

REGION 11 IEIC UPDATE September 2017

The Region 11 Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC) is responsible for Help Me Grow public awareness and child find efforts in the seven- county metro region for infant & toddler early intervention and preschool special education services. Our goals are to increase knowledge of developmental milestones, to help parents and caregivers know when to refer a child if there are delays, and to provide easy access to make referrals online.

Help Me Grow Cross Cultural Outreach

In July 2016 a collaborative partnership was formally established between the Region 11 Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC) and the University of MN Minnesota's Learn the Signs Act Early (LTSAE) initiative for cross-cultural outreach (<https://ltsae.umn.edu/>) to provide culturally responsive outreach that promotes Help Me Grow. Cultural liaisons from diverse communities work to promote early developmental screening within the Hmong, Latino and Somali communities.

Training and ongoing support of the cultural liaisons is provided by Dr. Jennifer Hall-Lande of the University of Minnesota. The cultural liaisons or delegates then conduct outreach in their communities around developmental monitoring utilizing resource materials from Learn the Signs. Act Early and Help Me Grow.

Targeted outreach has taken place at large public events such as the Hmong Freedom Festival, neighborhood festivals, back-to-school events as well as connecting with staff and families at clinics, child care, places of worship and community organizations.

Region 11 translated Help Me Grow outreach materials into many languages and added photos of culturally diverse children to existing outreach materials in order to be more inclusive.

Here are some comments from our cultural outreach delegates regarding this initiative.

“Our cultural delegates come from the same Latino community we intend to serve and have an innate ability to connect and develop trusting relationships with its members. Because they look like them, speak like them and come from the same cultural and socioeconomic background as them, it is much easier to interact and explain the programs and services to families. Our cultural delegates can anticipate barriers and understand thought processes, expectations and fears. Because they basically mirror the members of the community, they encourage dialogue and friendly exchange of information without families feeling intimidated.”

Cristina Flood Urdangarin, MD, MPH, Latino Delegate Supervisor

“I am able to relay information to Hmong families and professionals in a way that they can understand. I've learned that in addition to providing the resource, it is also important to build relationships with parents and professionals so they can better understand and use it.”

Zang Vang-Lee, Hmong Delegate

“Having cultural delegates working with the community they are familiar with is a great way of breaking cultural barriers such as language. As a delegate it is easy for me to connect with other Somali mothers like me or a community leader and start a conversation. I don't need to spend a lot of time to get to know and or build trust so I can engage with them.”

Fatuma Irshat, Somali Delegate

In April we were invited to present a panel discussion on this work at the National Help Me Grow Conference in Saint Paul. The panel members are pictured below.



Contact Us

If there is a community event in your area targetting Hmong, Latino or Somali populations, you can contact us at the information provided below and arrange for a cultural delegate to attend and provide outreach activities and resources.

Other News

Child Find Trainings-To-Go Videos & Quizzes were developed by the Center for Inclusive Child Care for the Minnesota Department of Education.

- Conversation Strategies & Preparation Video (14 min.)
- Conversation with Parents (16 min.)
- Referrals and Parental Consent (6 ½ min.)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The videos and quizzes can be found near the bottom of this page by clicking <http://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/HelpfulRes/ResourcesProf/index.html>

For a list of the current IEC members and other IEC information, click on

<http://www.metrocsu.org/programsServices/specialEducation/Region11IEICProject.html>

Free child find and public awareness resources can be ordered at

http://www.metrocsu.org/programsServices/specialEducation/Region11IEIC_OrderHMGOutreachMaterials.html

The Region 11 IEC is supported by an interagency agreement from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding under CFDA number 84.181 Special Education Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities. Two part-time staff carry out the work plan and provide support for the IEC and its subcommittees. Kathy McKay is the Child Find Coordinator and her primary responsibilities include conducting child find and public awareness outreach activities as well as coordinating state, regional and local child find efforts. Kathy can be reached at kathy.mckay@metrocsu.org or by calling 651-728-0400. Marty Smith is the IEC Project Coordinator and provides support for the IEC members and meetings; website and social media management and development; budget coordination as well as programmatic and administrative oversight of contracts. Marty can be reached at marty.smith@metrocsu.org or by calling 651-247-3429.
