

2018 MCC Policy Update

Rosemarie Halt Senior Director of Policy

“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world none of us can truly rest. “Nelson Mandela

First Let’s Celebrate Success!

2017 Policy Successes

- **Protected ACA** - MCC was on the frontlines protecting ACA working with our community partners statewide and locally. MCC was repeatedly called upon to be the voice for pregnant women and children to three years of age impacted by proposed changes to Medicaid and ACA.
- **Evidenced Based Home Visiting Line Item** - Working with the PA Home Visiting Subcommittee we successfully advocated for the 5 million dollar line item in the PA Budget
- **Spring Policy Forum** - “The New Policy Landscape”– national and state experts provide an overview of the new political landscape facing pregnant women & families.
- **PA Campaign for Women’s Health** – Community Conversations across the state were held to understand the needs of women and how to best advocate for women’s issues. MCC was a lead agency in the Delaware County Conversation. The full report will be released early 2018.
- **Breastfeeding Accommodation** – first we stood with women at the 2017 Women’s March providing breastfeeding accommodations at MCC Hamilton St. Next we advocated for breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace and helped issue move to a top priority for many policy makers with the reintroduction of the HB 1685. MCC was the lead in securing 2 bipartisan co-sponsors to champion it. MCC also organized a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and PA Small business association to stimulate their support of the Breastfeeding bill.
- **Opioid Epidemic**- advocating for the special needs of pregnant women facing substance abuse disorder MCC provided testimony, served on several local and regional advisory committees and was a leader in keeping our special constituency in the forefront of discussion on how to address the opioid epidemic.
- **Fall policy forum** – “Immigration policy’s impacting pregnant women and families “– examined the many challenges facing families, the community and policy systems that impact so many of our families.
- **Robert Wood Johnson Grant with PA Health Access (2 year grant)** - \$25,000 grant focuses on developing policy system changes to promote the linkage of social determinants of health and housing.
- **Advocacy tool kit with SEPECC** – developed new train the trainer program on advocacy

2017 Policy Challenges

- **Tax reform** - single biggest threat to future funding of key programs that impact MCC!
- **ACA, repeal and replace** – Good news it is hard to unravel but the Trump administration and key congressional republicans will not stop till they do. Biggest threats now are in funding and regulations. Medicaid attacks continue and most likely will include work requirements.
- **MEICHV Reauthorization** – SB 1829 Good news Babies are Bipartisan! Bad news is that with tax reform comes consequences and MIECHV reauthorization deadline passed Sept. 2017 with no path to passage in sight till summer 2018. Lots of potential problems for MCC including the \$675,000 of funding of HFA programs.
- **Immigration reform** – DACA and DREAMERS are caught up in the federal budget impasse! The polarization of the immigrant issue is impacting families, communities and could have long term consequences for many of the MCC constituencies.
- **Budget cuts** – PA and Federal government budget cuts coupled with no new taxes, makes it hard to balance the budget! PA piecemeal budget will be hard to repeat in 2018 which means lots of political stunts with the 2018 elections adding fuel to both parties need to play to their bases and not find compromise.
- **CHIP** – like MIECHV it should have been reauthorized in Sept. 2017 it is in less of a limbo than MIECHV with recent CBO score that showed it saves money in the long term! However still not passed. 180,000 kids in PA at risk by end of Feb.!

2018 Policy Advocacy – Where we all need to take leadership!

- **MIECHV Federal** – This absolutely needs to be reapproved sooner rather than later. The longer it is kicked down the road the more likely it will be severely defunded due to the 1.5 trillion dollar tax cut!
- **PA Home Visiting Line Item** – submitting the Program Revision Request to increase to 9 million. Major advantage is the connection with the opioid crisis.
- **Opioid Epidemic** – leadership role in Regional taskforce and helping to develop state policy. Continuing linking the need for Behavioral Health.
- **PA Managed Care** – focusing on increasing Medicaid investment into MCC's home visiting programs such as Safe Start.
- **PA Campaign for Women's Health** – developing grassroots advocacy campaigns that foster passing of 13 bills that impact women and families especially Breastfeeding DN WORKPLACE Accommodations. MCC Spring Policy forum will focus on that.
- **Spring Policy Forum March 13, 2018** - Workplace issues for women and families