

Massachusetts AIMH Launch
October 24, 2014

Summary of Training Breakout Group

Liz McEnany, chair of the Training Committee for Mass AIMH discussed the Michigan endorsement system, and that Mass AIMH is working with other stakeholders in Massachusetts to explore the possibility of adopting that system for infant mental health credentialing here.

The participants in the breakout session identified several audiences for infant mental health training. First, infant mental health training, including the importance of the relationship of infant/ young child and parent/ caregiver, and of dyadic work, needs to be embedded in the curriculum of early childhood education, social work and other clinical training programs. Secondly, post-graduate training is needed for clinicians and workers that have not had infant mental health training during their education. This would include Early Intervention social workers, pediatric nurse practitioners, DCF and court appointed legal advocates. Additional groups that would benefit from infant mental health training were identified as paraprofessional and parent support facilitators.

Several participants highlighted the need for funding for infant mental health training. This led to a discussion of the need for publicity, and for infant mental health to be seen as part of the culture, and a need for a shift from intervention to prevention.

It was agreed that the Mass AIMH website could provide a listing of possible trainings to keep members and the public informed of IMH trainings.