

OK-AIMH

Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health



The mission of OK-AIMH is to *ensure that families, professionals and community organizations collaborate to support every child's mental health through awareness of the central role that relationships play in building healthy lives.*

OK-AIMH was incorporated in 1991 to promote the optimal development and wellness of the child and family through prevention, identification, treatment and support and to encourage cooperation and collaboration with all Oklahoma service systems that serve children and families.

Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health (IMH-E®)

What is Endorsement?

Endorsement is a process that supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. This process uses a nationally recognized set of competencies that helps define best practice and guides professional growth.

Who can apply?

All professionals who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents, and/or other caregivers and meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements as specified at each level.

Why apply for the OK-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®)?

- To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family service field.
- To be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes infant mental health
- To better support the infants, toddlers, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of infant mental health.

“We are mirrors for a baby that tell him who he is. We are also windows that let him know what he can expect.”

--Jeree Pawl, 2001



The five steps to OK-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®) are:

1. **INQUIRE** by contacting OK-AIMH at okaimh@gmail.com
2. Complete and submit the preliminary **APPLICATION**, including the Application Fee and OK-AIMH membership fee (new members only)
3. Prepare and submit the completed **PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO** along with the Endorsement Processing Fee
4. **DOCUMENTATION of COMPETENCIES**, including a two-level review of the professional portfolio and, for IMH Specialist and Mentors successful completion of written exam
5. **ENDORSEMENT**

The professional portfolio includes:

1. E-form (a list of specialized education, work, in-service training, and reflective consultation experiences, form provided in preliminary application packet)
2. Sealed official transcripts from every college/university attended
3. Three sealed reference rating forms; signature of rater across the seal
4. Signed Code of Ethics
5. Signed Endorsement Agreement
6. Endorsement Processing Fee Appropriate to the level at which the candidate is applying

Continuing Endorsement requirements

1. Ongoing membership in OK-AIMH (or another IMH association)
2. Annual participation in 15 clock hours of culturally sensitive, relationship-focused training experiences that promote infant mental health

Endorsement Fee Schedule*

	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Mentor
Application Fee	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Processing Fee	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$300.00
Total	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$225.00	\$325.00

***NOTE: All Return Checks will be assessed a \$25.00 Return Check Fee**

OK-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®) Levels of Competency*

	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Mentor Clinical, Policy or Research/Faculty
Education	CDA or Associate's degree or 2 years early childhood experience AND/OR Two years in the infant, early childhood, and family field	Masters or Bachelors Degree	Masters or Post-Graduate Degree	Masters, Post-Graduate, Doctorate, Post-Doctorate
Work Experience	Minimum 2 years in the infant, early childhood, and family field	Minimum 2 years in the infant, early childhood, and family field	Minimum 2 years post Masters in the infant, early childhood, and family field	Minimum 3 years post Masters in the infant, early childhood, and family field
In-Service Training	Minimum of 30 hours	Minimum of 30 hours	Minimum of 30 hours	Minimum of 30 hours
Membership in OK-AIMH or other IMH Association	YES	YES	YES	YES
Code of Ethics	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Endorsement Agreement	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Reflective Consultation	N/A	Minimum 24 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Clinical: Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families
Reference Rating	Three (from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient)	Three 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective consultation 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant, or a colleague.	Three 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective consultation 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant, colleague, or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor).	Three (Please see Level IV Requirements document for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants).
Written Exam	NO	NO	YES	YES
Professional Portfolio	Applicant will submit a professional portfolio that demonstrates that he/she has met both the requirements and the competencies specified at each level. Details about competencies can be found in the publication <i>Competency Guidelines</i> .			

* This chart represents only a summary of the requirements at each level. Please contact okaimh@gmail.com for full details about both the requirements and the competencies.