



ATMCH Newsletter — Spring 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

ATMCH members,

This article is written to you all with very mixed feelings. While I think that we have made progress in our plans for ATMCH, building on the work that has been done before, I write this article while still saddened by the death of Greg Alexander, one of our preeminent researchers and teachers. Greg was here at the University of South Florida for just a short time, not even two years. However, in that time he made a personal impact that repeats the impact that he has had everywhere in his career. I will not repeat the facts of his outstanding life as it is described elsewhere in this newsletter. I would just like to say that having just attended his memorial service I am still stunned to have been reminded of what a complete person he was – a scholar, a colleague, a friend, a father, a husband. All of us here grieve with Donna Petersen, our Dean and his wife, and his beautiful children. Rarely have I seen such an outpouring of feeling for the life of any person at their memorial. He will be much missed by many people.

I think that our directions in ATMCH reflect the complexities of the questions and needs of the field of MCH with which Greg was so intimately involved. My priorities for

the coming two years include solidifying our relationship with AMCHP and continuing our intense collaboration with their workforce development committee. We have a number of projects that have begun and that should be the beginning of a long term and solid relationship. We are working on the finalization of a case study, supported by Laura Kavanaugh and the MCH Bureau, which we will be discussing in the coming year, and which is hopefully the beginning of the development of many cases. We owe thanks to Debbie Allen for her work on this case development as well as the advisory committee members both from ATMCH and from AMCHP. We are working with AMCHP on their workforce survey and on the development of other collaborative projects.

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2007 ATMCH SPRING MEETING March 4, 2007

1:30-4:30 PM
McLean Room
Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202



I am not certain that our organizational structure is ideal to facilitate our joint efforts, so that is an issue we need to tackle. We are recommending changing our bylaws to make the AMCHP liaison a voting member of our executive committee.

Some of the issues that have been raised by AMCHP include their concerns about the need to encourage the development of MCH programs in new schools of public health. We need to look at the development of the credentialing exam items as a lead into helping that effort. We need to re-examine our MCH competencies, begin a process of updating them, and think seriously about aiming towards a specialty exam in MCH in the future that is based on our competencies. MCH is a critical component of public health and ATMCH has a critical role to play in research, in teaching, in assessment. We need to deepen our collaboration with the MCH section and others.

Allow me to share a couple of bright notes. First, Dr. Ellen Daley, an assistant professor here at the University of

South Florida, was selected as the 2007 recipient of the Loretta P. Lacey Academic Leadership Award. As noted in the article in this newsletter, she has had an outstanding, focused and productive career to date, and shows promise for an extraordinary future – congratulations, Ellen! Second, our membership is up from last year and that is encouraging, but we need to reach out more specifically to our students and faculty in a variety of programs. It is an exciting time to be in MCH, it is a complex time, and occasionally a frustrating time. I am honored to be your new president and hope that we will be able to accomplish our goals for the future. Please let me know every single time you think of something that you wish that I were doing or that you would like me to do (or stop doing). I am looking forward to seeing those of you attending the spring meeting and more of you in the fall.

Marti Coulter

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

Associate Administrator for MCH Health Resources and Services Administration

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year! It has been a busy winter for the MCH Training Program. On January 23-24, 2007, the MCH Leadership Competencies Workgroup convened a meeting to review the current draft of the competencies. This product will be released at the Joint Meeting of MCH Training Interdisciplinary Programs on March 4, 2007 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Crystal City, VA. The Joint Meeting will focus on the goals of the MCH Training Strategic Plan.

In June 2006, we announced the formation of the **2006-07 Priority MCH Training Strategic Planning Workgroups** designed to provide training grantees with an opportunity to directly impact policies and procedures to guide the implementation of the Training Program and to assist with the achievement of the MCH Training National Strategic Plan goals and objectives. There are five workgroups – **Interdisciplinary Training & Practice, Family Centered and Family-Directed Care, Reporting and Monitoring, Trainee & Faculty Diversity, and MCH Leadership Competencies**. At the Joint Meeting, participants will break into five groups to review current products and provide feedback to existing workgroup members to facilitate future activities. Each group has been working to develop tools, definitions and guidelines that will be referred to in upcoming program guidance and used as a reference as the MCH Training Program develops future strategic plans and reporting require-

ments. You can view these workgroup products as they become available. The site can be accessed at: <http://workgroups.mchtraining.net/>. An announcement will be made through the Listserv to inform you when additional workgroup products are available and have been posted to the site.

