

## Regional Home Visiting Coordination & System Building Siskiyou County - Year 1 Summary<sup>1</sup>

### Context

Beginning in 2016, The Ford Family Foundation began funding a Regional Home Visiting Systems Coordination (HVSC) project. The vision for the project is for Siskiyou county to have a coordinated home visiting (HV) system that strengthens and benefits all home visiting models as part of each region’s birth-to-five early childhood development system. The long-term goal for the project is to improve outcomes for children and families and expand the region’s capacity to serve more families. The work is primarily focused on:

- Improving **internal communication** between and among home visiting providers;
- Increasing **community awareness** about the availability and benefits of home visiting;
- Development of a **shared intake & referral system** to connect families to the best match home visiting program; and
- Development of a regional **home visitor professional development plan** to promote shared training opportunities.

In year 1, Siskiyou County HV partners focused on building strong governance and internal communication systems, developing a shared intake and referral system, and improving their access to regional professional development.



To assess changes over the first year of the project, a systems survey was administered with 21 respondents, 4 stakeholders were interviewed, and 9 people participated in a focus group.

### Home Visiting Domains

Table 1 presents the percent of respondents who, on average, “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”, with the survey items that make up the domain at project start (baseline, 2016) and Year 1 (2017). The survey domains reflect components of effective HV leadership/governance and a coordinated HV system.

Table 1. Project Domains (% A/SA) <sup>2</sup>		Example Question from Each Domain	2016	2017	Change
Communication & Collaboration	There is effective communication between HV program leadership within the county involved in the collaborative.	25%	84%	↑59%	
Governance & Planning	The HV collaborative has a shared, common vision.	56%	90%	↑46%	
Roles & Responsibilities	The HV collaborative group has ample knowledge of local needs and resources.	71%	83%	↑12%	
Equity	HV programs currently have the capacity to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families in our community.	50%	78%	↑28%	
Program Improvement & Data Use	The HV collaborative has collected and assessed data about the needs and resources for children and families in our region.	50%	94%	↑44%	
Community Awareness	Families in our community understand the benefits of home visiting.	44%	44%	0%	
Referral Process	Our community uses a shared/common referral form to facilitate family access to HV services.	25%	32%	↑7%	
Professional Development	The HV system effectively shares professional development and training resources.	43%	94%	↑51%	
Sustainability	HV programs work together to increase funding and support all home visiting programs.	14%	71%	↑57%	

<sup>1</sup> For the full systems survey report, stakeholder interview summary, or focus group report, please contact Callie Lambarth at [lambarth@pdx.edu](mailto:lambarth@pdx.edu)

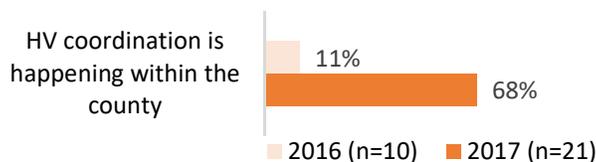
<sup>2</sup> “% A/SA” is the percent of respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed, on average, with the survey items that make up the domain.

## Current Level of HV Coordination

The majority of survey respondents (67%) reported that they participate in cross-program HV or early childhood collaborative or governance groups.

Survey respondents rated the level of HV coordination in Siskiyou County as shown in Figure 1. The majority of respondents (68%) report that increased coordination is happening throughout the county at Year 1 of the project, over only 11% at baseline.

**Figure 1. Current Level of HV Coordination in the County**



## Accomplishments

Below are the major accomplishments in year 1 in the primary areas of work:

### **Governance & Planning**

- The HV collaborative group has established a clear action plan and identified early- to mid-term objectives to achieve longer-term goals.
- The HV collaborative group has actively engaged essential stakeholders as partners.

### **Internal Communication**

- Increased confidence and trust among HV program staff, through deepened relationships.
- Stronger sense that the HV partners are a larger, collective team.
- Substantial growth in effectiveness of communication between and among HV programs, leadership, and home visitors.

*“It’s a great collaboration. It’s a time when [the project coordinator] brings all the players together. It’s a great way to bring everybody together and share the wealth of information.”*

### **Community Awareness**

While community awareness was not the main focus of year 1 activities, there have been development of critical partnerships outside of the HV system, such as the health sector.

*“Where in the past we’ve had a difficult time having our pediatricians push our programs, it has been beneficial for them to have a better understanding of what these programs do and how they can benefit the families they work with.”*

### **Referral Process**

- The HV collaborative group has built stronger formal and informal referral agreements, and worked to address issues of family confidentiality to help establish a HV referral system.
- They have drafted a shared intake & referral form.

### **Professional Development**

The HV collaborative has strengthened the sharing of professional development training resources, and is working towards developing a cross-program professional development plan.

## Opportunities for Year 2

- Increase capacity to meet cultural and linguistic needs of families.
- Maintain ongoing opportunities for HV program leaders to learn about each other’s programs to collaborate successfully.
- Continue to develop a range of strategies to help families and the community at large learn about the HV services available, understand the benefits of HV.
- Build trust with families so that they feel comfortable accessing HV services.
- Finalize and pilot a new shared intake/referral form to strengthen the HV referral system.
- Develop a regional HV professional development and training plan.