



ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

Merle McPherson Leadership Award **For exemplary contributions to further family/professional collaboration** **Within the state Title Program and AMCHP**

Background

Presented for the first time in 2008, this award is developed to honor Dr. Merle McPherson. Dr. McPherson retired from MCHB in January 2007. She has left a legacy of leadership and vision for how to create a new model of family-centered health care delivery for children and youth with special health care needs. She has also led the way to expand the family-centered care model for children with special health care needs internationally.

Dr. McPherson received her medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Preventive Medicine, an honorary fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and served as director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs from 1987-2006.

Criteria

Nominees must meet **all of** the following criteria:

- Candidate is a family representative or family professional¹.
- Candidate's work with AMCHP and the state Title V program has resulted in changes in policy and procedures related to partnerships with families or family organizations.
- Candidate has actively contributed to AMCHP's and the Title V organization's efforts to advance the inclusion of families and increase family involvement at all levels.

What to Submit to AMCHP

- Completed nomination form (click here for form)
- Up to three pages of materials supporting the nomination
- A letter of support from the state Title V MCH/CYSHCN program if the nominee is not the Title V, MCH, or CYSHCN Director delineating the individual's contributions to Title V.

¹ A family representative or family professional is a family member, and includes the broad definition of parents, youth and/or extended family, who are immediately involved in the day-to-day life of the family, which participates in a voluntary, advisory or paid capacity within a Title V (MCH or CYSHCN) program.

The selection committee will only review materials submitted in the application and will not be able to conduct their own research, of the nominee's background and bring in a reviewer's outside knowledge of the candidate's qualifications. Therefore we ask that all materials be complete and provide a summary of the candidates qualifications. We ask that no more than three pages of material be submitted in addition to the nomination form and the letter of support if required.

Materials should demonstrate how the individual has significantly contributed to increasing family involvement in a state MCH/CYSHCN program and AMCHP. Materials should also show how the individual encouraged procedure or policy change to promote greater family involvement within their state Title V Program and AMCHP. The candidate does not have to be an AMCHP member.

Award Benefits

If the awardee's agency will not cover travel to attend the AMCHP Conference and accept the award in person, AMCHP will provide:

- Round trip travel expenses, including hotel stays and ground transportation
- Full conference registration
- Incidental expenses in accordance with AMCHP's Travel Reimbursement policy

Selection Process

Nominations must be made by AMCHP members and should be submitted to the co-chairs of the Family & Youth Leadership Committee by October 31. A subcommittee made up of two representatives from the Board of Directors and two representatives from the FYLC will review the nominations and make recommendations to the AMCHP president for approval. This award is not routinely awarded annually.

Plaque Inscription

Presented (enter date of presentation) to (enter full name) for exemplary contributions to advance family-professional collaboration within the state Title V program and AMCHP.

Notification

The AMCHP CEO will inform the recipient by letter.

Past Awardees

2012 Rodney Farley, Arkansas
2011 All Family Leaders
2010 Susan Colburn, Alabama
2009 Ruth Walden, New York
2008 Robert Cook, Illinois

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