



# ATMCH Newsletter — Spring 2008

**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 we look forward to our next meeting of ATMCH in conjunction with the AMCHP meeting in Washington, DC, it is a good time to look back on what we have been accomplishing this year. One of the most exciting activities of this year has been the MCH summit that took place on February 5. ATMCH invited and the Chile center hosted a meeting of major MCH organizations, ATMCH, AMCHP, the MCH section of APHA, CityMatCH, the MCH council of ASPH, the HRSA MCH Bureau, and CDC representatives. Donna Petersen, Dean of the School of Public Health at USF, facilitated the meeting. The day was exciting and intense and resulted in a list of priority activities that we will be following up on throughout the year.

Included in the priorities are the development of a national MCH agenda, supporting MCH advocacy through the banking of MCH stories and anecdotes, the development of MCH questions for presidential and other candidates, collating of evidence-based responses to policy questions, support for MCH students especially through involvement with state and local MCH agencies and development of mentorship activities, making MCH data sets available on one website, nominating MCH representatives for the boards of public health accreditation and credentialing organizations, and more..... What an agenda for the future. It was an inspirational day for all of us.

Our joint case study with AMCHP has been released with guidance for use, wonderfully developed by Ellen Daley and Kalpana Ramiah. I hope you all can use it in your classes and continuing education. Our planned training for its use has been rescheduled for October 2008 as more ATMCH members can be there, and it is a better schedule for the Electronic Hallway faculty who will be conducting the workshop. I hope you all can come!

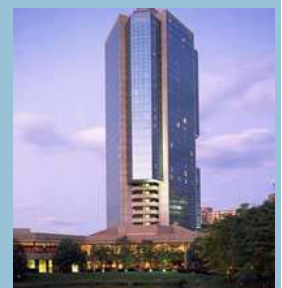
Mary Barger and the education committee will be continuing their work on the integration of the various MCH competencies at the meeting in Washington. We look forward to a set of integrated competencies that tie together our academic goals with the other MCH competencies that have been developed.

## Inside This Issue

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>HRSA Column</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Policy Updates</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MCH Resources</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MCH-Related Events</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Other News</b>	<b>7</b>

## 2008 ATMCH SPRING MEETING March 2, 2007

**Hilton Alexandria Mark Center**  
**5000 Seminary Road**  
**Alexandria, VA 22202**



As we move forward with our plans for ATMCH this year, our strategic plan is commencing. Drawing from the results of the MCH summit, and your input, our plans for the next years will be mapped. Please take time to respond to the surveys that you will receive.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has taken so much time this year to help on all of these activities. We are a volunteer organization and the activi-

ties that we carry out are not easy to organize. With tight budgets everywhere I know that time is limited and I thank you for your continued efforts.

I look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC.



## From the Desk of Peter C. van Dyck, MD, MPH

**Associate Administrator for MCH  
Health Resources and Services Administration**

Dear Colleagues:

Spring always brings with it the promise of regeneration and revitalization. As we enter into this period, there is much for us to look forward to this spring.

We are all eagerly looking forward to the Training Branch All Grantee Meeting in April. This meeting will occur on April 22-23 at the Omni Shoreham in Washington, DC. All of the current grantees are expected to be in attendance. The theme is "65 Years and Counting: The Legacy and Future of MCH Leadership." The agenda promises to generate new ideas and provide the opportunity to network, share new ongoing innovative activities and inform all about issues of mutual interest regarding the MCH Training Program. Staff and grantees represented on the Planning Workgroup have been hard at work to make this an excellent meeting. During this meeting, we will bid a fond farewell to Dr. Ann Drum, Director, Division of Research, Training, and Education. After a distinguished career of 30 years in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service, Dr. Drum will retire this summer. She has been the Division Director for nearly eight years providing outstanding leadership in this position. We have all benefited from her leadership and wish her the very best in her retirement. She will be missed by every one of us.

There are new exciting events occurring in the Discretionary Grants Information System (DGIS). The enhanced system will be released in March. You will now be able to view the data reported via your annual Progress Reports in a web-based system. The DGIS will parallel the Title V Information System (TVIS) in the type of information available for public viewing. There will be a presentation on these new web reports at the All Grantee meeting. Additional instructions will be sent to you on how to access this new system. We are quite excited to see the public debut of this long awaited system.

