

# OK-AIMH

## Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health

### ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E®) REQUIREMENTS INFANT MENTAL HEALTH MENTOR (CLINICAL/POLICY/RESEARCH/FACULTY)

#### Requirements: Preparation of Portfolio and Written Exam

##### *Education:*

Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Education (MEd), Doctorate in Education (EdD), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Medical Degree (MD) or other degree specific to one's professional focus in infant mental health; post-graduate specialization or university certificate program; in accordance with MI-AIMH Training Guidelines and Endorsement Competencies. Official transcript(s) required.

Applicants may ask to use intensive in-service training to fulfill some of the recommended course work.

##### *Training:*

Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health. Applicants will include as many hours as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in Competency Guidelines) have been met.

##### *Specialized Work Experience in at least one of the three categories:*

**Clinical:** Meets specialized work experience criteria as specified at Level III<sup>1</sup> plus three years post-graduate experience providing infant mental health reflective supervision/consultation and including other leadership activities at the regional or state level

**Policy:** Three years post-graduate experience as a leader in policy and/or program administration related to the infant/family field and including other leadership activities at the regional or state level

**Research/Faculty:** Three years post-graduate experience as a leader in university-level teaching and/or published research related to the infant/family field and including other leadership activities at the regional or state level

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<sup>1</sup> Two years, post-graduate, supervised work experiences providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused, infant mental health services. This specialized work experience must be with **both** the infant/toddler and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent on behalf of the parent-infant relationship. Infant mental health services will include concrete assistance, advocacy, emotional support, developmental guidance, early relationship assessment, and parent-infant/very young child relationship-based therapies and practices. These therapies and practices may include but are not limited to parent-infant psychotherapy, interaction guidance, and child-parent psychotherapy. These therapies and practices are intended to explore issues related to attachment, separation, trauma and unresolved losses as they affect the development, behavior and care of the infant/very young child. Please see Level III requirements for additional details.

**Examples of leader activities:**

*These lists are meant to demonstrate some of the activities in which leaders might engage. These are not comprehensive lists. Also, candidates would not need to engage in all the activities listed in order to earn Endorsement as an Infant Mental Health Mentor.*

**Clinical:**

- Organize and facilitate reflective practice groups and/or IMH study groups
- Provide reflective supervision or consultation to IMH practitioners
- Participate in system of care planning initiatives
- Participate in planning for regional, statewide, or national IMH-specific conferences
- Represent IMH interests in planning for National Early Childhood, Social Service, Child Welfare, Behavioral Health and Public Health conferences
- Work to increase the preference for Endorsed personnel in contracts for services, child care rating schemes
- Work to address reimbursement issues for IMH services
- Leadership in local/state IMH association

**Policy:**

- Provide feedback to state agencies on current & proposed policies that promote IMH practices
- Provide presentations on IMH, its importance, and its role in all early childhood disciplines/systems
- Participate in planning groups promoting IMH within early childhood systems
- Participate in regional-, state-, & national-level policy making groups, representing IMH principles
- Publish Policy Briefs, White Papers, or Position Statements addressing IMH
- Provide analysis of the impact of proposed legislation or policy on the populations served through IMH service delivery systems
- Work to address reimbursement issues for IMH services
- Work to increase the preference for Endorsed personnel in contracts for services, child care rating schemes
- Leadership in local/state IMH association

**Research/Faculty:**

- Provide leadership in graduate certificate IMH programs
- Participate in inter-departmental efforts to integrate IMH competencies into appropriate syllabi
- Participate as member of doctoral candidate's committee when IMH-related topics are proposed
- Participate in planning for regional, statewide, or national IMH-specific conferences
- Present and/or publish on topics related to the promotion or practice of infant mental health
- Leadership in local/state IMH association

*Reflective  
Supervision/Consultation:*

Relationship-focused, reflective supervision/consultation with an approved supervisor/consultant, individually or in a group. Minimum: 50 clock hours within a 1-year minimum to 2-year maximum time frame. (*Required for Clinical; optional for Policy or Research/Faculty*).

*Three Profession Reference  
Ratings:*

*(Please note: At least one  
reference must come from  
someone who has earned  
endorsement at level 2, 3 or 4.)*

**Clinical:**

One from current  
program supervisor,  
teacher, trainer,  
consultant or colleague

One from person  
providing reflective  
supervision/consultation

One from person  
receiving reflective  
supervision/consultation  
from the applicant

**Policy:**

One from current  
program supervisor,  
teacher, trainer or  
consultant, if  
applicable

One from person  
providing reflective  
supervision/consultati  
on, if applicable

If no one available  
from first two  
categories, candidate  
may ask three  
colleagues

**Research/Faculty:**

One from current department  
supervisor or chair if he/she is familiar  
with IMH. If not, ask a colleague

One from person providing reflective  
supervision/consultation, if applicable.  
If not applicable, candidate may ask a  
colleague

One from a student taught and/or  
supervised by the candidate

*Code of Ethics & Endorsement  
Agreement :*

*Documentation of  
Competencies:*

Signed

Professional portfolio will document that requirements and competencies have been adequately met through specialized education, in-service training, work, and, for Clinical candidates, through reflective supervision/consultation experiences.

Successful completion of the OK-AIMH written examination.

*Professional Membership:*

Membership in OK-AIMH or another infant mental health association

**Continuing Endorsement Requirements:**

*Education and Training:*

Minimum of 15 clock hours per year of relationship-based education and training, pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health (e.g. regional training, related course work at colleges or universities, infant mental health conference attendance). For those who earn endorsement at Level IV-Clinical and provide reflective supervision or consultation to others, it is recommended that at least 3 of the hours of specialized training be about reflective supervision or consultation.

*Professional Membership:*

Annual renewal of membership in OK-AIMH or another Infant mental health association

**Continuing Endorsement Recommendations:**

*Reflective  
Supervision/Consultation:*

OK-AIMH recommends that all Endorsed professionals seek reflective supervision or consultation. It is especially recommended that Endorsed professionals who provide reflective supervision or consultation participate in reflective experiences (individual or group) while providing reflective supervision or consultation to others.

[1] Two years, post-graduate, supervised work experiences providing culturally sensitive, **relationship-focused**, infant mental health services. This specialized work experience must be with **both** the infant/toddler and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent on behalf of the parent-infant relationship. Responsibilities will include intervention with a) families and their infants, toddlers and very young children because of parental factors which place the infant at risk for impaired cognitive and/or psychosocial development, b) distressed infants and toddlers and their families, c) high risk families whose pattern of living from crisis to crisis and/or pre-existing conflicts severely limit their ability to adequately care for their infant, and/or d) families who are ill-prepared to meet the special needs of their infants. –OR– One year supervised graduate internship with direct service experience in providing culturally sensitive, relationship-based, infant mental health services and one year, post-graduate, supervised work experience **as described above**. Please see Level III requirements for additional details.