

Regional Home Visiting Coordination & System Building Siskiyou County - Year 2 Highlights

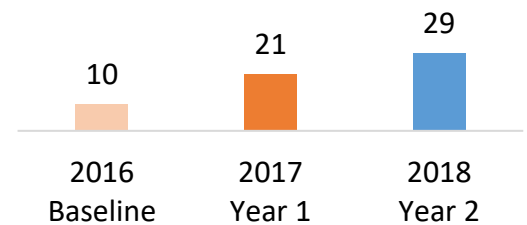
Context

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 **coordinated referral system** to connect families to the best match home visiting or other family support programs; and
- Development of a regional **home visitor professional development plan** to promote shared learning.

To assess changes across two years of the project, a systems survey was administered with key stakeholders to provide a second cross-sectional data point, following baseline in 2016. Figure 1 shows the number of respondents by year. In 2018, 29 respondents represents a 74% response rate. Table 1 presents the percent of respondents who, on average, "Agree" or "Strongly Agree", with the survey items that make up the domain at each time point. The survey domains reflect components of effective HV leadership/governance and a coordinated HV system.

Figure 1. Number of survey respondents by year



Key Accomplishments

The major accomplishments in year 2 of the HVSC project as reported by stakeholders, include:

Governance & Planning

- HV program leaders work together effectively and that the HV collaborative group has strengthened its shared, common vision.
- 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.
- Increasingly, members of the HV collaborative group report understanding how the HVSC project can support improved outcomes for children and families.

Internal Communication

- There is a high level of respect and understanding amongst HV stakeholders.
- There was substantial growth in effectiveness of communication among HV program leadership, and between leadership and home visitors.
- A growing sense that there are sufficient networking opportunities between HV providers and programs.

Professional Development Plan

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

Coordinated Referral System

- Collaborative efforts to work on developing a shared intake/referral form

Opportunities for Year 3

Areas for continued deepening of work in year 3 of the HVSC project as reported by stakeholders, include:

- HV program leaders may benefit from ways to continue learning about each other's programs in order to collaborate successfully.
- Continue to build relationships across sectors and programs to expand collaborative efforts.
- Identify, document, and share data on needs and resources in the community across system partners.
- The HV collaborative group could benefit from the development of effective referral agreements and improved MOUs.
- Finalize and piloting a coordinated referral process could help strengthen the HV referral system.
- The HV collaborative group could continue to develop a range of strategies to help families learn about the HV services available, understand the benefits of HV, and build trust with families to feel comfortable accessing HV services.
- Work towards greater community awareness of the value of home visiting.
- Expand services available in very rural areas.

| Table 1. | | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---|------|------|------|
| Survey Domain (% A/SA) | Example Question from Each Domain | | | |
| Communication & Collaboration | There is effective communication between HV program leadership within the county involved in the collaborative. | 25% | 84% | 93% |
| Governance & Planning | The HV collaborative has a shared, common vision. | 56% | 90% | 93% |
| Roles & Responsibilities | The HV collaborative group has ample knowledge of local needs and resources. | 71% | 83% | 93% |
| Equity | HV programs currently have the capacity to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse families in our community. | 50% | 78% | 83% |
| 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% | 89% |
| Community Awareness | Families in our community understand the benefits of home visiting. | 44% | 44% | 52% |
| Referral Process | Our community uses a shared/common referral form to facilitate family access to HV services. | 25% | 32% | 33% |
| Professional Development | The HV system effectively shares professional development and training resources. | 43% | 94% | 82% |
| Sustainability | HV programs work together to increase funding and support all home visiting programs. | 14% | 71% | 58% |