

Webinar #2: The Center of Excellence (CoE) IECMHC Toolbox: An Introduction for Early Care and Education Programs and Providers' Questions and Answers

Locating the Toolbox, Podcasts, and Webinars

Q: Will this webinar be recorded and/or posted online?

A: All past and future webinar presentations will be posted as a video summary and will be accompanied by relevant handouts and Q&A on our webpage: (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/podcasts-webinars>).

Q: How do I get a certificate? (Or: Will there be a certificate?)

A: We're sorry, but we are unable to provide certificates for our webinars.

Q: Where can I locate the Toolbox?

A: The Toolbox can be found on the [SAMHSA CoE website \(https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox\)](https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox).

Systems for IECMHC

Q: Are there examples of states using these resources to implement a statewide system around IECMH?

A: The Toolbox was released in the spring of 2017, and states, tribes, and communities are just beginning to explore and use these resources. The CoE has 14 pilot sites (12 states and 2 Tribal communities) that are starting to use the Toolbox resources and will continue to do so for the next three years with the support of a TA specialist. Through this pilot site work, the CoE will be able to report on the usefulness and impact of the Toolbox and provide updates and additions to it.

Funding for IECMHC

Q: In my state, Michigan, so much of IECMHC is linked to Medicaid. How can we extend the services to children and families who do not receive Medicaid services?

Note: Although this question is about Michigan, individuals from all states, tribes, and communities can benefit from learning about how Michigan funded IECMHC through various entities. This type of statewide, system-level approach, along with blending and braiding of funds, is outlined in the CoE Toolbox section on Financing (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox/financing>).

A: In 2013, Michigan received federal Race to the Top (RTT) funds to increase both access to providers and the quality of child care providers who support children from birth to age 5 and their families. One service that resulted was Specialized Consultation with a focus on social and emotional health. In the counties where this RTT funding is available, Social Emotional Consultants (SEC) are partnering with the Regional Resource Centers



(local entities that provide support for licensed and unlicensed child care providers) to connect with home- and center-based providers. The SECs then work with these providers to identify their specific needs, and offer support to increase the overall social and emotional health of the children and families they serve and their staff.

Q: Are there any grants or programs available to assist with program development, or training for IECMH consultants?

A: The Financing section of the Toolbox includes a Financing Guide (https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/IECMHC/financing-guidance-infant-early-child-mental-health-consult.pdf), with ideas and resources on how to locate, secure, blend, and braid funding for IECMHC program development. A variety of funding sources and options to pursue and advance IECMHC, including workforce development efforts, are suggested.

Models for IECMHC

Q: Is there a clear model for IECMHC that you suggest?

A: The CoE does not endorse a single model for planning, implementing, and evaluating IECMHC, as site-specific goals and context are important considerations. Instead, we have developed a powerful tool, the interactive Planning Guide for Developing and Implementing an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Model (http://iecmhc.edc.org/IECMHC_Models_InteractivePlanningGuide/story_html5.html), to assist individuals, agencies, and programs in considering their own audience, their vision for the work, dosage considerations, and more. We believe that each program needs to individualize the model to meet the needs of their particular population of families and the strengths of their workforce.

Q: Do you provide interviews with programs using a model—specifically, rural programs?

A: Rural communities represent an important segment of the country, and it's important to understand and respond to the unique strengths and challenges of these populations. While we don't have specific examples to point to now, we are currently working with pilot sites in many areas of the country that focus on rural communities; the CoE will be able to report on their progress in the near future. In addition, in the Research and Evaluation section of the Toolbox, you can view a sample logic model for a rural program (https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/IECMHC/interactive-module-download-logic-model-2-alaska-head-start-rural.pdf), which can give you ideas for furthering your own program plans. In the months and years ahead, the CoE expects to present many examples of how IECMHC is being successfully implemented in rural communities.

The Workforce

Q: How do I become an IECMH consultant?

A: The Workforce section of the Toolbox (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox/workforce-development>) includes useful information on qualifications and training requirements for IECMH consultants. In addition, the Competencies section of the Toolbox (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox/competencies>) lists the skills and experience necessary to be successful in the work.

Q: What is being done to create a professional certification for IECMHC?

A: The CoE is a step in this direction. Although the field of IECMHC has been evolving for decades, this is the first joint effort of three major federal partners (SAMHSA, ACF, and HRSA) to collaborate around this topic. Our vision at the CoE is that the Toolbox and our subsequent work with 14 pilot sites over a three-year span will further shape the field, guide the work, and provide some of the data necessary to help establish certification criteria.

Q: Would competencies or models be the first step in a state that has neither?

A: Excellent question—and the answer is . . . it depends! The Competencies section of the Toolbox can give a state or tribe some guidance regarding the skills and experience the workforce would need in order to deliver successful services. Beginning here would help a state or tribe assess their current capacity and identify areas they may need to focus on to build a thriving workforce. On the other hand, the Models section of the Toolbox (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox/models>) offers an interactive Models tool (http://iecmhc.edc.org/IECMHC_Models_InteractivePlanningGuide/story_html5.html), which takes a state or tribe through the basic steps of developing, implementing, and evaluating an IECMHC model. Either would be a useful place to start. To help you make this decision, consider whether your needs relate more to the workforce capacity of your state or tribe, or to developing a vision statement, identifying the population to be served, and other aspects of building a model.