Last year, four Workgroups were formed to focus on aspects of the Training Branch Strategic Plan. The following were identified by MCHB as priority MCH Training Center Workgroups for 2006-2007, based on input from grantees, reviews of recent grantee continuation applications and review of the MCH Training Strategic Plan: Family Centered Care, Trainee and Faculty Diversity, Interdisciplinary Practice and Reporting and Monitoring (Telling the MCH Training Story).

Each of the workgroups focused on specific objectives of the strategic plan, including establishing baseline measures for the objectives. Representatives were from across the Training Branch grantees. These workgroups will present their work completed to date at the All Grantee meeting.

Next, the implementation of the Combating Autism Initiative continues in the MCH Training Program. As a result of new appropriations, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau will invest \$37 million in autism activities. Two programs in the MCH Training portfolio have a direct impact on children with autism. These programs are the Leadership for Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program and the Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) program. MCHB funds 34 LEND programs and 9 DBP programs across the country and all provide services to children with autism. As this new initiative continues to develop, we will share its progress with you.

The annual Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) meeting in March provides another opportunity for networking with colleagues in Title V and other MCHB programs. The theme of this spring meeting is "We are Making a Difference: Leadership, Innovation and Investment in Maternal and Child Health." Some of you will be attending this meeting and I hope to see you there.

These are a few of the many activities occurring in MCHB this spring. I look forward to the opportunity to see each of you in person at one of these meetings.

Sincerely,

Peter C. van Dyck, MD, MPH

# Policy Updates

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## President's Budget Proposes Flat Funding for Title V MCH Block Grant – AMCHP Asks Congress for Full Funding of \$850 Million

On February 4, the Bush Administration released its budget proposal (see [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2009/pdf/appendix/hhs.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2009/pdf/appendix/hhs.pdf)) for the 2009 fiscal year. The Administration is proposing to flat fund the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant at \$666 million.

AMCHP President Nan Streeter, MS, RN, made the following statement in response to the proposed budget: "AMCHP is very disappointed that once again, the President's budget proposal does not recognize the need to adequately invest in the health of mothers and children by fully funding the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. This effective program provides vital services that improve the health of our nation's women, children and families, including those with special health care needs. Over the past five years, the Title V MCH Block Grant has been reduced by close to 10 percent, while progress on key health status indicators, such as reducing infant mortality and improving access to quality health care, has stalled. AMCHP calls on Congress to fully fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$850 million and provide states with the resources they need to protect and improve the health of our nation's children and families." A fact sheet outlining AMCHP's full funding request is available online at [www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/FY09\\_ask\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/FY09_ask_PDF.pdf).

The President's proposal marks the beginning of a process that is expected to once again generate an intense battle on spending priorities between the White House and Congress. AMCHP is gearing up now to work with Congressional appropriators to fully fund the MCH Block Grant by:

- visiting key decision-makers on Capitol Hill;
- asking AMCHP members and partners to contact their Congressional representatives at key points in the appropriations process;
- organizing the Friends of Title V national coalition to support our full funding request; and,
- generating additional grassroots support in key

states to help appropriators understand the importance of the MCH Block Grant.

Please stay tuned for more information from AMCHP to learn how you can help support efforts to fully fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at \$850 million.

## Targeted Case Management Regulation Gets Increased Scrutiny

While Congress was not in session the week after President's Day, efforts continued to push for a legislative moratorium to prevent the pending implementation of the proposed CMS regulation on targeted case management. AMCHP previously submitted comments opposing this regulation (see [www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/Comments%20to%20CMS%20on%20Targeted%20Case%20Management%202-08.pdf](http://www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/Comments%20to%20CMS%20on%20Targeted%20Case%20Management%202-08.pdf)). We also joined with 130 other organizations in a sign-on letter, sent to the Hill this week, asking Congress to delay implementation of all the recent harmful CMS regulations, available online at [www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/medicaid-coalition-stuff/2-21-medicaid-regulations-letter-to-hill-national-groups-2-20-08-final.pdf](http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/medicaid-coalition-stuff/2-21-medicaid-regulations-letter-to-hill-national-groups-2-20-08-final.pdf).

