the evaluation;
  - Follow a manual or design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration and frequency of service;
  - Operate with fidelity the program or model.

\*Public Act 291 of 2012

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## Model\*

Components of a home visiting model:

- Based on a program manual or design that specifies:
  - the purpose;
  - outcomes;
  - duration, and;
  - frequency of services.
- Has comprehensive standards.
- Many specify eligibility criteria.
- Many specify professional standards.
- Many include a particular curriculum (or a list to choose from).

\*Public Act 293 of 2012

## Evidence of Effectiveness: Evidence-based models most commonly implemented in Michigan

Benchmark	HHV	HHV	HHV	HHV	HHV
Improved maternal & child health		X	X		X
Reduction of child injuries, child maltreatment & reduction of ER visits	X	X	X	X	
Improvements in school readiness & achievement	X	X	X	X	
Decreased crime or domestic violence		X	X		
Increased family economic self-sufficiency	X	X	X	X	
Increased coordination & referrals for other community resources & supports	X		X		
Improved positive parenting practices	X	X	X	X	

What a model actually achieves, not what it was designed to do.

Source: [www.hmvve.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.hmvve.acf.hhs.gov)

## What is home visiting?





## Differences

- Prevention focused home visiting programs identify potential issues but do not provide treatment:
  - A screening indicates a mom who reports having difficulty with substances. Mom is connected to services;
  - A child who has a positive developmental screen is referred to *Early On* for evaluation and Intervention.
- Enrollment often occurs during pregnancy (for at least one model, it must occur during pregnancy).
- Families have risk-factors, generally need to meet income-guidelines.

## Differences

- Home visiting models utilize a full curriculum based on model standards. Keeping to the fidelity of the curriculum is important in order to maintain ability to achieve stated outcomes.
- Knowledge and skill level of home visitors in the area of delays/disability vary, but many do not have the experience or skills to intervene with an identified developmental issue (e.g., gross motor delay, speech and language delay, etc.)
- *Early On* staff are able to provide those services that are solely intervention – assisting parents to help their child with a delay or disability to reach their full potential.

## Group Activity: Virginia Reel

- *Focus Statement:* Think of a family you work with who has many community services, with many providers.
- Share with the person across from you 2 ways that have helped you to be able to collaborate with the other programs to benefit that family.
- *Instructions* -
  - Line 1 shares first. When we indicate, Line 1 moves 1 person to the left. Last person in the row moves to the head of Line 1.
  - Line 2 now shares first.
  - And so on.

## Group Sharing

- Briefly tell us the story of the family
- What do you think is working?
- What do you think you want to try?

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## Strategies to promote collaboration

- Relationships
- Frequent communication
- Know your partners
- Be knowledgeable of both programs' obligations and areas of focus
- Look for opportunities to coordinate sharing of resources

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## Relationships

- Building a strong relationship is one of the most powerful ways to improve coordination and collaboration with your partners.
- Relationships require trust, and the knowledge that you each contribute something of value.
- We each don't work in isolation, we need to work together to achieve our goals.

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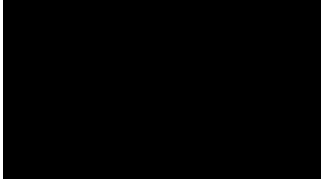
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## Relationships

The Friendship Algorithm – Big Bang Theory (courtesy of YouTube)




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## Communication

- How often do you share updates or information with partners who are also working with the family?
- How often do they share information with you?
- Have you asked the family for consent to share information or to invite their home visitor to the IFSP or evaluation?
- Have you clarified the roles you each will fulfill with the family?

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## Knowing Your Partners

- Are you aware of what home visiting services are available in your community?
- Have you met any of the home visitors?
- Have you had the opportunity to learn about the home visiting models in your community?
  - [www.Michigan.gov/homevisiting](http://www.Michigan.gov/homevisiting) - Model Webinars

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## Understanding of both programs

- Have you been able to share educational materials or information about *Early On* with your home visiting partners?
- Have you been able to conduct a joint visit to be sure you understand what each other does?
- Do you have questions about home visiting that you would like to have answered by a home visitor?

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## Opportunities to coordinate sharing of resources

- Are there training opportunities in your community that would be helpful for both home visitors and *Early On* providers?
- Are there resources that have been created that would be helpful for both programs?

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## Discussion / Questions




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## Resources

- Center for American Progress. (2015). An Investment in Our Future: How Federal Home Visiting Funding Provides Critical Support for Parents and Children. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from: [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org).
- Zero to Three Policy Center. (2014). The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program: Smart Investments Build Strong Systems for Young Children. Washington, DC: Author.
- Powers, S. (Ed). (2013). [Spec. edition]. Journal of Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, 33(3).

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