The Maternal & Child Health Bureau’s (MCHB) Division of MCH Workforce Development (DMCHWD) has established an ongoing vehicle for working collaboratively with trainees of the MCH Training Program through the Trainee Ambassador Group (TAG).

Overview
The goal of the TAG is to foster connections between trainees across the MCH Training Program, provide trainees with leadership development opportunities, and strengthen the link between trainees and MCHB. Through the TAG, MCHB is:

- Strengthening the link between trainees and MCHB
- Increasing awareness about the importance of utilizing and engaging trainees
- Increasing current trainee awareness/knowledge about the full range of training programs
- Improving communication and collaboration among trainees within and across training programs
- Facilitating connections between current and former trainees
- Providing trainees with additional leadership development opportunities

The TAG will meet virtually every month, for 12 months, beginning with a kick off meeting in January 2018. The TAG provides trainees with the opportunity to conceptualize, develop, and lead efforts to facilitate interdisciplinary trainee connections via activities such as a mentoring program, trainee forums, and collaborative research projects.

At the conclusion of the 12-month commitment, committee members will receive a small honorarium that will be based on their monthly participation, which is anticipated to be 2-4 hours per month.

In 2016, the TAG began development of a mentoring initiative for MCH trainees that is now being launched under the leadership of the 2017 cohort. The 2018 TAG cohort will support continued implementation of the mentoring initiative and have the opportunity to shape a new phase of the TAG. The next cohort will design and implement a trainee connections needs assessment and serve as the steering committee for a broader trainee led initiative aimed at engaging trainees at all MCH Training Programs.

Eligibility
The TAG will be composed of trainee representatives from a range of the DMCHWD’s graduate and undergraduate education programs including:

- Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH)
- Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)
- MCH Nutrition
- MCH Pipeline
- Pediatric Pulmonary Centers (PPC)
- Centers of Excellence in MCH (CoE)
- Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP)
- MCH Public Health Catalyst

Applicants should demonstrate strong communication, cultural competency, and leadership skills as well as experience with mentoring (as a mentee or mentor), and organizing activities or programs.

Trainees that have graduated within the last 5 years are also encouraged to apply.

A 12-month commitment is required for all TAG members.

Application
Interested trainees must submit the following by 11:59 PM Eastern on October 15, 2017:

- Application form
- Recommendation form
- Professional Resume

The TAG membership application can be accessed at: https://mchb.hrsa.gov/training/tr_ambassadors.asp

Applicants will be notified by December 2017 and kickoff activities will begin in January 2018.

Contact
Please contact Julia Fantacone if you have questions or need further information: mch-trc@altarum.org.