

Bi-Weekly Update

Maternal Infant Health Program



**Please share this information with all
MIHP team members.**

Monday, January 3, 2022

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Meet the Team: Maria McGinnis



Hello! I'm Maria McGinnis and I am so grateful to have joined the Maternal Infant Health Program this month. My role is Nurse Consultant and will have an opportunity to support efforts around immunizations.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Wayne State University and have happily centered my career around public health. Early on, I worked as a Nurse Home Visitor for first-time mothers and families in Detroit. It was this job that truly inspired my passion for public health and reducing health disparities. My most recent role was working in MDHHS for The Division of Immunization as Michigan's Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Coordinator and a lead Immunization Nurse

Educator. I feel very lucky to integrate these experiences into this new position as Nurse Consultant.

I am a proud new parent to a baby boy who keeps me plenty busy! However, when I have free time - I enjoy baking, watching documentaries, taking walks, and exploring new parks!

It's my pleasure to be able to work with you all – thank you for everything you do for our communities!

Seeking Comments: Cycle 9 Draft Operations Guide and Revised Forms

The draft MIHP Operations Guide for Cycle 9 will be posted on the MIHP website (Policy and Operations page) by the close of business. Agencies will have until **Friday, February 4th** to provide comments. A link to a fillable form will be below the link to the draft Guide. Please use it to make suggestions for edits, changes, or requests for clarification and email it to mihp@michigan.gov.

Note that we are awaiting information and Medicaid Policy approval for a few items and will insert them into the guide as we receive it. Also note that the formatting of the guide may be revised for clarity and ease of use prior to its official publication. The table of contents has been temporarily removed until the document is finalized. In addition to the Operations Guide, all official forms for Cycle 9 are undergoing revision, and agency comments are requested for those as well by **Monday, January 31st**. Most forms have been posted to the MIHP website (Forms page) and remaining forms will be posted by the end of this week. Please make edits or suggestions for changes directly on the forms and email them to mihp@michigan.gov.

We greatly appreciate the thorough review and input our agencies provide for important documents like these!

Birth Defects Awareness Month

January is National Birth Defects Awareness Month. We know that not all birth defects can be prevented. We also know that you can increase your chances of having a healthy baby by doing what you can to be your healthiest self both before and during pregnancy.

As part of our new awareness efforts, MDHHS would like to recognize that systemic barriers can create gaps in access to the recommended care in our prevention tips. So, we aim to reinforce these prevention tips by sparking more actions and conversations in your local communities to identify, or build, more resources for successful pregnancies!

Importantly, we would like to clarify that this theme is focused on the preparation stages of your journey into parenthood. Many of these conditions extend across the lifespan and our CDC partners highlight more [awareness](#) on what continued success can look like for [people living with birth defects](#).

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) has resources for you and your families [Please visit their awareness month web page](#) for 5 Prevention Tips for *Healthy Communities and Healthy Babies* and to view the map of resources available in your community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recognizes January as National Birth Defects Awareness Month. [Click here for resources from the CDC birth defects web page](#).

MI-AIMH Executive Director Opening

The Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) has posted its executive director position. The [MI-AIMH Executive Director Posting](#) provides detailed information about the position. As noted in the posting, MI-AIMH “is a nonprofit professional organization that works to promote optimal infant and early childhood mental health by way of supporting the birth-to-six professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, young children, and their families....The Executive Director will provide oversight and management of the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH), carrying out the mission of the organization to nurture infants, toddlers, children and their families through a commitment to service, training, education, advocacy, and research. This person will champion and embed diversity, equity and inclusion in all MI-AIMH’s practices and training.”

Link to MDHHS Publications

[Sign up here to receive program updates and communications.](#)

Coordinator Directory

[Click here to access the Coordinator Directory](#)

Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MIHP Weekly Update, [please submit your ideas here.](#)

Previously Released MIHP Weekly Updates

To review any previously released MIHP Weekly Updates, they can be found by [visiting the MIHP webpage Michigan.gov/MIHP.](#)

Our communication for the Maternal Infant Health Program has been streamlined to a single email address and phone number. Please forward all email to MIHP@michigan.gov. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.