



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Healthy Families Oregon State Advisory Committee

From: Healthy Families Oregon Central Administration, Oregon Early Learning Division

Date: April 2, 2021

Re: Healthy Families Oregon State Program Updates

Purpose: To update the Committee on priority areas of work, and introduce an area of work for review in upcoming meetings.

HFO Database Update

The ELD Project Team has completed a business case document that proposes the purchase of the HVOL system and includes a budget to meet necessary costs. The business case and budget have been approved by ELD leadership, and are under review by an oversight body for all state IT systems.

We have also been able to obtain the state-required sponsor for this project. Alicia Miao, who recently joined the ELD in a new position as the Director of Data Management and Strategy, will fulfill this role. She will be working closely with ELD teams to develop processes and procedures for collecting and analyzing data related to the quality of programs and the children and families they serve.

The ELD project team is now waiting for direction from the state IT oversight team. Once direction is received, the ELD will share an update and seek any additional expert feedback needed from the HFO Database Workgroup.

Impact of COVID-19 on HFO Program Metrics

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, and social and political upheaval of 2020 have had significant and various impacts on the Healthy Families program. Not only has there been a shift in program operations and an increase in support for staff and families, but it is anticipated that the impact of these events will also be reflected in changes to outcome data. For example, programs have anecdotally reported challenges in staff retention, and in recruitment of new staff. Some programs have reported screening challenges related to hospital partners being unavailable, which have necessitated new outreach strategies to engage families virtually. While the full data picture is not yet available through HFO's Annual Status Report produced by NPC Research, some preliminary data collected by the ELD suggests the following:

- Approximately 1,876 families participated in Healthy Families home visiting services in 2020, while 1,961 families participated in HFO home visits in 2019,



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according to NPC Research. This difference suggests a drop in enrollment between 2020 and 2019, by possibly around 100 families.

- Caseload vacancy rates for Healthy Families home visitors employed longer than one year were at 5% between October and December 2020. While this limited timeframe does not reflect the full scope of 2020 caseloads, it does suggest program sites are returning to full staffing and full caseloads.

Note: Healthy Families Oregon programs are following updated guidance from Oregon Health Authority on continued virtual home visiting, weighing considerations for resuming in-person services, prioritizing health and safety for families and home visitors, and establishing policies and procedures that reflect that priority. The updated guidance is found [here](#).

New HFA Best Practice Standards

Healthy Families America has released a draft of revised Best Practice Standards (BPS), which are the principles that direct the activities of the model. For Oregon, this means participating in a process of feedback on the BPS draft that was recently issued, and anticipating some programmatic and policy changes that will result from this process. The final version of revised HFA BPS will be published in July 2021. At that time, HFO will work to update its Policy and Procedure Manual accordingly and provide training and technical assistance to program sites to facilitate implementation of revised standards. The Healthy Families Oregon State Advisory Committee will be asked to provide input on proposed revisions to Oregon's Policy and Procedure Manual.