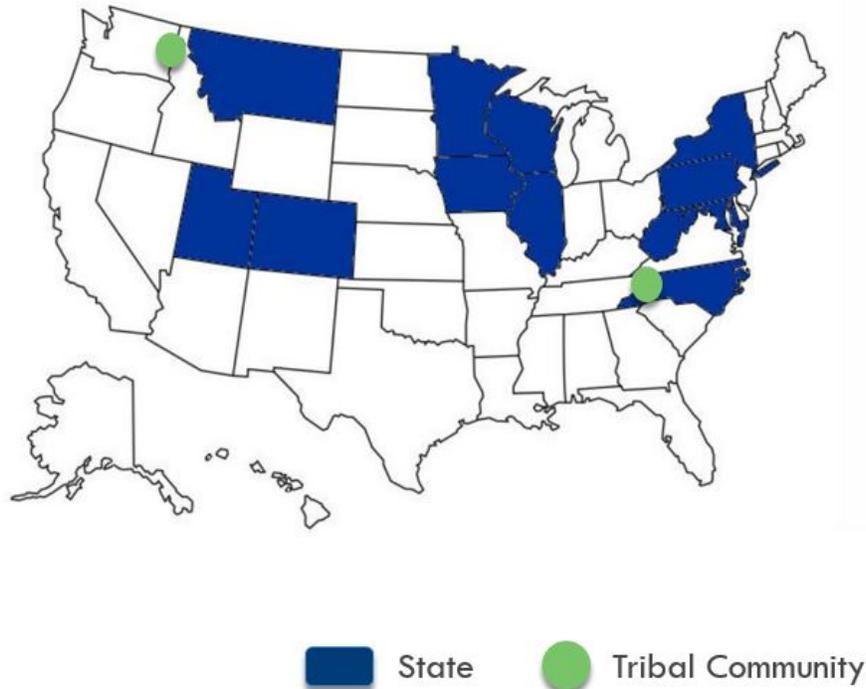
Q: Can the CoE Toolbox be used by non-mental health professionals?

A: Other disciplines, such as early childhood professionals, medical professionals, social workers, and policymakers, will find parts of the Toolbox very relevant to their work. For example, the Introduction section (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox/>) provides a crosswalk of IECMHC and other child-centered services in the mental health arena; the Communications section includes PowerPoint slides and other tools and materials that make the case not only for IECMHC but for early intervention in general; and the Financing section (<https://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc/toolbox/financing>) suggests ways to blend and braid funding to access and sustain services for children and families. In addition, the website and Toolbox can help familiarize “end users” of IECMHC (such as child care and home visiting providers) with the practice so they can be good consumers of consultation.

CoE Pilot Sites

Q: Are you piloting any programs in Washington State?

A: Our pilot states are Illinois, Colorado, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. We also have two tribal pilot sites: the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Here is a map of our pilot site locations:



Early Intervention

Q: Do you have resources for Early Intervention home visitors/Early Care and Education (ECE) visitors who support children with disabilities at home and in ECE? Is there a Toolbox section with actual interventions for child care staff, parents, etc.?

A: The CoE Toolbox is designed for state, tribal, and community leaders who are helping to plan, design, implement, and evaluate IECMHC efforts. The resources are designed to support those who support the workforce; they are not meant to provide individual or group interventions for early childhood or home visiting staff, early intervention specialists, or families.

The following websites are good sources for this type of information:

- The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>) offers information targeted to those providing the services.

- The Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (<http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/do/resources.htm>) and the Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>) both offer strategies and planning documents to build healthy social and emotional skills among individual children and to reduce challenging behaviors.

Tribal Consultation

Q: Is the Tribal consultant available through e-mail for questions regarding Tribal infant mental health concerns and cultural questions?

A: CoE staff, including specialists on Tribal IECMHC, are available to answer questions via the IECMHC@edc.org e-address, and will endeavor to answer all questions received.

Other Sites for IECMHC Information

Q: How does the CoE Toolbox relate to the Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (<https://www.ecmhc.org/>) Toolkits?

A: The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD) has created a toolkit of many ECMHC resources that readers may find useful. Particularly robust is Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: An Evaluation Tool Kit (<https://gucchd.georgetown.edu/products/ECMHCToolkit.pdf>), which can be found on the GUCCHD website.

The developers of the two sites collaborated to ensure that the toolkits were consistent and complementary, so that individuals could make use of multiple resources to build their knowledge base. The ECMHC resources focus more on the actual mental health consultant, while the CoE Toolbox is geared more toward state and tribal leaders who are trying to implement a model. Both toolkits help fill gaps in the field of mental health consultation, and tools from both sites can be useful in your practice. We recommend using resources from both sites, and others, in your work.

Q: Will the CoE Toolbox ultimately be intertwined into Head Start's Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) (<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>) for the Head Start folks?

A: The CoE Toolbox will remain on SAMHSA's CoE website for public access. The CoE Toolbox was created with Head Start as a key audience. In turn, both the ECLKC and the CoE Toolbox help fill gaps in the field of mental health consultation, and tools from both sites can be useful in your practice. We recommend using resources from both sites, and others, in your work.