## Senate Health Committee Considers Healthy Start Reauthorization, Post-Partum Depression and Other MCH Legislation

On February 14, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) met to discuss the following bills that have important implications for MCH:

- S. 1760, Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Healthy Start at \$120 million for this year and would increase the authorized level with inflation each year until 2013. AMCHP joined a sign-on letter in support of reauthorization. Read the sign-on letter online at [www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/Healthy%20Start%20Org%20Sign.pdf](http://www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/Healthy%20Start%20Org%20Sign.pdf).
- H.R. 20, Melanie Blocker-Stokes MOTHERS Act would help provide support services to women suffering from postpartum depression and psychosis and help educate mothers and their families about these conditions. In addi-

tion, it would support research into the causes, diagnoses and treatments for postpartum depression and psychosis. This bill authorizes \$3 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This bill passed the House last October, and this week AMCHP joined with other MCH organizations in signing a letter urging the Senate to support the bill. Read the sign on letter online at [www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/PPD%20Sign-On%20Letter.pdf](http://www.amchp.org/policy/Downloads/PPD%20Sign-On%20Letter.pdf).

- S. 1810, Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize the NIH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or HRSA to oversee activities relating to Down syndrome or other prenatally or postnatally diagnosed conditions, including the awarding of grants, contracts or cooperative agreements to synthesize current scientific information and coordinate the provision of supportive services for patients affected. Furthermore, the bill requires the CDC to provide assistance to state and local health departments to integrate the results of prenatal or postnatal testing into state-based vital statistics and birth defects surveillance programs. Under the bill, health care providers would also be encouraged to provide certain information to a patient who receives a positive test result from a prenatal or postnatal test for such a condition, including referrals to support service providers.

S. 579, Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2007 would establish a national strategy to examine the links between breast cancer and environmental factors. The bill would authorize \$40 million per year through FY 2012 for the NIH to make grants to public or nonprofit, private entities for the development and operation of centers to conduct multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research. The bill also requires the establishment of a research panel charged with developing a comprehensive research strategy. The intent of the bill is to foster the coordination of information among research centers.

If you have questions or comments, please contact [Brent Ewig](mailto:Brent.Ewig@amchp.org) or [Josh Brown](mailto:Josh.Brown@amchp.org) on AMCHP's policy and government relations team at (202) 775-0436 or visit the AMCHP website at [www.amchp.org](http://www.amchp.org).

## Awards

### L. Michele Issel Receives 2008 Loretta P. Lacey Award



L. Michele Issel, BSN, MN, PhD, associate clinical professor of community health services at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, is the recipient of the 2008 Loretta P. Lacey Award. The award recognizes leadership in MCH education, research, policy development and/or advocacy.

ATMCH created the award in memory of Loretta P. Lacey, a former faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a leader in MCH education.

Dr. Issel earned her MN and PhD from the University of Washington School of Nursing. She is actively involved in practice-based research to improve women's and children's health status. She has published numerous articles on the design and implementation of case management programs for pregnant women and new mothers, and also received a research grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to conduct a nationwide study of the structure and functioning of maternal case management services.

Dr. Issel is very committed to improving the capacity of the public health workforce and is a leader in the training of public health nurses. She has provided consultations to local health departments on improving services to women and children, and has provided training for state nurse consultants under the supervision of the Illinois Title V director. She has traveled to Chile where she was a Fulbright Senior Specialist and faculty mentor as part of UIC AIDS International Training and Research Program. She is also a co-founder of the Naomi Morris Collaborative for Community Assessment and Evaluation, which is an organization designed to provide community based organizations and public health agencies with technical assistance to improve their programs through assessment and evaluation.

Dr. Issel has been a leader in the development and improvement of the doctoral program at the UIC School of Public Health, which began with the development of the first doctoral-only course, "Foundations of Inquiry." She

is deeply committed to innovation and rigor in teaching and mentoring.

