



Advancing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) in Georgia

Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH)

Presenter



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New Orleans, Louisiana

Who are you?

Agenda

- The Georgia Association of Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH)
- IECMH Spectrum of Services
- IECMH Promotion and Prevention in Georgia
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement[®] (I/ECMH-E[®])



The Georgia Association of Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH)

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health in Georgia



House Study Committee Recommendations

- **Establish IECMH State Level Leadership**
 - ✓ Laura Lucas, IECMH Director, housed at DECAL since November 2020
 - ✓ IECMH Task Force with child serving state agencies represented convening monthly since February 2021
- **Address Medicaid reimbursement and accessibility for children 0-4 and extending pregnancy Medicaid to 12 months post-partum**
 - ✓ Pregnancy Medicaid extended to 12 months postpartum in 2022 Legislative Session
 - ✓ Mental health services for children 0-4 clarified by IECMH taskforce in 2022
- **Address workforce development by developing an agreed upon set of core competencies**
 - ✓ Formation of GA-AIMH and adoption of IECMH core competencies and endorsement in 2021-2022
 - ✓ Child-parent psychotherapy training pilot in 2021, expanded in 2022 for a total of 85 clinicians trained. Expansion co-funded by DECAL and DPH

Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH)

Mission:

- Raise awareness of young children's social and emotional needs
- Build culturally responsive preventive and therapeutic professional capacities
- Foster interdisciplinary and cross-system collaboration by supporting professionals
- Work with and on behalf of infants, young children, and their families
- Advocate for and supporting policies in the best interest of infants, young children, families and communities



Please visit our website at www.ga-aimh.org, email us at aimh@gsu.edu, and follow us on twitter @gaaimh

GA-AIMH Membership

The Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH) serves as the professional home for all people who support infants, young children, and families. Whether a practicing professional, retiree, student or family member, GA-AIMH is your connection to a statewide community of like-minded people in the rapidly developing field of infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH)! As a GA-AIMH member, you serve as a critical partner in helping us promote the importance of early relational health and help us build a stronger IECMH system of care in Georgia.

GA-AIMH Membership - *Who?*

- IECMH is Interdisciplinary Work!
 - *ALL* IECMH Disciplines, Sectors, and Systems
- Membership is open to all infant, early childhood, and family-serving individuals that include, but is not limited to, social workers, psychologists, early childhood educators, child care, child welfare, early intervention, Early Head Start and Head Start, home visiting, pediatrics, PT/OT/SLP, advocates, policymakers, students, families, etc.