The MCHB encourages you to look at the MCH Timeline, www.mchb.hrsa.gov/timeline which traces the history of maternal and child health in the U.S., and provides in-depth modules on topics such as MCH 101, MCH Systems of Care, Infant Mortality and MCH Performance and Accountability. An in depth module on genetics is currently underway. We hope that as MCH faculty you will use this site as a teaching tool with your students. Enhancements currently underway include interviews with MCH leaders. Please send any comments to Laura Kavanagh, lkavanagh@hrsa.gov. We look forward to seeing you at the Joint Meeting!

Sincerely,

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

AMCHP's Legislative News

On Wednesday, February 14 the Senate passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Labor/HHS appropriation bill, a \$463.5 billion spending measure to continue many government programs through September. The Labor/HHS appropriation bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, uses 2006 funding levels for most programs, but includes increases for several programs and initiatives including the National Institutes of Health, community health centers, health professionals, immunizations and the Ryan White Care Act. President Bush signed the bill on Thursday, February 15. The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant continues to be funded at \$693 million, representing a significant reduction from the previous years' appropriations of \$700 and \$724 million. The decrease in funding is due in part to cuts to all discretionary programs in FY 2006.

Congress will now focus on an FY 2008 funding bill. The President released his 2008 budget proposal on Monday, February 5. The budget contains significant decreases in entitlement spending, including cuts to Medicaid, and makes permanent tax cuts that are set to expire in 2010. For the third year in a row, funding for the nation's public health programs would be cut. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which funds access to health services for the medically underserved, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are most directly affected. Again, the MCH block grant was proposed to be funded at \$693 million, making it further vulnerable to any across-the-board cuts. However, Congress will have to approve the budget, something that is unlikely in its current form. The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) urges organizations and individuals to contact Congress to weigh in on the President's 2008 budget proposal.

As the debate on 2008 funding continues to evolve, advocates need to remain at the forefront to ensure the nation's MCH safety net programs are fully funded to help the uninsured and underinsured. Recognizing that there are many new faces in the 110th Congress and that control of both houses has switched parties, one of AMCHP's primary goals is to educate members and staff about the importance of Title V and the critical role these programs have within the public health arena. Through Friends of Title V, our coalition of organizations committed to maternal and child health, AMCHP is working to increase funding for the MCH Block Grant and ensure any changes to public health insurance programs do not come at the expense of those who need it most. To find out how you can work with Friends of Title V and AMCHP on these issues, please contact the legislative policy staff.

Maintaining and expanding health care coverage for

children and parents is another critical issue that Congress will address this year. Many states have either initiated or proposed health care coverage initiatives designed to improve access to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid. SCHIP's current authorization ends at the conclusion of FY 2007. As SCHIP reauthorization nears, policy makers at both the state and federal level have begun to focus on areas of concern within the program and to identify recommendations for reform and improvement.

Ensuring adequate funding for SCHIP is a major challenge. SCHIP has reduced the number of uninsured, low-income children significantly, however a substantial share of this progress will be negated if funding is held to the SCHIP "budget baseline" upon reauthorization. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), if SCHIP funding is frozen at its 2007 level, states will face a \$10.4-\$12.1 billion funding shortfall for 2008-2012. Twenty three states will face a shortfall in 2008 equivalent to the cost of covering 700,000 children, and up to 36 states will face a shortfall in 2012 equivalent to the cost of covering up to 1.8 million children. To address this shortfall, Sen. John D. Rockefeller (D-W. Va.) introduced the *Keep Kids Covered Act of 2007* which would provide additional federal money to states to eliminate the remainder of 2007 fiscal year shortfalls. The *Kids Come First Act of 2007*, introduced by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), proposed to expand Medicaid and SCHIP; provide state options for incremental child coverage expansions; offer tax incentives for health insurance coverage of children; require group market health insurers to offer dependent coverage option for workers with children; and, institute a partial repeal of rate reduction in the highest income tax bracket.

