



Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Rockville MD 20857

Dear Colleagues:

As we enter the fall of the year, it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of this past year and look ahead to the next coming year. The following events occurred this past year:

- Completion of the 2007 Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) Federal/State Partnership Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia on October 14-17, 2007. The theme of the meeting was ***Building Blocks For Promising Practice Models***. One of the Breakout Sessions featured a panel of three of the Training Branch Programs.
- The Distance Learning Grant Program held an objective review and three new programs were selected. The following three new Distance Learning Grant Programs are:
 - Georgetown University
 - New York Medical College
 - University of Tennessee at Memphis
- The Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) Grant Program held an objective review and one new program was selected. The following new LEAH program is:
 - Johns Hopkins University
- The Knowledge to Practice Grant Program held an objective review and six new programs were selected. The following six new programs are:
 - The University of California at Berkeley
 - Boston University
 - University of Illinois @ Chicago
 - University of Tennessee @ Chattanooga
 - University of Nebraska
 - Virginia Commonwealth University
- The University of North Carolina was awarded a new Interdisciplinary Research grant to examine the effects of interdisciplinary training in Maternal and Child Health (MCH). Six cohorts of MCH professionals from five MCHB support training programs will be involved in this project.

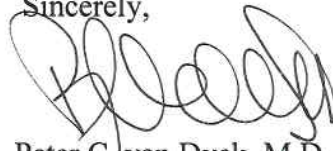
For further information of any of these above listed projects, please go to the web site at www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training.

Last year, Congress passed the Combatting Autism Act, but no funds were appropriated for the Act. Funds will likely be appropriated in the FY 2008 Labor HHS Budget to increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis, promote evidence-based interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities and to train professionals to utilize valid screening tools to diagnose and to provide evidence based interventions.

Work continues, on the preparation for the All Training Program Grantee Meeting scheduled for April 22-23, 2008 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. This meeting will convene all the current grantees funded through the Training Branch. The theme for this meeting is "65 Years and Counting: The Legacy and Future of MCH Leadership." The meeting is designed to provide an opportunity for all MCH Training Programs to network, share and gather information about leadership training activities and training-related topics and to address issues of mutual interest regarding the MCH Training Program. I hope that you will go home re-invigorated to train the next generation of MCH leaders, with tools to support you in this process. The meeting will occur over a day and a half with many grant programs having individual breakouts during the meeting. I hope to see many of you there.

Have a great fall season and enjoy the upcoming holiday season. I will see you at the All Grantee Meeting in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. van Dyck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "C".

Peter C. van Dyck, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Administrator
For Maternal and Child Health