



ATMCH Newsletter — Fall 2007

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health

Providing Leadership in Maternal and Child Health Education, Research, and Service



President's Message

Martha Coulter, DrPH
ATMCH President

As you all are aware, the main theme that I have been trying to focus on during my presidency is increasing MCH organizational partnerships and increasing interaction between MCH academia and MCH practice. I believe that through these partnerships and interactions we can strengthen our teaching and research and provide the kind of support to practice that is critical to the MCH field. ATMCH has the opportunity to make significant contributions in this area.

We continue our meetings and calls with AMCHP leadership to reinforce current partnership efforts, and plan for new ways in which we can continue to partner with them. Many of the current and planned ATMCH activities center around developing the MCH workforce of the future – both the practice and the academic communities.

We have been working closely with the AMCHP workforce committee to tackle these problems. Our representatives to the AMCHP committee, Holly Grason and Charlie Mahan, have been assisting with a survey of AMCHP members dealing with workforce issues. They have volunteered much of their time to collaborate with AMCHP's Workforce Development Committee to develop several surveys to assess MCH workforce

composition, as well as training, retention, and succession needs. The first phase of the survey will be fielded among state MCH directors soon.

The long awaited case study on medical homes for children with special health care needs is complete. Many thanks to Debbie Allen and the advisory team, a joint committee of ATMCH and AMCHP, for all of their input. The case study will be posted on the ATMCH website. ATMCH volunteers are developing a companion teaching guide, and we have been asked to present the case study to AMCHP's members, possibly during the March 2008 AMCHP annual meeting.

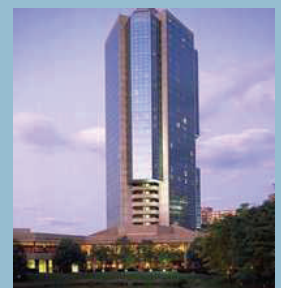
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2007 ATMCH SPRING MEETING March 2, 2007

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22202



At that time we will offer an additional training session for ATMCH members in using case studies (especially this one!) AMCHP has also requested that we begin to develop guidance materials on how to use the case as a continuing education teaching tool.

While it is helpful to have new materials to use in our existing MCH and core courses, we know that many new Schools of Public Health are not including MCH as a department, division, or program.

This situation raises grave concerns for the future of the MCH workforce. Because MCH is such a huge part of public health service it is crucial that we assist in developing programs that will provide students with the skills they need to run these programs, as well as supporting the research efforts of faculty and students in this area. In the past we have developed our mentoring program to provide assistance to those schools that are interested in development or expansion of programs. However, to encourage and support attention to the initial development of an MCH focus, ATMCH and AMCHP have jointly decided to develop a letter and packet of materials to deliver to new SPH deans and/or associate deans for academic affairs to encourage development of MCH programs. ATMCH and AMCHP will present the critical need for MCH training together, illustrating the strong academic and practice ties, and the potential for many student internships, guest lecturers, and practice based learning together. Of crucial importance will be assuring that the new Schools of Public Health know and are connected with the State MCH director and are aware of the resources that the state AMCHP and ATMCH member represent. ATMCH can make available our mentoring program as a more intense follow-up when requested. We hope that through this more aggressive attention to new schools that we can actively encourage MCH program development and expansion. I hope that if we call on you as ATMCH members to assist in making a visit to schools in your area, that you will be able to participate.

In a further effort at closer organizational partnering, ATMCH has provided the impetus for, and will be participating in, a multi-organizational meeting with our partner organizations. There are many MCH groups working hard to move the field forward. The more closely we can work together, complement and support each other, and

develop some joint initiatives, the more successful we will all be in meeting our goals. Leaders from ATMCH, AMCHP, CityMatCH, and the ASPH MCH Council, as well as representatives from MCHB and the CDC, will be strategizing on shared organizational priorities and the best uses of respective organizational capacities to achieve these shared goals. This meeting will take place this winter, in early February, and in the interests of warming everyone up, Charlie Mahan and Donna Petersen have offered the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center in Tampa at the College of Public Health to host the meeting. Donna Petersen, Dean of the College of Public Health at USF will facilitate the meeting.