The impact of the *Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005* on the provision of health care coverage for children is still being assessed. Provisions in this act allow states to choose whether to decrease benefits and increase costs for families receiving Medicaid. The law also includes a mandate requiring all individuals and families applying for Medicaid on or after July 1, 2006 to provide documentation of their citizenship. Beneficiaries already enrolled in Medicaid must provide citizenship documentation when coverage is renewed. According to the CBPP, states are beginning to report marked declines in Medicaid enrollment, particularly among low-income children, in the months following implementation of the new requirement. Medicaid is being denied or terminated because beneficiaries and applicants cannot produce the specified documents in a timely manner or at all. States also are reporting significant increases in administrative costs and delays in determining eligibility as a result of the requirement. AMCHP's Health Care Finance Committee prepared a report

on the impact of the DRA on early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT). The report is available on the AMCHP website at <http://www.amchp.org>.

The upcoming debate on SCHIP policies and funding, Medicaid reform and the FY 2008 budget could have significant impact on state MCH programs. AMCHP will continue to monitor this legislation and policies surrounding it. If you have questions, please contact the AMCHP legislative policy staff at (202) 775-0436.

Member News

Dr. Greg Alexander Passes Away



ATMCH is sad to report that Dr. Greg Alexander passed away on February 20, 2007. He was 56 years old. We reprint below an article by Erika Vidal that appeared in the St. Petersburg *Times* on February 23, 2007.

Dr. Greg R. Alexander was a soft-spoken skeptic who took nothing for granted, friends said. He believed in the importance of asking good questions and dedicated much of his life to searching for answers.

Dr. Alexander, 56, of Tampa, died Tuesday (Feb. 20, 2007) of heart failure. He was a professor of public health and pediatrics at the University of South Florida. His wife, Donna Petersen, is dean of the USF College of Public Health.

As a perinatal epidemiologist, Dr. Alexander was an advocate for children, whom he considered "our most precious asset," said Dr. Jay Wolfson.

Wolfson, a USF professor of public health and medicine, said his friend and colleague of 28 years was an "extraordinary father, a doting husband" and "the epitome of what science and a university is supposed to be."

Dr. Alexander previously held faculty positions at Johns Hopkins University and other universities around the country.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Kerry and Morgan Alexander, both of Tampa; a sister, Marva Alexander Paige, Chesapeake, Va.; and his mother, Mary Williamson Alexander, Chesapeake.

Donations can be made to the Greg R. Alexander Fund for Young Scholars in Maternal and Child Health, and sent to the University of South Florida, MDC-70, 12091 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, 33612, or call (813) 974-3676.

Awards

Ellen Daley Receives 2007 Loretta P. Lacey Award



Ellen Daley, MPH, PhD, assistant professor at the University of South Florida (USF) College of Public Health, Department of Community and Family Health, received the 2007 Loretta P. Lacey Award. ATMCH created the award to recognize leadership in MCH education, research, policy development or advocacy.

Dr. Daley earned her masters degree in public health at the University of Michigan with a concentration in population planning. She then pursued work focusing on adolescent and women's health, sexuality education, HPV/Cervical Cancer prevention and treatment, contraceptive use and risk taking behaviors, developing and running innovative programs for women. She earned her PhD in public health at USF in the College of Public Health. Since becoming faculty at USF, she has received several grants, including a 5-year, \$1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to focus on the "Cognitive and Emotional Responses to an HPV Infection in Men."

Dr. Daley has quickly become noted as one of the most outstanding teachers in the department, and her presence on doctoral and masters committees is sought after by many more students than she can accommodate. Her collaborative teaching efforts with nursing and medicine have had a profound impact on the development of multidisciplinary teaching strategies for students in a variety of disciplines. With funding from the Area Health Education Centers, she developed an innovative interdisciplinary effort in teaching women's health, enabling students to learn how to work as a team in serving marginalized women and examining their health risk factors.

