

Healthy Babies Healthy Children in the Ontario Public Health Standards and Protocols

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Ontario Public Health Standards Roll-Out and Implementation

Reproductive Health/Child Health Workshop

Purpose

- To describe key aspects of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) Strategic Framework and explain its relevance as a key document for boards of health in the delivery of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program.
- To provide an overview of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Protocol 2008 within the Family Health Reproductive Health and Child Health Standards OPHS.
- To discuss current context of the HBHC program and strategic considerations that may inform the plan for local implementation of the Family Health OPHS and HBHC Protocol.
- To identify next steps and priorities for OPHS and protocol implementation for HBHC programming.

Context for Implementation of HBHC

- All MCYS programs including HBHC and other early years programs are to be integrated and delivered in accordance with the MCYS Strategic Framework.
- The MCYS Strategic Framework 2008-12 “Realizing Potential: Our Children, Our Youth, Our Future” is a key document which aims to:
 - guide the ministry and its partners in delivering our shared commitment to Ontario “*where all children and youth have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential*”.
 - provide a common foundation for working with our partners to build on achievements, respond to new challenges and maximize opportunities.
 - articulate an agenda for continuous improvement that encompasses the entire children and youth services system from policy development and program design through to program management and frontline service delivery.
- When defining HBHC programming boards of health should utilize the MCYS Strategic Framework in alignment with the OPHS to bring about continuous quality improvement to public health programs and services delivered for children and families in Ontario.

Context for Implementation (cont'd)

Strategic Goals for the MCYS Strategic Framework

EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH HAS A VOICE

**EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH RECEIVES
PERSONALIZED SERVICES**

**EVERYONE INVOLVED IN SERVICE DELIVERY
CONTRIBUTES TOWARD ACHIEVING COMMON OUTCOMES**

EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH IS RESILIENT

**EVERY YOUNG PERSON GRADUATES FROM
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

HBHC within the Family Health Standards

Family Health Standards OPHS (2008)

- The Family Health Reproductive Health and Child Health Standards are part of the OPHS.
- The Family Health Reproductive and Child Health Standards identify the following goals:

Reproductive Health:

To enable individuals and families to achieve optimal preconception health, experience a healthy pregnancy, have the healthiest newborn(s) possible and be prepared for parenthood.

Child Health:

To enable all children to attain and sustain optimal health and developmental potential.

- HBHC is embedded in the Family Health Standards (OPHS) with specific requirements for boards of health to provide services to women and their families in the prenatal period and to families with children up to 6 years old for all components of the HBHC program in accordance with the HBHC Protocol 2008.
- Goals of HBHC fit into the OPHS while its delivery falls within the context of the MCYS Strategic Framework.

HBHC Protocol in the Family Health Standards

- Protocols form part of the OPHS and provide direction on how boards of health must operationalize specific requirements outlined in the OPHS.
- Protocols are an important mechanism by which greater standardization can be achieved in the province-wide implementation of public health programs.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Protocol

- The HBHC Protocol covers all aspects of HBHC, including:
 - General policy/practice requirements;
 - Screening;
 - Assessment;
 - Support services;
 - Blended home visiting services;
 - Service coordination;
 - Referrals to community services;
 - Service and system integration; and
 - Evaluation.
- The HBHC protocol provides direction to boards of health on the requirements of HBHC.
- The protocol has been drawn from and is consistent with the 2003 HBHC Consolidated Guidelines.
- No substantive change in HBHC program policy was made in drafting of the protocol.

HBHC Protocol in the Family Health Standards (cont'd)

- Minimal changes reflected in the protocol include:
 - **General policy/practice requirements:** Change to reflect revisions included in the Child and Family Services Act;
 - **Screening:** Reference to the updated Rourke Well Baby Record: Evidence Based Infant/Child Health Maintenance Guide (Ontario version), Revised May 2006;
 - **Blended home visiting services:** Introduction of wording “other professionals” to allow for flexibility in program delivery model;
 - Identification of alternative settings for delivery of the visit. This supports flexibility in the program delivery model; and
 - **Service and system integration:** Identification of new service providers.

Next Steps to Support Implementation

- MCYS will continue to work with its partner ministries, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion in developing and supporting the provincial implementation strategy for the OPHS and Protocols.
- MCYS and its partner ministries will continue to work collaboratively to achieve common outcomes for children's services. In turn, boards of health should engage the community and be engaged with the community in planning and delivering HBHC programming through representation and participation at community network tables (e.g. Best Start).
- In support of implementation, the HBHC Guidance / Best Practice document is currently in development in accordance with the HBHC Protocol (2008). The purpose of the document is to support implementation of the HBHC program. The document is being developed, drawn from information contained in the existing HBHC Consolidated Guidelines (2003). Until its release boards of health should refer to the Consolidated Guidelines (2003) as the guidance/best practice document for the program.

HBHC Home Visiting Research Project

- As part of a larger review of early years programs within MCYS the HBHC program is evaluating its home visiting component.
- The purpose of the research project is to investigate different home visiting service models for families with varying risk factors to determine their impact on child and family outcomes.

The research project focuses on understanding community specific delivery of the blended home visiting model and strategies to support the role of the nurse within the home visiting team. The public health nurse will continue to be a key primary service delivery agent of the program.

- The goal of the project is to achieve optimal outcomes for children and families regardless of their risk. This will be achieved through the following key objectives:
 - Understanding the specific circumstances and risk factors for families who will benefit most from receiving intensive nurse based home visiting intervention as per the Old's model;
 - Evaluating the circumstances under which integration of the social worker role in the blended home visiting team improves outcomes for children and families with special risk factors; and
 - Understanding community specific delivery of the blended home visiting model and identifying how each model is best adapted to successfully meet outcomes for children and families with varying risk factors.