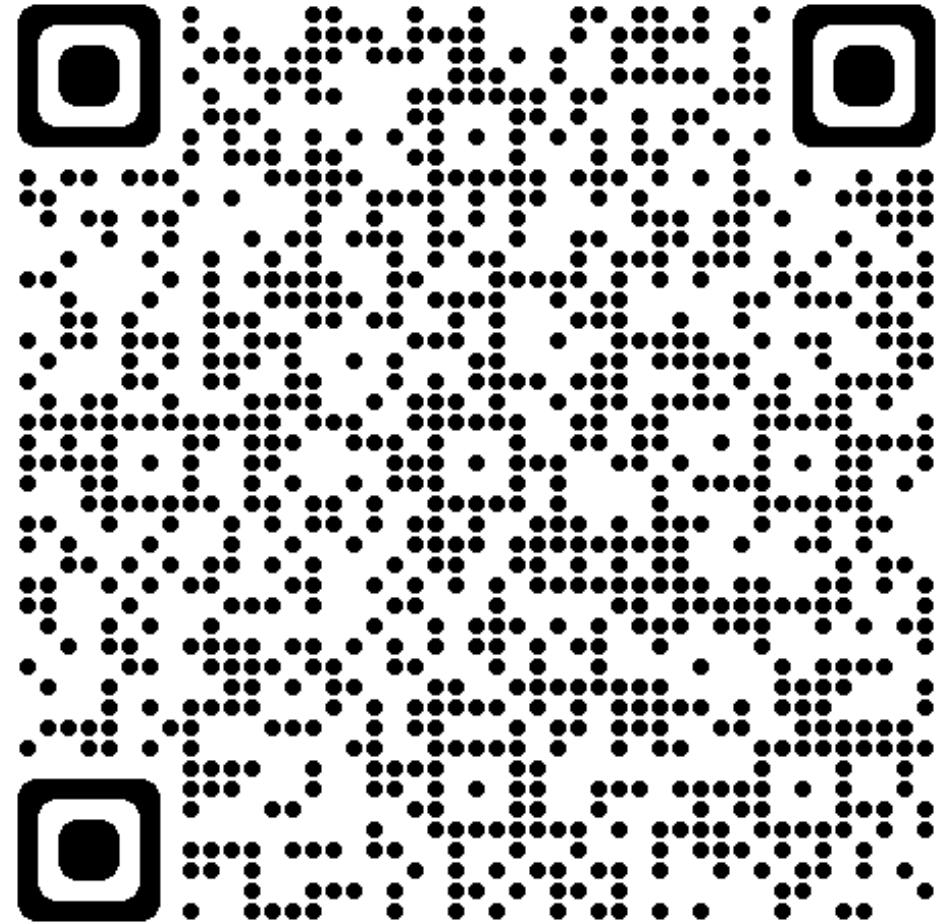
Membership Benefits

- ***Endorsement:*** The first step to becoming endorsed is becoming a member of GA-AIMH! The I/ECMH-E® credential is a recognized Endorsement that uplifts your education and experience as an infant, young child, family professional.
- ***Professional Development:*** Gain access to trainings, webinars, and conferences that will enhance your knowledge of IECMH and count towards I/ECMH-E® credential.
- ***Advocacy:*** Join a community of people committed to promoting programs, policies, practices that speak to the importance of early relational health at the forefront of decision making
- ***Networking:*** Connect with colleagues who are dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of infants and young children and their families.



*Become a
GA-AIMH Member
TODAY!*

\$25.00





IECMH Spectrum of Services



IECMH Spectrum of Services



Macro



Promotion



Prevention and
Early Intervention



Assessment and
Treatment



(Infant Mental Health Promotion, 2019; Zero to Three, 2017)

Macro-Level

- **Macro-Level:** Policies, laws, and regulations that support health infant and early childhood development and mental health
- **Examples:**
 - Establish cross-agency leadership for IECMH
 - Ensure Medicaid payment for IECMH services
 - Invest in prevention through mental health consultation
 - Train the workforce on IECMH
 - Raise public awareness of IECMH

(ZERO TO THREE, 2016)

Promotion

- **Promotion:** Supporting the well-being of all infants and young children and their families
- **Knowledge and Skill areas:**
 - Nurturing development, family engagement, and interdisciplinary practice
- **Examples:**
 - Educating families and caregivers about the role they play in creating nurturing environments
 - Supporting early childhood settings to provide inclusive, nurturing early care and learning through professional development opportunities and consultation
 - Providing education and consultation to pediatric health care settings about relational health and social-emotional development

(Infant Mental Health Promotion, 2019; Zero to Three, 2017)

Prevention and Early Intervention

- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Help identify and support children who are at risk of developing mental health problems
- **Knowledge and Skill Areas:**
 - Understanding child relationships and relationship-based practice, trauma informed practices, creating pathways to support and partnering with families, developmental diversity and support
- **Examples:**
 - Screening in child care settings, pediatric offices, home visiting programs, and other early childhood programs
 - Programmatic consultation with early care and education settings about inclusion, social-emotional development, and behavioral supports
 - Program-wide training in trauma-informed care, positive-behavior supports, and relational health for Part C providers, early care and education programs, home visiting, and other settings that interact with young children and their families
 - Supportive consultation groups and trainings for families who provide foster care (e.g., Circle of Security)

(Infant Mental Health Promotion, 2019; Zero to Three, 2017)

Assessment and Treatment

- **Evaluation:** Developmentally-appropriate assessment of the young child and their family as well as diagnosis when needed
- **Intervention and Treatment:** Specialized interventions for infants, young children, and their families and caregivers who have experienced traumatic events and/or are exhibiting symptoms of mental health concerns
- **Knowledge and Skills:** developmentally appropriate assessment and diagnosis, treatment planning, therapeutic approaches
- **Examples:**
 - Developmental evaluations completed providers with a focus on functioning across developmental domains, the child-caregiver relationship, and social-emotional development
 - Diagnosis based on the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-5)
 - Dyadic, relationship-based therapies facilitated by trained clinicians that focus on the child-caregiver relationship (e.g., Child-Parent Psychotherapy)

(Infant Mental Health Promotion, 2019; Zero to Three, 2017)

Framework Across the Spectrum of Services



Relationship-Focused

Family-Centered

Culturally-Responsive

Strength-Based

Prevention-Focused

Interdisciplinary

Where to Promote IECMH

Child Care and Early Education	Home Visiting	Mental Health
Child Welfare	Justice System	Head Start/Early Head Start
Part C Early Intervention	Part B Special Education	Health Care
Public Health	Policy and Legislation	Maternal Services