She has developed and teaches six courses, including "Issues in Women's Health" (PHC 6532); "Women's Health across the Lifespan: Interdisciplinary Course with the Colleges of Public Health, Medicine and Nursing" (PHC 6934); "Population, Family and Community Health" (PHC 6536); "Reproductive Health Trends and Issues" (PHC 6924); "Adolescent Health" (PHC 6414); and, "Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health" (CFH 6410). She developed an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Women's Health, which, using the Issues in Women's Health (PHC 6532) course as a cornerstone, involves four colleges and nine de-

partments within USF.

For all of these reasons, and many more, ATMCH is very pleased to present the 2007 Loretta P. Lacey Award to Dr. Daley. The award will be formally presented to her during the ATMCH business meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 4, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

ATMCH Member Wins Young Professional Achievement Award



Jihong Liu, ScD, University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health, was awarded the 2006 Young Professional Achievement Award by the Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology and 15 national health organizations. The primary purpose of this award is to recognize and promote excellence in MCH epidemiology research, practice and leadership.

Dr. Liu is currently an assistant professor of epidemiology in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Prior to this position, Dr. Liu completed a maternal and child health epidemiology postdoctoral fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and received an interdisciplinary training on population, reproductive health, epidemiology and biostatistics at Harvard University. Dr. Liu serves on the editorial board of the *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. Dr. Liu has conducted research in the areas of maternal health behaviors (such as smoking, physical activity, and prenatal HIV testing), breastfeeding, gestational diabetes, women's reproductive health and child health.

Currently, Dr. Liu is also a faculty affiliate at the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center. In that capacity, she leads a project on "Magnitude of Obesity Among Rural Children and Its Modifiable Risk Factors, the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health" sponsored by Office of Rural Health Policy at HRSA.

MCH - Related Events

UIC National Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Maternal and Child Health Program will host the 20th annual National MCH Leadership Conference, "Making Change Happen: Translating Research into MCH Public Health Practice" from May 15-16, 2007. The conference is funded in part by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

The opening keynote speaker is Sara Rosenbaum, JD, of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. Professor Rosenbaum has dedicated her career to promoting more equitable and effective health care policies in this country, particularly in the areas of Medicaid, maternal and child health, community health centers and civil rights in health care systems and is committed to strengthening access to care for low-income, minority and medically underserved populations. She will explore what needs to happen as the public health community moves forward to really make a difference in the lives of women, children and families.

The closing keynote speaker is Margaret Wheatley, EdD of the Berkana Institute. Ms. Wheatley, author of *Leadership and the New Science* and *A Simpler Way*, is committed to working with groups to develop new ways of organizing, where people are seen as the blessing and not the problem. She will focus on how change really happens and challenge our thinking around making change happen. Plenary sessions will focus on access to universal prenatal care looking at the United States and Canada (Drs. Arden Handler, co-director of the UIC MCHP, and Suzanne Tough, University of Calgary will be speakers in this session), children's mental health (Barbara Shaw, Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership) and Plan B and the HPV vaccine (Susan Wood, PhD, former director, FDA's Office of Women's Health). The conference also includes three workshop tracks: Working with Data to Improve Practice, Policy Development and Advocacy and Translating Research into Practice. Among the diverse sessions, participants will learn how to work with census data, practice talking to legislators and hear about how the Centering Pregnancy model of group prenatal care in making a difference for women. Visit the conference [Web site](#) for more information. Conference planners encourage attendance by interdisciplinary MCH public health and health care professionals including health department employees, community advocates, physicians, nurses, nutritionists, social workers, oral health professionals,

health educators, administrators, policy advocates, researchers, MCH program planners, students and private sector professionals. Registration materials are available at www.uic.edu/sph/mch/mch_leadership_conference.htm. Contact Kris Gupta, DrPH with specific questions at (312) 996.2875 or Kygupta@uic.edu.

MCH Resources

DataSpeak! MCH Information Resource Center

DataSpeak is a series of Web conferences that feature special topics related to MCH data, including children with special health care needs. Each event will feature one or more speakers who are considered experts in their field. DataSpeak is conducted by the MCH IRC, which is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Office of Data and Program Development.

In March, DataSpeak will feature an event titled, "Women's Health: Epidemiology, Screening and Prevention of Cervical Cancer." For more information about this or other DataSpeak presentations, visit <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/mchirc/dataspeak/index.htm> or write to mchirc@hsrnet.com.

