What Happens In The Early Years Matters Forever

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY

The VAIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® (IMH-E®) is meant to recognize professionals who apply infant mental health principles to their work. It does not replace licensure, certification, or credentialing, but instead is meant as a specialization that complements one’s professional license and/or other credentials. VAIMH Endorsement® is cross-sector and multidisciplinary.

The categories of Endorsement® are:

I. Infant Family Associate (IFA)
II. Infant Family Specialist (IFS)
III. Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS)
IV. Infant Mental Health Mentor (IMHM). There are 3 designations at this category:
   • Clinical (IMHM-C)
   • Policy (IMHM-P)
   • Research/Faculty (IMHM-R/F)

Those who have earned Endorsement® have demonstrated a specialized education, work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences that have led to competency in the promotion and/or practice of infant mental health within the individual’s scope of practice. Detailed information about the requirements for specialized education, work, in-service training, and reflective supervision experiences are different in each category and can be found in the Competency Guidelines for the Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® at www.ecmhva.org on the Endorsement page of the website.

Each Endorsed professional is required to renew Endorsement® annually to remain on the Active Endorsement® Registry. Renewal cycle is October 1st through September 30th.

The primary mission of the infant mental health profession is to promote and support nurturing relationships for all infants. The focus is on the development of the infant or toddler within the context of complex relationships. Services are comprehensive and intensive, covering multiple domains, including concrete needs, problem solving skills, and family relationships, as well as infant/toddler development, parent-infant interactions and developing attachment relationships. Services are supportive, affirming, and strengths-based. They are specifically designed to be respectful of the infant’s and family’s individuality, culture and ethnicity. VAIMH endorsed service providers/professionals work in a variety of settings to assure that all infants have opportunities for nurturing relationships essential for optimal growth and development. Depending on the Category of Endorsement, VAIMH endorsed service providers/professionals offer direct services to infants and families; supervise and train staff; consult with, collaborate, and educate other community professionals; advocate for services; develop best practice policies; and/or teach and conduct research in colleges and universities. All of these activities reflect a commitment to values that are the bedrock of infant mental health practice.

Infant Mental Health Basic Beliefs

1. Optimal growth and development occur within nurturing relationships;
2. The birth and care of a new baby offer a family the possibility of new relationships, growth and change;
3. What happens in the early years affects the course of development across the life span;
4. Early developing attachment relationships may be distorted or disturbed by parental histories of unresolved losses and traumatic life events;
5. The therapeutic presence of an Infant Mental Health Specialist (Category III) may reduce the risk of relationship failure and offer the hopefulness of warm and nurturing parental responses.

Click here for more information on the Mission and Values of Infant Mental Health Service Providers/Professionals.
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ACTIVE ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY

Category IV: Infant Mental Health Mentor (2)
Kosanovich, Lynn IMH-E® (IV-Policy)
Northern Region
Martens, Judith LCSW, IMH-E® (IV-Clinical)
Northern Region

Category III: Infant Mental Health Specialist (3)
Coleman, Debbie LCSW, IMH-E® (III)
Eastern Region
Coyle, Tamara LCSW, IMH-E® (III)
Piedmont Region
O'Neal, Laura LCSW, RPT, IMH-E® (III)
Eastern Region

Category II: Infant Family Specialist (IFS) (31)

* Completed the VAIMH sponsored Infant Mental Health Training Series (24 hours)

Ahn, Sunyoung IMH-E® (II)
Northern Region
Ayres, Torri IMH-E® (II)
Piedmont Region
Bailey, Carey IMH-E® (II)
Central Region
Booker, Pam IMH-E® (II)
Central Region
Brickey, Jessica IMH-E® (II)*
Central Region
Brown-Guiney, Jennifer IMH-E® (II)
Northern Region
Coleman, Geondra IMH-E® (II)
Eastern Region
Coles, Tanya IMH-E® (II)
Eastern Region
Coverdale, Karli IMH-E® (II)
Eastern Region
Davidson, Leah IMH-E® (II)*
Northern Region
Edmonds, Ciera IMH-E® (II)
Piedmont Region
Farr, Celia IMH-E® (II)
Eastern Region
Gallego-Gomez, Adriana IMH-E® (II)
Northern Region
Gillespie, Deborah IMH-E® (II)
Northern Region
Heflin, Rosemary IMH-E® (II)
Piedmont Region
Holland-Brock, Dee IMH-E® (II)
Piedmont Region
Kraus, Bari IMH-E® (II)*
Eastern Region
Mateo, Erica IMH-E® (II)
Piedmont Region
Moon, Patricia IMH-E® (II)
Central Region
Murrab, Amy IMH-E® (II)
Northern Region

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ACTIVE ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY

Category II: Infant Family Specialist (IFS) (37) (CONTINUED)

* Completed the VAIMH sponsored Infant Mental Health Training Series (24 hours)

- Pakula, Leslie IMH-E® (II)*
  Central Region
- Richey, Yolanda T. IMH-E® (II)
  Central Region
- Thornton, Mary IMH-E® (II)*
  Central Region
- Walters, Tracy IMH-E® (II)*
  Central Region
- Whitehurst, Melinda IMH-E® (II)*
  Piedmont Region
- Wimbush, Dawn IMH-E® (II)
  Eastern Region
- Parker, Kelly IMH-E® (II)
  Eastern Region
- Rosinski, Chelsea IMH-E® (II)
  Piedmont Region
- Twitchell, Michelle IMH-E® (II)
  Piedmont Region
- Weaver, Juliana IMH-E® (II)
  Piedmont Region
- Willingham, Elizabeth IMH-E® (II)*
  Northern Region

Category I: Infant Family Associate (IFA) (8)

- Brito, Mercy IMH-E® (I)
  Northern Region
- El-Abdullah, Naasira IMH-E® (I)
  Piedmont Region
- Lesich, Barbara IMH-E® (I)
  Piedmont Region
- Rich, Sherry IMH-E® (I)
  Eastern Region
- Earhart, Ruth Anne IMH-E® (I)
  Piedmont Region
- Gallier, Susan IMH-E® (I)
  Northern Region
- Michovich, Mariel IMH-E® (I)
  Northern Region
- Thompkins, Sheila IMH-E® (I)
  Central Region