Last Spring, MCHB launched the MCH Leadership Competencies. The development of these competencies has proven a timely trigger for the reassessment and updating of the ATMCH MCH competencies. A committee of ATMCH has begun the development of a set of competencies that will not only complement but will be structured to respond to, and integrate with, the competencies that have been developed by MCHB.

We have constituted a group of volunteers to work on strategic planning for ATMCH. A draft plan will be presented at the ATMCH Spring business meeting.

Finally, to recognize Dr. Greg Alexander's devotion to working with his students, ATMCH will be naming the student/faculty breakfast in his honor. In addition, the APHA MCH Section will join with ATMCH to name the Outstanding Student Papers in MCH session after Dr. Alexander. These recognitions will be presented to Donna Petersen at the ATMCH business meeting in Washington, DC. I invite anyone who would like to speak about his impact on teaching to do so at the meeting.

I hope that the new year will continue to be as productive as this one has been. We have begun a lot of new efforts that will take time to implement. Many people have been working very hard on these projects and I thank you. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Manda L Center

MCH Appropriations Process Slowly Moves Forward

As of press time, the U.S. Senate is considering the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill (S 1710, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:S.1710>), which funds numerous MCH programs including the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. Because Congress did not complete their work prior to the Oct. 1 beginning of the 2008 fiscal year, current programs are funded at FY 2007 levels under a continuing resolution (CR) that expires on Nov. 16. The MCH Block Grant is funded through this period at the level of \$693 million. Senate completion of their health appropriations bill is expected October 23.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill recommending a \$57 million increase to the MCH block grant. The Senate bill currently under consideration includes \$710 for Title V (with \$37 million set aside for autism). Senate passage will be followed with a conference to reconcile differences between the House and Senate bills, and the president has repeatedly indicated that he will veto the bill because the spending exceeds his budget recommendations.

After the expected veto, several possibilities remain: a year long CR remains a possibility, funding programs at their current level for the third year in a row. Some long-time Washington observers have also pointed to a possible "omnibus" bill, in which several unfinished appropriations bills are wrapped together. AMCHP remains committed to support funding of the MCH block grant at the House recommended level of \$750 million and has called on Congress to use this number in the House-Senate conference.

SCHIP Veto Override Unsuccessful

On October 18, the House of Representatives voted 273-156 to sustain President Bush's veto of legislation that would have reauthorized and expanded the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Supporters of the bill were 13 votes short of overriding the veto. The legislation would provide an additional \$35 billion in funding for the program over the next five years and increase total SCHIP spending to \$60 billion, paid for with a 61-cent-per-pack increase in the tobacco tax. Early indications are that Congressional leaders will bring a slightly altered bill back to the House floor for consideration within the next two weeks.

House Passes Bill on Post Partum Depression

On October 16 the House of Representatives passed the "Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act" (HR 20). The legislation directs the secretary of health and human services, acting through the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), to expand and intensify research and related activities on postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. It also requires the director of NIMH to conduct or support research to expand the understanding of the causes of, and to find a cure for, such conditions. The bill also directs the secretary to make grants to "establish, operate and coordinate effective and cost-efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with such conditions and their families," supports technical assistance to grant recipients, and authorizes \$3 million in funding. The bill can be viewed online at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_reports&docid=f:hr375.110.pdf. AMCHP will monitor and report on possible Senate action on a companion bill.

House Committees Finish Action on Mental Health Parity

Also on October 16, the House Ways and Means Committee passed the "Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007," (HR 1424). This bill amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code to "prohibit treatment limits or the imposition of financial requirements on mental health and substance-related disorder benefits in group health plans which are not similarly imposed on substantially all medical and surgical benefits in any category of items or services under such plans." The bill can be viewed online at

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_reports&docid=f:hr374p2.110.pdf.

The ongoing debates on SCHIP reauthorization, public health funding, and potential changes to Medicaid could all have significant impacts on MCH programs. AMCHP will continue to monitor legislation and policy in this area, and you are welcome to contact either Brent Ewig (bewing@amchp.org) or Josh Brown (jbrown@amchp.org) for further information.

