INFANT MENTAL HEALTH ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY

The VAIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® (IMH-E®) is intended to recognize experiences that lead to competency in the infant-family field. It does not replace licensure, certification, or credentialing, but instead is meant as a specialization in the infant-family field. VAIMH Endorsement® is cross-sector and multidisciplinary including professionals from psychology, education, special education, social work, psychiatry, child and/or human development, nursing, home visiting, child care, early intervention among others. Endorsement® indicates an individual’s efforts to specialize in the promotion/practice of infant mental health within his/her own chosen discipline.

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 ways 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 IMH Specialist 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**

Those who have earned Endorsement® have demonstrated a minimum of 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. In most cases, Category I is a good fit for professionals in programs promoting healthy social and emotional development; Category II for professionals in programs designed to prevent social, emotional and behavioral issues; Category III for professionals in mental health intervention/treatment; and Category IV for mentors/leaders in the infant-family field. 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](http://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.

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What Happens in the Early Years Matters Forever

ACTIVE ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY BY CATEGORY

**Category IV: Infant Mental Health Mentor (2)**

Kosanovich, Lynn IMH-E® (IV-Policy)  
Northern Virginia Region

Martens, Judith LCSW, IMH-E® (IV-Clinical)  
Northern Virginia Region

**Category III: Infant Mental Health Specialist (6)**

Coleman, Debbie LCSW, IMH-E® (III)  
Eastern Region

Erlichman, Terry LCSW, IMH-E® (III)  
Northern Virginia Region

Hayba, Alicia IMH-E® (III)  
Piedmont Region

O'Neal, Laura LCSW, RPT, IMH- E® (III)  
Eastern Region

Mann, Vivian LCSW, RPT-S, IMH-E® (III)  
Central Region

Taylor-Pickford, Jessica LCSW, IMH- E® (III)  
Northern Virginia Region

**Category II+: Infant Family Specialist Leader (IFSL) (7)**

This Category is a Virginia Specific Category and reflects that the person completed the Category II portfolio PLUS participated in an additional 12 month Infant Mental Health Training Series required in Virginia for Endorsement at this Category.

Brickey, Jessica IMH- E® (II+)  
Central Region

Davidson, Leah IMH- E® (II+)  
Northern Region

Robinson, Mary (Katy) IMH- E® (II+)  
Piedmont Region

Thornton, Mary IMH- E® (II+)  
Central Region

Walters, Tracy IMH- E® (II+)  
Central Region

Whitehurst, Melinda IMH- E® (II+)  
Piedmont Region

Willingham, Elizabeth IMH- E® (II+)  
Northern Region

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ACTIVE ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY (CONTINUED)

Category II: Infant Family Specialist (IFS)(26)

Ahn, Sunyoung IMH- E® (II)
Northern Region

Bailey, Carey IMH- E® (II)
Central Region

Coleman, Geondra IMH- E® (II)
Eastern Region

Coverdale, Karli IMH- E® (II)
Eastern Region

Farr, Celia IMH- E® (II)
Eastern Region

Gallego-Gomez, Adriana IMH- E® (II)
Northern Region

Grant, Barbara IMH- E® (II)
Northern Region

Holland-Brock, Dee IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Mateo, Erica IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Murrah, Amy MA, IMH-E® (II)
Northern Virginia Region

Richey, Yolanda T. IMH-E® (II)
Central Region

Rosinski, Chelsea IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Weaver, Juliana IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Ayers, Torri IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Booker, Pam IMH- E® (II)
Central Region

Tanya Coles IMH- E® (II)
Eastern Region

Edmonds, Ciera IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Frank, Adrienne IMH-E® (II)
Eastern Region

Gillespie, Deborah IMH-E® (II)
Northern Region

Heflin, Rosemary IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Larsen, Cindy IMH- E® (II)
Central Region

Mclellon, Whitney IMH- E® (II)
Eastern Region

Moon, Patricia IMH- E® (II)
Central Region

Robertson, Tristan IMH- E® (II)
Central Region

Twitchell, Michelle IMH- E® (II)
Piedmont Region

Wimbush, Dawn IMH- E® (II)
Eastern Region

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ACTIVE ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY (CONTINUED)

Category I: Infant Family Associate (IFA)(11)

Brito, Mercy IMH- E® (I)  
Northern Region

Gallier, Susan IMH- E® (I)  
Northern Region

Earhart, Ruth Anne IMH- E® (I)  
Piedmont Region

Alicia Garcia-Ingram IMH- E® (I)  
Piedmont Region

Michovich, Mariel IMH- E® (I)  
Northern Region

Thompkins, Sheila IMH- E® (I)  
Central Region

Cartes-Alvarez, Drema IMH- E® (I)  
Central Region

Couture, Cherie IMH- E® (I)  
Eastern Region

El-Abdollah, Naasira IMH- E® (I)  
Piedmont Region

Lesich, Barbara IMH- E® (I)  
Piedmont Region

Rich, Sherry IMH- E® (I)  
Eastern Region

INACTIVE ENDORSEMENT® REGISTRY (3)

Everette, Ashley MA, IMH-E® (II)  
Central Region

Wolff, Jennifer M.S. Ed., IMH- E® (III)  
Eastern Region

Feldman, Laurie MSW, IMH-E® (II)  
Eastern Region