



February 28, 2023

The Mississippi Thrive! Early Childhood Development Coalition (ECDC)

The ECDC brings together early childhood system partners across Mississippi who are committed to creating an integrated early childhood health system. A system where all children and families feel they matter, belong, are valued, and can access the services and supports they need to promote child flourishing, school readiness and strong family resilience. The ECDC prioritizes the healthy development of all of Mississippi's infants and young children, the well-being of all caregivers, and equity, diversity, and inclusion in all its work. Members include families and healthcare, community, state agency and university organizations.

The ECDC builds on impressive prior achievements and milestones and was informed by a 2021 survey across early childhood organizations and agencies. The finding was that the ***most critical goal for Mississippi's early childhood system partners was to create a coordinated collaboration across various sectors to improve children's health and development and support children's and families' needs.*** In 2022-2023, the *Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework for a Statewide Integrated Early Childhood Health System* was created in collaboration with the national Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative to specify an approach to meet this goal. The framework sets forth a purpose, goals, and integrated care model reflected in the mission and goals of the ECDC. The relevance and application of the framework across family, community, healthcare, early care and state agencies and programs is delineated and an implementation roadmap, online toolkit, policy playbook and a Mississippi child, family and system performance data report support the ECDC's continued leadership and impact.

About Mississippi Thrive!

Mississippi Thrive! (MST) operated as the Child Health and Development Project (CHDP) between 2017-2023, with funding from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The ECDC was established in 2023 to continue MST's commitment to create a statewide integrated early childhood health system ensuring developmental promotion, screening, and linkage to services through partnership across healthcare, community, and policy settings. The Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework reflected in the ECDC purpose, goals and approach provides a roadmap for doing so. A summary report of MST accomplishments and the EnAct! framework can be found [here](#).

ECDC Structure

The **MST ECDC** is led by Dr. Susan Buttross (UMMC CAY) and Dr. Heather Hanna (MSU SSRC) and consists of two subcommittees:

- (1) the **Mississippi Help Me Grow** subcommittee, co-led by Nadeane Cattrell and Desiree States
- (2) the **Enhanced Pediatric Medical Home Services (EPMHS)** subcommittee, co-led by Dr. Ruth Patterson and Lauren Elliott, NP

The ECDC seeks to be valuable and additive to the work of each partner and the ECDC charter, structure and subcommittee goals will continue to be designed in close consultation with members.

Help Me Grow Subcommittee Goals

Early Identification, Connections, and Supports

- Increase ***personalized, connected care*** based on the unique needs and priorities of each child and family.
- Prioritize ***family engagement and activation*** by supporting the well-being of families and promoting family/provider partnerships, with a focus on Mississippi communities with high levels of childhood poverty.
- Promote ***family resiliency*** and well-being by promoting ***positive childhood experiences*** and early identification and support to address adverse childhood experiences.
- Promote and expand Help Me Grow Mississippi's ***centralized access point to resources*** in collaboration with early childhood healthcare providers, community-based systems and other programs and organizations.
- Build ***intentional collaboration*** with child health professionals to ensure well child visits occur and families are helped to advocate for priorities and quality care based on shared assessments with and feedback to providers.
- Identify and ***work toward policy changes and workforce development*** in partnership across ECDC members and other state leadership bodies.

Enhanced Pediatric Medical Home Services Subcommittee Goals

Promoting community integrated, guideline-based pediatric primary care well visits

- Scale knowledge and skills to ***translate science of healthy development***, child flourishing and relational health to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences and promote Positive Childhood Experiences.
- Spread the ***family engagement-based EnAct! framework approach*** to more feasibly and effectively ensure developmental screening and the promotion of the health of the whole child and family anchored to national ***Bright Futures Guidelines***.
- ***Optimize pediatric primary care well visits using a "through any door" model*** so that all partners collaborate to close the utilization gap in well child visits by engaging and linking families to needed services and supports.
- Advance the ***implementation and continuous improvement of high-quality services*** through 1) learning networks, 2) continuous improvement in implementing the EnAct! framework approach, and 3) using actionable measures to assess quality of care.
- Identify and ***work toward policy changes and workforce development*** required to achieve goals in partnership across ECDC members and other state leadership bodies.

The Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework

Collaboratively designed by Mississippi Thrive! and the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative

Purpose: Positive Health Equity

The purpose of the EnAct! framework is to drive child health equity and improve child flourishing, school readiness and family resilience.

Goals: One Big Doable Thing!

The EnAct! framework seeks to achieve its positive health equity purpose by advancing three key strategic goals:

- **All In:** Universal provision of comprehensive, personalized, whole child and family preventive and developmental services.
- **Real Engagement:** Families are engaged to access and ensure services are personalized to their goals and needs and to shape improvements in practice, policy, and systems of care.
- **Seamless System:** All early childhood systems intentionally collaborate to optimize early screening, address social and relational health needs, and promote well-being.

The Approach: Five elements enable family engagement and cross system collaboration to implement national Bright Future Guidelines for all.

- "Through any door" family engagement to activate trust and partner in care.
- Family engaged developmental and comprehensive whole child and family screening for needs, strengths, and priorities.
- Personalized, strengths-based health promotion and supports.
- Coordinated, warm links to quality services and interventions.
- Outcomes and equity-based quality measurement and improvement.

Four "Simple Rules" enable partners to align efforts as they implement the EnAct! approach to care and achieve goals and outcomes

- (1) Everyone a leader;
- (2) Through any door
- (3) In every encounter;
- (4) No broken link

Four Implementation Roadmap Actions and Twelve Outcomes

Action 1: Establish a sustainable, cross-system, state leadership capacity:

(1) An early childhood development coalition is positioned and sustained to drive coordinated action and success; (2) State leaders support state agency coordination for an integrated system with shared resources and accountability. (3) Local bodies lead and link to ensure frontline action.

Action 2: Create a culture of engagement among families, professionals, and system partners: (4) Families are supported and activated to partner in care; (5) Families trust and experience authentic power-sharing and respect; (6) Professional competencies and mechanisms for effective family engagement are prioritized.

Action 3: Catalyze, facilitate, study, and spread cross-sector, practice-based implementation: (7) Professionals are trained to implement the science of healthy development and positive and adverse childhood experiences (PACEs); (8) A learning and communications network supports early adopters and spread; (9) Launch and learn demonstrations power continuous improvement; (10) Implementation resources are integrated and accessible.

Action 4: Drive enabling and incentivizing policies and financing strategies critical to success: (11) Policies support processes to facilitate coordination of healthcare and community-based services and resources; (12) Health plans, providers and early childhood professionals are incentivized and financed to enable high quality care and improvement.