Awards

Farel Receives Delta Omega Award for MCH Curriculum

Anita Farel, DrPH, clinical professor and associate chair for graduate studies in the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the UNC School of Public Health, is a recipient of the 2007 Delta Omega Award for Innovative Public Health Curriculum for her course, "Program Assessment in Maternal and Child Health."



She will make a presentation describing the course at the Delta Omega annual business meeting and exhibit a poster about the course at the American Public Health Association annual conference, both held in Washington,

D.C., on Monday, November 5.

Delta Omega, the honorary society for graduate studies in public health, was founded in 1924 at Johns Hopkins University. The curriculum award was created to recognize the importance of graduate education in public health, to acknowledge public health faculty who creatively implement programs that bridge academia and practice and to stimulate the development of new courses responsive to the needs of the public health work force.

The Delta Omega award objects are to highlight curricula that integrate public health practice experiences and examples into classroom discussions and exercises; highlight models of collaborative, comprehensive and community-based public health practice and scholarship; emphasize the application of public health principles and science-based decision-making; focus on skills development; and involve community-sector partners in teaching. A list of previous winners of the Delta Omega Curriculum Award can be found at www.deltaomega.org/CurrPage.htm.

MCH Resources

Culture and Health Literacy Module

Inequalities in the generation, manipulation, and distribution of health information--and the capacity to act on health information--are associated with health disparities. Dr. Rhonda Jones-Webb and colleagues developed an online training module on health literacy for public health professionals, students, health journalists and others.

Its purpose is to define health literacy, identify health information gaps among social groups, and share strategies to improve health literacy. The module is free and can offer 1.0 continuing education contact hours. Register online at cpheo.sph.umn.edu/mclph/healthlit.

The module was developed with resources from two HRSA-funded centers at the University of Minnesota: the Center for Leadership Education in Maternal and Child Public Health and the Midwest Center for Life-Long Learning in Public Health.

UIC-SPH PhD Fellowship in MCH Epidemiology

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), School of Public Health (SPH), Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCHEPI) program is seeking applicants for a PhD in MCH Epidemiology with fellowship support provided by funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for fall 2008.

The MCHEPI fellowship is intended for individuals who are interested in obtaining a PhD in applied MCH Epidemiology; the program and the fellowship support are designed to prepare these individuals to carry out high-level epidemiologic work focusing on the activities of the MCH planning cycle (i.e. surveillance, assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and policy development). Student dissertations will be conducted in conjunction with a state or local public health agency.

Applicants must be accepted into the PhD program in either the Division of Community Health Sciences or the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the UIC-SPH and have an interest in the area of MCH Epidemiology.

To learn more about the UIC MCH Epidemiology program and how to apply, please contact Kate Barcal at (312) 413-5625 or kbarcal@uic.edu or visit our website at www.uic.edu/sph/mch.



The Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity

As part of a continuing commitment to advance scholars from underrepresented groups in higher education, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity is pleased to announce the availability of postdoctoral research appointments for a period of two years. The purpose of the Program is to develop scholars from underrepresented groups for possible tenure track appointments at the University of North Carolina. Postdoctoral scholars will be primarily research associates engaged full-time in research and may teach only one course per year. Applications for study in any discipline represented at the University are welcome.

The stipend will be \$35,625 per calendar year. Health benefits and leave are available. Some funds are available for research expenses, including travel. Interested applicants who will have completed their doctoral degree no later than July 1, 2008 and no earlier than July 1, 2004 are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. This program is funded by the State of North Carolina.

A complete application will include a 2008 application, cover letter addressed to Vice Chancellor Tony Waldrop, curriculum vitae, sample publications and/or dissertation chapters, three letters of recommendation, a statement of research plans and a separate statement on why you should be selected for the program. Applications can be found at <http://research.unc.edu/red/postdoc.html>. If recommendation letters accompany application materials, they should be in a sealed envelope. Electronic submissions are preferred and should be emailed to Application2008@unc.edu. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. All materials must be post-marked by Thursday, January 3, 2008.

The UNC School of Public Health, Department of Maternal and Child Health, strongly encourages candidates interested in MCH to apply.

