

MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION INITIATIVE

Pilot Narrative

The Mental Health Consultation Initiative is piloting the Illinois Model of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health consultation in order to create an evidence-base to bolster the promotion and sustainability of I/ECMH consultation throughout child-and family-serving systems in Illinois. The questions that will be answered through evaluation of the pilot include:

How is I/ECMHC implemented?

- Most frequent kinds of activities
- Most frequent recipients of consultation
- System variations
- Community variations

What are the effects of I/ECMH consultation on early childhood frontline staff (home visitors, teachers, etc.) and supervisor knowledge and practices?

What are the effects of I/ECMH consultation on measures of parent and child well-being and behavior?

What impact does professional development have on I/ECMH consultation?

Pilot Design

This pilot will consist of both intervention sites and control sites, and will be implemented across various systems and communities, in order to have a more comprehensive evaluation on the impact of child-serving systems.

The I/ECMH consultation model will be piloted in four communities in Illinois, connecting to three infant/early childhood systems. The communities will be 2 urban and 2 rural sites. The comparison communities will involve the same three systems in two communities, thus a total of 24 sites will be involved. A randomized assignment will indicate which site is assigned to the intervention group, and which site is assigned to the control group.

The three systems that will be involved in the pilot include:

- Home Visiting programs that are not currently receiving I/ECMH consultation (DHS)
- Center-based Child Care settings (DHS)
- Early Care and Education (ISBE and DFFS)



Intervention Design

The MHC Initiative Pilot will include the implementation of an intervention in the form of the MHC Initiative I/ECMHC Model at 16 different intervention sites, as well as the participation of 8 control group sites that will not receive the intervention but will participate in the evaluation as comparison sites. The implementation period for the intervention will be as follows:

- 6 months for an orientation phase;
- 1 year for the full implementation of the MHC Initiative Model;
- 6 months of sustainability and evaluation work with the pilot sites; and,
- 6 months to cover the final evaluation data analysis and report writing.

Evaluation Design

The evaluation for the Pilot will be a quasi-experimental, interrupted time series, beginning during the orientation phase of the pilot, and ending 6 months after the implementation has ended. The evaluation will look at the implementation of the I/ECMHC Model, which will include measures to monitor fidelity as well as impact. Data will be collected at various points throughout the pilot.

The evaluators will present their findings after analysis, determining the impact of I/ECMH consultation using the I/ECMH model.