UCSF's RESOURCE Project

The Public Policy Analysis and Education Center for Middle Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Health (Policy Center) announced the release of the RESOURCE Project. The RESOURCE Project is a user-friendly, educational resource designed to enhance the adolescent health training of public health students in the United States. The project adopts a developmental perspective, viewing adolescent health and well-being as closely intertwined with healthy development and environmental influences. The curriculum is intended for faculty from public health and related disciplines. The 12 units in the curriculum address the following topics:

- adolescent development
- use of data to shape adolescent health policy
- sexuality/teen pregnancy/ sexually transmitted infections
- mental health and suicide
- substance abuse
- violence
- unintentional injuries

- nutrition and physical activity
- youth with special health care needs
- health care services
- school interventions
- community interventions

Each unit offers several easily adapted components, including a sample syllabus, recommended readings, data sources, suggested assignments, case studies, sample presentations and links to other useful resources. The RE-SOURCE Project can be found at <http://policy.ucsf.edu/resources/>. Questions can be directed to the Policy Center at (415) 502-4856 or policycenter@ucsf.edu.

MCH EPI Conference Online Presentation Archive

The 12th Annual MCH EPI Conference online presentation archive is now live and available for viewing. Visit <http://www.cademedia.com/archives/cdc/mchepi2006/index.htm> to access video clips, text transcripts and slide presentations from the plenary and many breakout sessions.

The site is also available through the 'Conferences' section of <http://www.mchcom.com>. Please help us to promote the site by notifying all appropriate audiences and posting to relevant listservs.

Calls

NBDPN Congenital Malformations Surveillance Report Call for Manuscripts

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) has issued a call for manuscripts for its ninth national report on birth defects surveillance and prevention to be published in Birth Defects Research, Part A (BDRA). Manuscripts will be peer-reviewed and approved using BDRA guidelines. The due date for the manuscripts will be Friday, March 16. Additional information can be found at <http://www.nbdpn.org/current/2007callformanuscripts.htm>.

Distance Learning

MPH in MCH at University of Minnesota

The MCH Program at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health is offering a distance learning Master of Public Health (MPH) to MCH professionals. Minnesota's School of Public Health was among the first schools of public health to offer distance-learning opportunities and is considered a technological leader in graduate education distance learning.

The program is designed for working professionals whose goal is to advance to leadership roles in Maternal and Child Health. Specifically, individuals with an advanced degree (e.g., MD, MSW, MSN, MS, PhD, DrPH) and five or more years of work experience in MCH. Individuals without an advanced degree who have eight-10 years of work experience in MCH are also encouraged to apply.

The program will focus on the principles of social justice and concern for vulnerable populations. Graduates of the 42-credit program will develop expertise in evidence-based advocacy, rigorous public health assessment, accessible and appropriate health education and effective and innovative programs that promote the health and well-being of infants, children, youth, families and women.

Using individualized and technologically advanced learning options, training will be delivered through a combination of online courses and short intensive courses offered during a two or three-week Public Health Institute held each spring at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus. Irrespective of residency, all students will be charged in-state tuition.

Application are due Sunday, April 15 (for fall admission) and Saturday, September 15 (for spring admission). Visit the program Web site at <http://www.sph.umn.edu/students/studentservices/applicants/majors/motherandchild/mchmphonline/home.html>, or contact the MCH Online program director, Joan Patterson at (612) 624-1394 or at patterson_j@epi.umn.edu.



National Public Health Week

April 2-8, 2007

**Take The First Step:
Preparedness and Public Health Threats—
Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's
Vulnerable Populations**

Monday: Mothers with Children in the Household

Tuesday: Local Food Banks

Wednesday: Hourly-Wage Workers

Thursday: Schools K-12

Friday: Individuals with Chronic Health Care Needs

For more information on how to become involved, visit:

<http://www.nphw.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

Call for Abstracts - COMING SOON!

General Call for Abstracts Deadline: May 11, 2007

Student/Fellow/Summer Intern Call for Abstracts Deadline: September 7, 2007

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

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

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