MCH - Related Events

Save the date for the 2007 HSPH Maternal and Child Health Symposium
Confronting Maternal Depression in MCH Settings

Wednesday, November 28, 2007
 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Join us at 2:45pm for afternoon refreshments
 Speakers begin promptly at 3:00pm

Location:

Harvard School of Public Health
FXB Building, Room G13

Featured speakers include:

Drs. Pamela Surkan and Karen Peterson
 Harvard School of Public Health

Dr. Emily Feinberg
 Boston University School of Public Health

Dr. William Beardslee
 Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Introduction by Dr. Gerry Koocher, Professor and Dean,
 Simmons College, School for Health Studies

Seating is limited so please RSVP to Allison Appleton at appleton@hsph.harvard.edu or online at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/mch-concentration/mch-symposium/>

UIC MCH Leadership Program to Offer MCH Leadership Retreat in July 2008

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program will hold a MCH Leadership Retreat in Chicago on July 16-18, 2008.

In 2007, the UIC MCH Program hosted its 20th annual National UIC MCH Leadership Conference on *Translating Research into MCH Practice*. The conference presented interdisciplinary research on MCH issues and provided participants with many opportunities to contribute to real-time policy development as well as opportunities to enhance their ability to work with data. The conference concluded with a session on personal leadership development and MCH. Participants discussed their MCH passions and thoughts for how to shape their work in the future. The sessions aimed to help participants garner a sense of their "MCH mission."

Shortly after the conference, UIC MCH received an additional three years of funding from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau to continue hosting the event. A diverse planning committee, consisting of junior and senior MCH professionals in both academic and practice settings, are working to make a number of adjustments to the conference in order to meet the changing needs of the MCH workforce. To start, a retreat concept will be incorporated. The MCH Leadership Retreat will continue to focus on evidence-based research and practice. Additionally, it will focus on personal leadership development and the development of a workforce community of practice that includes interdisciplinary MCH professionals at all levels of academia and practice.

The retreat will be highly interactive with opportunities to engage in thoughtful, intellectual dialogues and activities with MCH colleagues (junior and senior). Opportunities for self-reflection, self-care, and rejuvenation will also be offered as a part of this retreat to allow those in the MCH workforce a chance to connect and refuel.

Both junior and senior participants are encouraged to attend. Registration will be available on the UIC MCH Program website (www.uic.edu/sph/mch) in early 2008. If you would like more information about this retreat, would like to participate in planning activities or have ideas for presentations, please contact Kris Riskey, DrPH at (312) 996-2875 or kyrisley@uic.edu.

MCH Distance Learning Grant Closing Date: December 7, 2007

HRSA: This program supports the development, implementation, creative utilization, application and evaluation of distance education opportunities for maternal and child health (MCH) professionals. Consistent with the MCHB Strategic Plan (MCH Training), MCHB is particularly interested in topics such as MCH leadership competencies, cultural competency and family centered care, and best practices in interdisciplinary training. In addition, at least one Distance Learning grant will be targeted towards the translation of new evidence-based knowledge into policy and practice. Projects must provide continuing education to a regional and/or national audience.

For more details, please see <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&oppld=15787>

2007 EDITION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH DATA BOOK RELEASED

Women's Health USA 2007, the sixth edition of the data book, presents a profile of women's health at the national level from a variety of data sources. The data book, developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration, includes information and data on population characteristics, health status, and health services utilization. New topics in the 2007 edition include autoimmune diseases, gynecological and reproductive disorders, and digestive disorders. Racial and ethnic, sex and gender, and socioeconomic disparities in women's health are also highlighted. The data book is intended to be a concise reference for policymakers and program managers at the federal, state, and local levels to identify and clarify issues affecting women's health. It is available at http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/whusa_07/index.htm.

Selected ATMCH Members' Plans for using the MCH Leadership Competencies

Russell Kirby (ATMCH), Laura Kavanagh (MCHB), and Lauri Levin (AMCHP) held a roundtable at the MCH B Partnership Meeting, on October 16, 2007. Discussion was focused on how people are integrating the MCH Leadership competencies into their work. Below are examples of how they are being used at several schools of public health, and at CityMatCH.

