

MCH-MRN E-News Update: December 2018

Coordinated by CAHMI



Welcome!

Welcome to the December issue of the monthly e-newsletter providing updates and information about the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN). The MCH-MRN is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative network of experts who represent the MCH lifespan and who are active in the measurement of health and well-being of MCH populations.

The MCH-MRN is led by the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University and is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant UA6MC30375. This information or content and conclusions are those of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.



In this edition of MCH-MRN E-News you will find information about:

- **Measuring Family Engagement and an EnRICH webinar held on December 10**
- **How to comment on development of the nation's Healthy People 2030 objectives**
- **Engaging in our network!**

Measuring Family Engagement

Across health, education, and social services, families and professionals agree that meaningful and effective family engagement is essential to quality and effectiveness. Family engagement is a multidimensional, dynamic, relational process that is foundational to positive outcomes and well-being. Key elements of family engagement are active partnerships and joint decision making at various levels across the health care system—direct care, organizational design and governance, and policy making.

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB-HRSA-HHS) has long been committed to family-centered care and measurement of family engagement. Patient/family-centered care has been emphasized by the Institute of Medicine reports on health care quality and the

On December 10, 2018, as part of the MCHB-HRSA-HHS Engaging Research Innovations and Challenges (EnRICH) series, CAHMI Director **Dr. Christina Bethell** participated in a webinar focused on measuring family engagement. For this webinar, Dr. Bethell joined **Clarissa Hoover**, MPH—a Project Director at Family Voices, advocate for families, and leader in family-centered care at the University of New Mexico Hospital and Health Sciences—for a discussion that highlighted the central role of family engagement at all levels and both the challenges and opportunities for measurement in this area. Trusting relationships, family-centered approaches, and active engagement are key factors that need measurement approaches.

Dr. Bethell's [presentation](#) provided an overview on defining and measuring family engagement, summarized existing measures available through the [MCH-MRN Online Compendium](#), and described key measurement gaps related to family engagement.

Affordable Care Act, as well as home visiting, early care and education, Medicaid, and other programs. In a rapidly changing U.S. health care system, better measurement approaches for family engagement and family-centered care for MCH populations are needed.

The MCH-MRN has a Technical Working Group (TWG) focused on measurement of family engagement and family-centered care, which is currently focused on supporting the efforts of Family Voices to develop and test a new [Family Engagement Systems Assessment Tool \(FESAT\)](#). Key steps entailed in Family Voices' work include: development, pilot testing, validation, and other relevant measurement research steps. CAHMI is supporting this work by leveraging the [CAHMI measurement development framework and processes](#). Once completed, Family Voices will disseminate the FESAT and an accompanying toolkit to state Title V MCH Programs, state Medicaid agencies, professional organizations, hospitals and other health providers, health systems, and families. This MCH-MRN TWG also gives priority to more effective use of existing data and enhanced measurement of family engagement in existing MCH data collection (e.g., NSCH, Title V national outcome and performance measures-NOM/NPM).

For example, over the years, data from the National Survey of Child Health (NSCH) and National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN) have pointed to variations across states, settings, and by child and family needs in aspects of family-centered care such as parents feeling like partners, doctors providing needed information, providers making it easy for parents to raise concerns, and providers working with parents to decide on best care and treatment choices. Yet, having data on these factors has not led to measurable improvements in family engagement.

Ms. Hoover presented more details on development of the FESAT, including its framework and four domains for meaningful and sustainable family engagement, which are: commitment, transparency, representation, and impact. She discussed how these efforts focus on family engagement as a strategy for improving health care quality, patient safety, patient/family satisfaction, costs, and outcomes.

If you were unable to attend the webinar, the recording will be available in the near future at <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/research/media-webinar.asp>.



Healthy People 2030: Now is the time for MCH Input

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is soliciting written comments regarding the Healthy People (HP) 2030 objectives. The public [comment period](#) will be open from December 3, 2018 through January 17, 2019.

This public comment period offers an important opportunity to shape MCH measurement in this fifth edition of Healthy People national goals and objectives. HP 2030 will have three types of objectives: core, development, and research.

You can comment on HP 2030 objectives in three different ways:

(1) comment on individual Core objectives; (2) comment on a topic area's Developmental and Research objectives as a group; and (3) propose new objectives (including objective rationale, data source, & baseline data).

Learn more by reading the [Objective Selection Criteria](#) and [HP 2030 Framework](#).

Your comments can help to define specific national goals and measurable objectives relevant to the health and well-being of MCH populations. Together, we can enrich, refine, and modify the [proposed objectives](#) in Maternal, Infant, and Child Health (MICH), Early and Middle Childhood (EMC), and Adolescent Health (AH), as well as additional topic areas of interest (e.g., disability and health, immunization, injury prevention, mental health, social determinants of health). For example, since HP 2020 objectives were set, leaders in MCH measurement have explored topics related to health equity, and social determinants of health. In addition, HP 2030 offers opportunities to focus more on measurement of positive and relational health and the MCH life course.

CAHMI will be submitting comments HP 2030. If you would like to give us a copy of your comments to help inform MCH-MRN future efforts, please send to mch-mrn@cahmi.org.

The MCH-MRN provides a platform to: inspire, support, coordinate, and advance efforts related to MCH measurement, promote measurement innovation and shared accountability, and improve outcomes and systems performance on behalf of the nation's children, youth, and families.

MCH-MRN members contribute to setting a strategic agenda, collaborate to address MCH measurement gaps and needs, and receive resources and information relevant to MCH measurement.

- [Engage in the network](#). Please fill out our [engagement tool](#) to help us to understand how you would like to be engaged in the MCH-MRN and how best to keep you informed about network activities.
- [Use our website](#) and the interactive [compendium](#) to quickly browse through over 1000 MCH measures by measure set, data source category, or three levels of [topical categories](#).
- [See the news and articles](#) we're reading this month.
- [Download](#) the most recent MCH-MRN Strategic Agenda.



The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) is a center within the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



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