For all of these reasons, and many more, ATMCH is very pleased to present the 2008 Loretta P. Lacey Award to Dr. Issel. The award will be formally presented to her during the ATMCH business meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 2, from 4 - 7 p.m.

### **Associate Professor Teufel-Shone Receives Local Impact Award**

Dr. Nicolette Teufel-Shone from the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH) and her colleagues with the Hualapai Tribe's Healthy Heart Program, a community-based cardiovascular risk reduction program, were awarded the 2007 Local Impact Award by the National Indian Health Board. The 2007 Local Impact Award highlights Dr. Teufel-Shone's work and collaboration in the area of community-based health promotion, primarily with Native populations.

In two recent publications, Dr. Teufel-Shone addresses the importance of community-based work in : 1) American Indian health promotion programs and 2) The influences of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) on Native youth wellness.

In the article *Promising Strategies for Obesity Prevention and Treatment Within American Indian Communities*, Dr. Teufel-Shone conducted a non-systematic review of American Indian health promotion programs. She noted that tribal programs have created an awareness of obesity and other chronic-related diseases as being community problems. Tribal health promotion programs encourage and include a group-focused approach using strategies such as reinforcement of social cohesion, friendly competition, high visibility of alternative behaviors, and engagement of formal and informal leaders. Although evidence of the impact of these efforts is limited, the programs demonstrate tribal members' involvement in creating solutions to growing health problems. In addition, such community participation empowers members to change cultural norms and social policies. Dr. Teufel-Shone challenges non-Native health promotion programs to con-



sider including aspects such as social support, collective efficacy and friendly competition to affect health behavior change and make a real difference in the community.

In research done with the Hualapai tribe, Dr. Teufel-Shone and colleagues from the Hualapai Tribal Health Department used CBPR to assess the socio-cultural context of youth wellness and community perception of local youth programs. The research was the initial phase of a primary prevention-intervention program being developed to reduce chronic disease risk in local elementary school children. Community members guided the selection of data collection methods, emphasizing the importance of public and private forums, including open-ended interviews, the CDC School Health Index (SHI), and a locally generated resource inventory. Family involvement and personal goal setting were identified as key to youth wellness. In addition, those interviewed acknowledged that supportive youth programs included features such as adult leadership, structured activities, and a positive local image. Dr. Teufel-Shone's research again demonstrated that CBPR is promising for indigenous communities because it emphasizes the importance of engaging the community and incorporating cultural knowledge at all phases of the research. A current example of initiatives is the Hualapai Healthy Heart program which incorporates a parade through the town to encourage tribal members to make healthy food and exercise choices and to consider joining the Healthy Heart Program.

We congratulate Dr. Teufel-Shone and colleagues on their receipt of the 2007 Local Impact Award.



*The photos in the article depict a parade route that the Hualapai Healthy Heart program walks through town to encourage tribal members to make healthy food and exercise choices and to consider joining the program. The last photo is of traditional Hualapai Dancers who participated in the parade.*

# MCH Resources

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## Historical Publications from the U.S. Children's Bureau

The Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University has posted approximately 450 documents published by the U.S. Children's Bureau between the years of 1912, when the Children's Bureau was established, and 1969, when the Bureau's functions were divided up among several agencies. These publications, available electronically for the first time, give an historical perspective on such topics as child health, infant mortality, child labor, and public health services for mothers and children, including services for children with physical and cognitive disabilities. This collection is available at [www.mchlibrary.info/history/childrensbureau.html](http://www.mchlibrary.info/history/childrensbureau.html).

In addition to this historical collection, the MCH Library provides up-to-date information on MCH research and publications in its MCH Alert, a weekly electronic newsletter available at no charge. The library also offers access to state-of-the-art distance-learning curricula on well-child care and Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Program (EPSDT), oral health, healthy mental development, and other topics. These resources can be found at [www.mchlibrary.info](http://www.mchlibrary.info).

## National Sudden Infant Death Resource Center

Georgetown University has been awarded a three-year cooperative agreement for the National Sudden Infant Death Resource Center. The center, co-located with the MCH Library at the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health (NCEMCH), provides access to the latest professional and consumer information, including research, training materials, and sources of help for families affected by Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, miscarriage, stillbirth,

and other infant death. The center's Web site is located at [www.sidscenter.org](http://www.sidscenter.org). Its toll free information line is (866) 866-7437.