University of Washington SPHCM:

- Self-assessment based on the competencies that students use for course/practicum/research planning
- At least one introductory session on each topic included in the year-long MCH seminar
- Develop/train on the competencies through the two required MCH courses

University of North Carolina SPH:

- The SPH (and therefore the MCH Department) adopted the ASPH cross-cutting competencies for re-accreditation purposes, before the MCH leadership competencies were developed and disseminated.
- The Consortium Leadership Training Initiative is guided by the new MCHB Leadership Competencies. Kathleen Rounds is presenting about the Consortium at the Partners meeting.
- The MCH Leadership competencies are explicitly built in to the syllabus of the UNC SPH MCH core course sequence.

Tulane SPHTM:

- With the help of the MCH student advisory board, the department is reviewing the MCH course curricula to determine areas for improvement based on the MCH Leadership Competencies.
- Developed skill building sessions and two new courses (CHSC 614 MCH Communication and Leadership and CHSC 640 Policy and Advocacy) to address a couple of the areas identified as weaknesses. In both cases, course content was guided by the relevant sections of the MCH Leadership Competencies.

UIC MCH Program:

- The program incorporated the MCH Leadership competencies into the pre- and post- competency assessment document for students entering Fall 2007.
- Cross-walked courses with both the ATMCH MCH competencies and the MCH Leadership competencies
- The MCH Leadership competencies are being addressed with our entering class as part of our Leadership Pathways program. Students periodically review the competencies and keep notes about their efforts to meet each competency. Additionally, students address many of the leadership competencies through a series of experiential exercises and in leadership coaching they receive over the course of their first year of the program.

UAB SPH:

- Address some of the MCH Leadership competencies in the course "Advanced Leadership and Practice in MCH"

Is your school using the MCH Leadership competencies? Send your examples to gsilver@asph.org.

Do you or your MCH Department/Division collaborate with your state or city MCH program?

If you do, ATMCH would love to post examples on the website!

Send your collaboration "best practices" to ATMCH at gsilver@asph.org.



13th Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology (MCH EPI) Conference

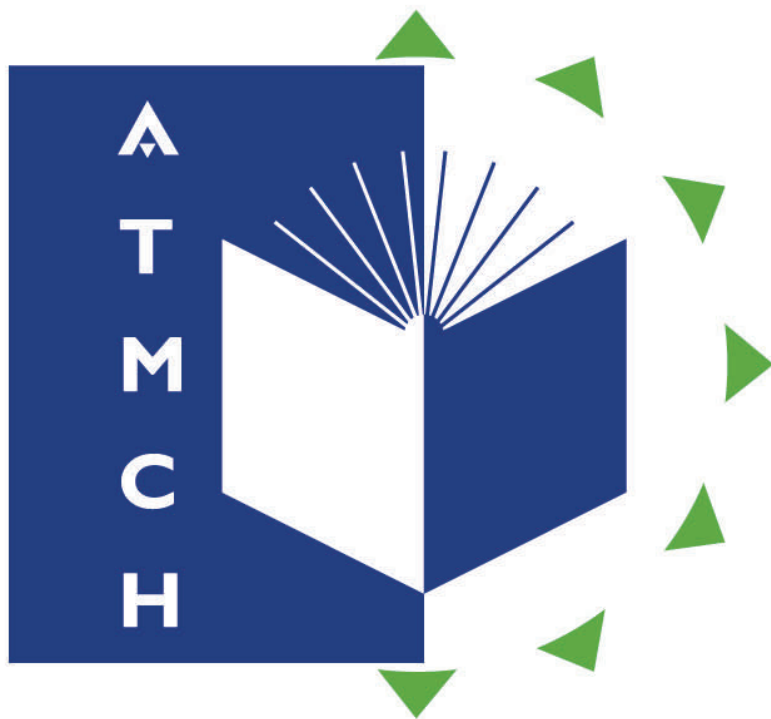
Making Methods and Practice Matter for Women, Children and Families

December 12-14, 2007

Crowne Plaza Hotel Atlanta - Ravinia (Perimeter Center)

4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30346

<http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MCHepi/index.htm>



The *ATMCH Newsletter* is produced by ASPH staff with submissions from ATMCH members.

The Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (ATMCH)

1101 15th St. NW Suite 910
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-296-1099
Email: GSilver@asph.org
Website: <http://www.atmch.org>