IECMH Promotion and Prevention in Georgia

Children's Mental Health Week



Georgia Department
of Public Health
Children's 1st





SEEDS Helpline

1.833.354.HELP

GEORGIA SEEDS for SUCCESS



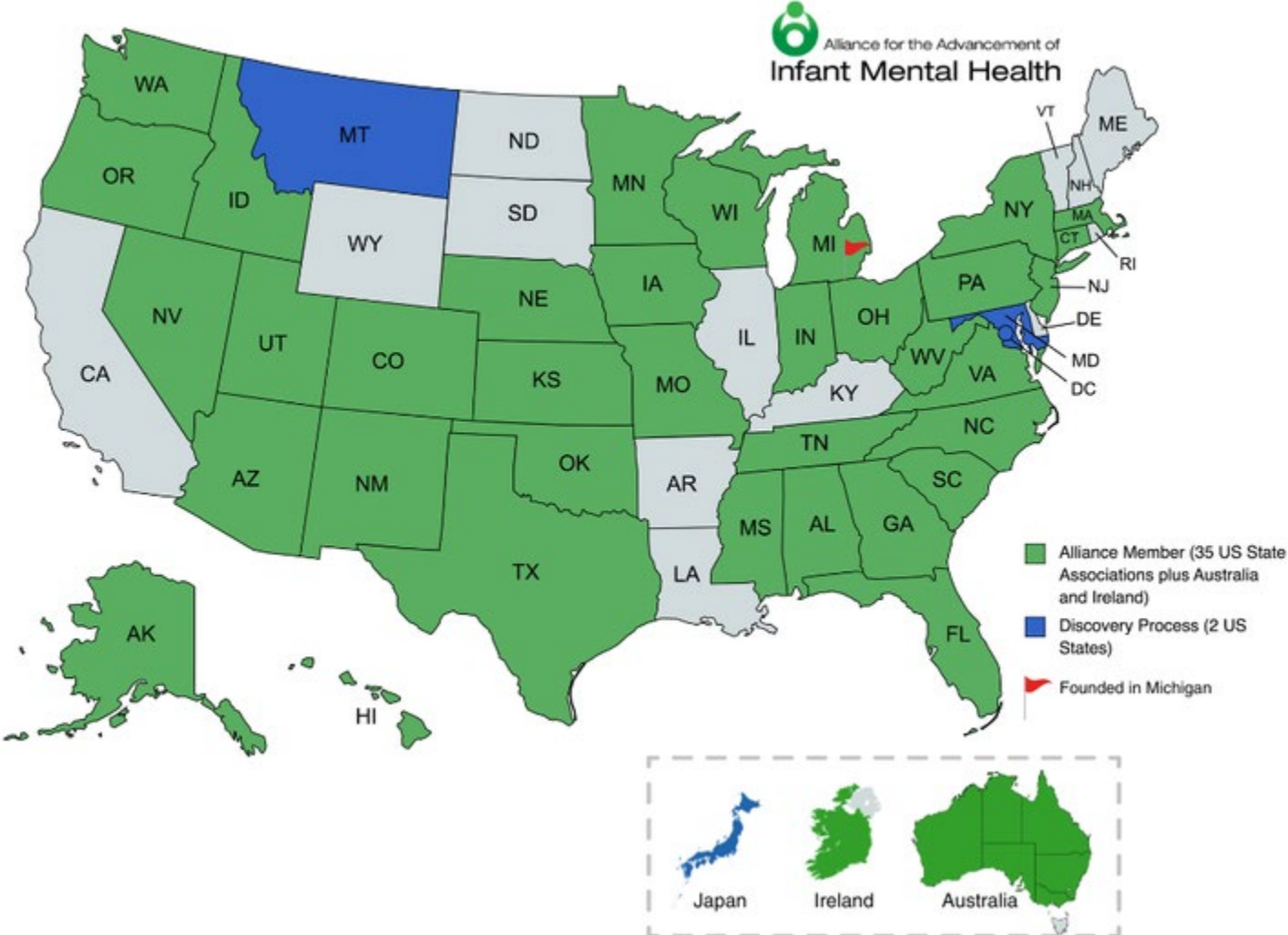


Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement[®]



Alliance for the Advancement of
Infant Mental Health

Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (I/ECMH) Endorsement®



I/ECMH-E[®]