## MCH Leadership Skills Development Series Web Site

The Women's and Children's Health Policy Center at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is pleased to announce the availability of the MCH Leadership Skills Development Series online at [www.jhsph.edu/wchpc/MCHLDS](http://www.jhsph.edu/wchpc/MCHLDS). This set of leadership skills training modules allows users to implement their own leadership skills training programs. The modules bring leadership concepts to life in an MCH context through a mix of video, interactive group discussion questions and exercises, case study, and individual self-reflection and planning exercises.

Three modules are available online now:

1. Tapping into your leadership potential;
2. Creating clarity and shared vision; and
3. Building and supporting teams.

A fourth module on negotiation and conflict resolution will be available in spring.

## MCH - Related Events

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### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 opportu-



nities 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 oppor-

tunities 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](http://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 Risley, DrPH at (312) 996-2875 or [kyrisley@uic.edu](mailto:kyrisley@uic.edu).

## Other News

### ATMCH Web Site Gets A New Look!

ATMCH's web site has recently been redesigned! Be sure to visit [www.atmch.org](http://www.atmch.org) and see the new look.

New resources and information on ATMCH projects have been added. MCH Syllabi resources have also been updated and can be found at [www.asph.org/atmch/MCHSyllabi.cfm](http://www.asph.org/atmch/MCHSyllabi.cfm). Information on how to submit or update syllabi can be found on the web page, as well.

The site is a work in progress to better serve ATMCH members. If you have any comments or feedback, please send it to Gillian Silver at [gsilver@asph.org](mailto:gsilver@asph.org).

### NEW CASE STUDY GUIDE

**AMCHP and ATMCH recently developed a study guide titled “Implementing the Medical Home Model in Minnesota: A Case Study.” It's the first in a series of MCH case studies.**

**It is now available on the ATMCH web site at [www.asph.org/atmch/Projects.cfm](http://www.asph.org/atmch/Projects.cfm).**



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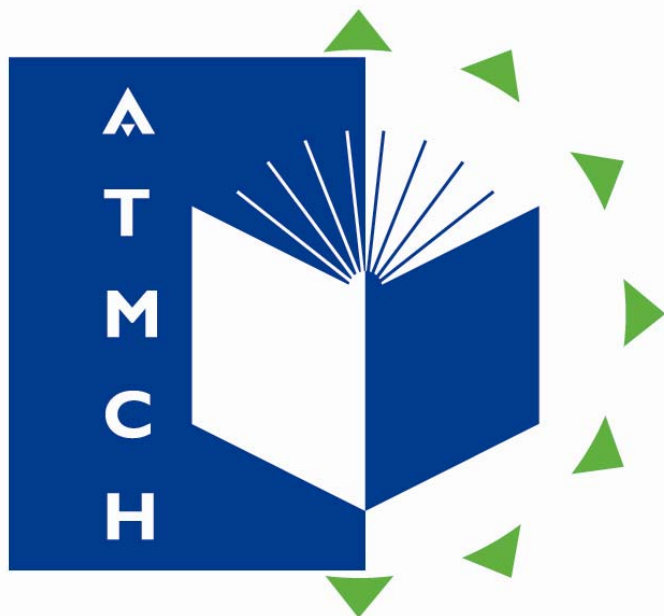
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When you are invited to review an article, please either accept or decline as soon as possible so that we know your intentions. If you decline, no worry, we'll try you again. If you accept, please try to get back to us as soon as possible. Awaiting reviewer's comments is the primary source of delay in responding to our authors.

We thank you very much for giving of yourself, your time and your expertise to continue to advance knowledge in the field of Maternal and Child Health. Remember, *The Maternal and Child Health Journal* is the primary vehicle for the dissemination and exchange of new scientific knowledge and new ideas in our field. Help us make *The Maternal and Child Health Journal* the premier public health journal!

Many thanks from your Editorial Board!



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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](mailto:GSilver@asph.org)  
Website: <http://www.atmch.org>

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