

SHARING OF THE RACIAL EQUITY CALL TO ACTION

(as of May 2022 Network Advisory Committee Meeting)

Members of the National Home Visiting Network Advisory Committee are taking the Call to Action on the road to spark conversations about racial equity with those involved in home visiting practice, policy, and research. Thus far it has been formally shared as a poster session at the 2022 National Home Visiting Summit, a meeting of home visiting technical assistance providers, three meetings in Michigan of parent leaders and home visiting administrators, and with federal staff throughout the Administration of Children and Families. It has been shared informally through conversations beyond these, and there are plans to continue to share the statement via a series of practitioner forums to be organized by Network partners, with more than 60 members of the Los Angeles County home visiting consortium who are focusing in on best strategies on advancing racial equity including parent voice, and other opportunities.

REFLECTIONS FROM THIS EARLY SHARING INCLUDE:

- ◆ *We all have different personal experiences with and understanding of racial equity, and we are all at different stages of learning.*
It is important to commit to learning together and normalize conversations about racial equity. (For example, a home visiting recipient commented that she grew up in a small rural county and only recently learned about structural racism while participating in a home visiting parent group where she could listen and learn from the experiences of others.) To do this, we need to be vigilant in creating safe spaces for conversations, including among people who might hold different views.
- ◆ *The principles in the Call to Action resonate, and there is much to do to have them be truly embodied in our mindsets and actions.*
State home visiting advocates shared that the principles resonate and provide a helpful framework to guide further discussion and action. Some also highlighted that the “devil is in the details” and there is so much to be understood, especially as it relates to authentic engagement of parents in the work of restructuring program, policy, and research to promote equity.
- ◆ *We all have responsibility to act in ways that can break down the structures that perpetuate racism in home visiting.*
It is important for national partners (e.g., home visiting models, funders, and technical assistance providers) it make visible their commitments to addressing structural racism so that state and local partners do not feel the onus is on them.

- ◆ *The provider voice in defining and addressing racial equity is essential and needs to be more intentionally included.*
 Technical assistance providers shared concern that the provider voice was not represented in the Call to Action and that efforts should be undertaken to share the resource with providers and seek their input.
- ◆ *Missing data on workforce demographics is a real challenge.*
 Several state home visiting advocates have been trying to get data on the workforce to see how it aligns with the demographics of the families served and they recognize that this data is not tracked in a central way across the state.
- ◆ *The perception of home visiting as a public good may not always hold true.*
 While there was recognition that narratives should promote home visiting as a universal public good, there was also concern that the perception of this may change when home visiting is connected to the child welfare system. Further consideration is needed to identify how best to address this concern.
- ◆ *More evaluation is needed, especially of smaller home-grown programs.*
- ◆ *Resources, or a reading list, could be helpful for all who are wanting to learn more.*
- ◆ *It is important that we do not overlook U.S. territories as they too play an important role in supporting families.*

EXAMPLE OF ACTION STEPS UNDERWAY:

Below is an example from National Home Visiting Network Advisory Committee members David Willis and Bryn Fortune on how they are taking steps to advance racial equity in their work.

The Early Relational Health Coordinating Hub at the Center for the Study of Social Policy has launched a collective impact approach and CI Steering Committee to advance early relational health as a national movement. David Willis and Bryn Fortune have established a multi-faceted approach to engaging families in leadership for the ERH CI Initiative. First, they structured the ERH CI Steering Committee of 12 members to include three members who represent families - two from a newly developed ERH Family Network Collaborative (ERH-FNC) and one who is their ERH-FRC Facilitator. They also established and funded the ERH-FNC that includes six parent leaders of different constituent parent networks and helped them each engage 10 additional families around an initial common set of questions that could inform the work on early relational health. Thus, the perspectives of these 66 families were then shared with the parents who serve on the ERH CI steering committee so that their contributions are reflective of a much broader array of parent experiences. The ERH-FNC includes representative constituency groups of parents within Latinx, Black, CSHCN, Fathers, tribal and Southern rural family networks.

We will share additional examples from Network partners in the coming months.