- *What?*
 - A credential recognized internationally that indicates a level of expertise and signifies that someone is part of this larger IECMH community
 - Professionals focusing more specifically on issues of infancy and early childhood mental health
 - Cross-disciplinary relevance of infant and early childhood mental health
- *Why?*
 - Endorsement enters you into a community of IECMH professionals who are skilled at promoting relational wellness among families, children, and staff
 - Adapting IECMH lens and integrating the framework to your profession and work with young children and families

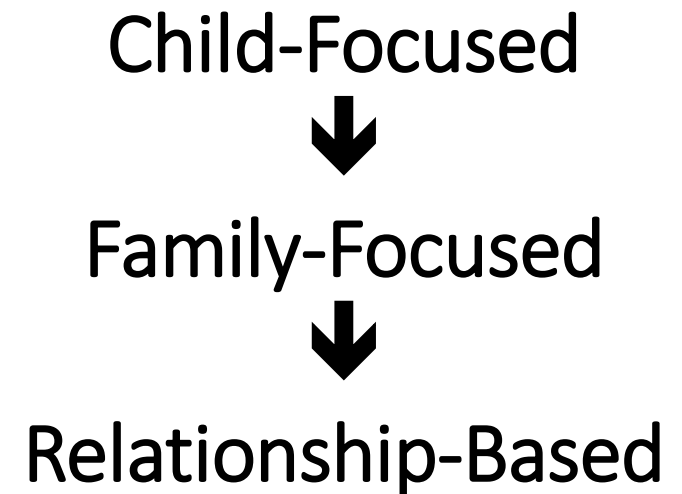
I/ECMH-E®

- An addition to a professional's background that recognizes achievement of knowledge and training in the area of infant and early childhood mental health
- Work specific to pregnant people, infants and toddlers (ages 0 up to 3) or young children (ages 3 up to 6) and their caregivers
- One of the first and most comprehensive efforts in the country to identify best practice competencies at multiple levels and across disciplines and to offer a pathway for professional development in the infant, early childhood and family field
- Endorsement is not a license or certification

“I’m not a mental health provider!”

- Infant Mental Health is:
 - The developing capacity from birth to 3 years to:
 - Experience, regulate, and express emotions
 - Form close relationships
 - Explore the environment and learn

... all in the context of family, community, and cultural expectations of young children.



Pathways to Endorsement

	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Family Reflective Supervisor	IMH Specialist	IMH Mentor - Clinical, Research/Faculty, or Policy
Scope of Work	PROMOTION	PREVENTION/ EARLY INTERVENTION	PREVENTION/ EARLY INTERVENTION & PROVIDER OF RSC	CLINICAL INTERVENTION/ TREATMENT	MACRO
Education	Any academic degree ¹	No Degree	No Degree	Masters, Post-Graduate	Masters, Post-Graduate
Work Experience	Min. 2 yrs. of infant/early childhood related work experience or volunteer experience in an applicable role ²	Min. 2 yrs. of prevention and/or early intervention services with 0-36 mo. olds & their caregivers/families; served a min. of 10 families	Min. 2 yrs. of prevention and/or early intervention services with 0-36 mo. olds & their caregivers/families; served a min. of 10 families PLUS provider of RSC for 1+ yr.	Min. 2 yrs. post-masters IMH practice working on behalf of caregiver-infant relationship	Min. 3 yrs. as an IMH practice leader Plus provider of RSC for 3+ yrs. (Clinical)
In-Service Training	Min. 30 hrs.	Min. 30 hrs.	Min. 48 hrs.	Min. 30 hrs.	Min. 33 hours (Policy & Research/Faculty) Min. 48 hours (Clinical)
References	3	3	3	3	3
Reflective Supervision with a Qualified Provider	Not required	Min. 24 hrs. received	Min. 24 hrs. received; 12 hours about the provision of RSC	Min 50 hrs. received	Min. 50 hrs. received; 25 hours about the provision of RSC (Clinical only)
Written Exam	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

I/ECMH-E[®] in Georgia

- **Part C Endorsement Cohort (*Summer 2023*)**
 - 30 Participants
 - Interest Meetings
 - Endorsement Category Meetings
- **Northeast Georgia Region Endorsement Cohort (*Fall 2023*)**
 - 16 Participants
 - Interest Meeting Late Summer 2023



Questions?

Let's Connect!



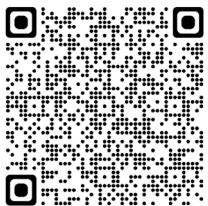
www.gaaimh.org



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Join Georgia's IECMH community by becoming a GA-AIMH Member today!