



Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health (AIMH HI)  
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Aloha,

This is an exciting time for Infant Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)! People are becoming more aware of the critical importance of the first years of life for well-being of young children, which is resulting in more opportunities for training, as well as the need for advocacy and program development.

The Professional Development Committee is planning to develop a registry of professionals to conduct training in IECMH. Initially, we would like to talk with those who are interested in providing training, and plan to create a section on our website where people who are interested can connect with us. Also, to kick this off, our Committee has scheduled a new virtual train-the-trainer series titled “Blossom and Bloom” which is oriented to building basic training skills for infant mental health trainers. The sessions are scheduled for Saturdays, 8:30-11am, on September 11, October 2, and November 13. For anyone interested in conducting training, this is a great opportunity to learn important skills!

In addition to training, the Endorsement Committee is mentoring a number of professionals from the Promising Minds cohorts and other individuals to become endorsed in Infant Mental Health. The Committee is also considering applying for an early childhood mental health endorsement license for providers working with children ages 3-5.

AIMH HI was pleased to be involved in development of the Hawaii Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IECBH) Plan. The IECBH Strategic Plan proposes to integrate child and family mental health and trauma-informed care into our health and early care and learning systems throughout Hawaii. This integration will create an intentionally aligned child and family-serving system that promotes school readiness and family success. The plan will work towards creating equitable systems of care that reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities, ultimately ensuring that children succeed in school and in life. Members of our Association are on the Advisory Committee, and we will continue with involvement with the implementation of this work, likely over the next five or more years. We encourage those serving young children and their families to join the Association and become involved in this exciting work.

With the growing awareness of the importance of infant and early childhood mental health for the well-being and optimal development of children, our Association continues to welcome opportunities to contribute to the field. We are fund-raising with the intent to hire an Executive Director for AIMH HI. Leadership of our working board is interested in finding someone with management skills and knowledge of infant mental health to help in organization and management of training programs, as well as contracting with the increasing number of organizations who are becoming aware of the importance of infant mental health and want training for their staff. We also need to expand the AIMH HI Board to include professionals with a range of skills, including financial management and fund-raising.



This month we would like to introduce our hard-working Board of Directors.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tina Porrás-Jones, MS, IMH-E®

Board President