

IL MIECHV Newsletter

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"Stories from
the field"



Coordinated Intake Collaborative

Working with Partner Plan Act Collaborative Institute:

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Receiving supports, from the Partner Plan Act Collaborative Institute, our groups have strengthened collaboration to best meet the needs of the families in our community. We are made up of representatives from four Home Visiting (HV) agencies in Macon County as well as igrow Coordinated Intake. Our HV agencies have had long-standing relationships that have changed shape over the years, accommodating to the needs of the community. In early 2017, our group saw the need for a more structured collaboration between ourselves and we created the Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration (MCECC). The MCECC consists of a Leadership team (our HV/igrow representatives) and an Advisory Board, composed of community stakeholders that meet quarterly.

MCECC Leadership, began our formalized collaborative by meeting monthly for loosely structured meetings. We all identified a need for a more structured collaborative that would allow open and regular communication to address community needs together but needed to forge a clear path to achieving this. We assembled a mission statement, goals, and measurable outcomes, but did not have regular evaluation of our progress.

The process. We all applied to the Collaborative Institute from Partner Plan Act, free program. Once accepted we attended a kick-off event in Chicago. Afterwards, we began working receiving monthly sessions with our coach, Kim. She facilitates thorough self-assessment, development of a support plan, and has guided us through the process of setting up a sustainable collaboration.

"I discovered that collaborating is not always easy. Work-related networking and relationship-building can be fun, but true collaboration difficult. Combining, difficulty with not having a clear roadmap, led our group to be stalled at different points."

Updates

Stacey McKeever leaving!

She has been a pivotal asset to MIECHV for 5 years. She will be truly missed!

Coming Soon...

Form 2 Tracking VT:

- ❖ Run to keep track of timeframes for assessments.

Next HOME Assessment

Training: July 26, 2019

- ❖ Bloomington Children's Home + Aid
- ❖ 403 S. State St.
Bloomington, IL from 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Next PPR Due:

- ❖ July 15th for the quarter (April-June)

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Kim's thoughtful and reflective approach has introduced basic team building skills. Which keeps everyone on the team up to date, exchanging resources and training information, establishing norms and expectations during meetings and workshops, and having us all making a commitment to the collaborative work.

Strides: *Half-way through the year*, we've experienced and overcome challenges. Tensions within our group had been kept at bay for our monthly meetings but remained just below the surface. When we began participating in workshops, our team was working together more closely and spending more time communicating. Our coach led us in activities of brainstorming and goal setting as well as addressing trust and turf issues. Tensions eventually became apparent and needed to be addressed. The turning point came when we began to address these issues. Kim, the neutral party, was able to identify the major concerns and bring focus to the goals of the collaboration. By using problem solving strategies our group has been able to move forward, thoughtfully and thoroughly addressing our conflict.

We are experiencing positive results from our coaching. Our collaborative is growing stronger, gaining more structure, and moving forward. We are building the foundation to allow us to achieve our goals and positively impact families in our community. Most recently, Kim asked us to complete a team exercise where we identified our individual personality styles as one of the following: **North** –action oriented/jumps right in, **South** – feelings focused/makes sure everyone is heard, **West** – detail oriented, **East** – speculating/big picture thinking. Our group of five has 1 North, 3 West, and 1 South. Guess who identifies as East? It's Kim! And we certainly needed and appreciate our East!

Resources:

- ❖ *Partner Plan Act*
<https://www.partnerplanact.org/home>
- ❖ *igrow Macon County*
<https://www.govserv.org/US/Decatur/282482968556102/Igrow-Macon-County>

