

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Workforce Collaborative (IECMH-WC)

The IECMH-WC provides free DC:0–5™ Clinical Training and a copy of the DC:0–5™ manual to Washington State clinicians serving children birth to five and their families enrolled in Apple Health (Medicaid).

DC:0–5™ Clinical Training (12 hours) is designed to support mental health professionals in developing in-depth knowledge of the approach and content of the *Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC: 0-5)* DC:0-5™, understanding the multi-axial system, and utilizing the approach and system in their work with children birth through age five.

From March 2022 to September 2023, 21 DC:0–5™ Clinical Trainings were delivered to 494 infant and early childhood mental health providers. After the training, participants had an opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation survey, which included both quantitative questions about training effectiveness and impact on knowledge and skills as well as open-ended questions about training strengths and areas for improvement, and anticipated challenges, barriers, and needed resources related to application of what was learned in the training. A total of 285 evaluation surveys were received, representing 58% of participants.

What is the impact of DC:0-5™ Clinical Training?

Survey respondents reported agreement to strong agreement (average ratings=4.38–4.64, with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree) with statements indicating that the training was effective in addressing issues of diversity, equity, and intersectional identity in the assessment and diagnosis process and had a positive impact on their knowledge of key training themes and feelings of preparedness in supporting children and utilizing the components of the DC:0-5™ multi-axial diagnostic system. The lowest rated item (average rating=4.17) asked whether the training helped them “feel better prepared to connect DC:0-5™ diagnoses to DSM/ICD-10 diagnoses”.

“I took so much information from this course and am so excited to utilize it. This entire [DC:]0-5 diagnostic system really makes sense to me, and I am very excited to start using it.”

~Clinical Training participant

“I enjoyed the ability to consult and “staff” diagnoses with other clinicians!”

~Clinical Training participant

“This is a great combination of resources and materials that will really help me in my work - I found that I was able to become skillful in going to and from materials to progress toward identifying a possible diagnosis. Very grateful for this free training!”

~Clinical Training participant

“My primary barrier is that I do not feel I have enough training overall to implement the DC:0-5 and to work with this age group. I want to get more training around parent/child psychotherapy, observation, administering evaluative tools, and most importantly, child development overall.”

~Clinical Training participant

Key themes from open-ended feedback:

- Appreciation for the trainers and the learning activities offered, particularly the hands-on practice, use of tools, and opportunities for interaction and discussion with colleagues.
- Desire for more training, particularly around the assessment and diagnostic process, as well as opportunities for continued consultation and collaboration with others in the field.
- Concerns about the potential for practical challenges in implementation, including agency-level policies and documentation procedures that are not currently aligned with the DC:0-5™ process.