AMCHP Hill Day Recap and Next Steps
Thank you to everyone who participated in our Hill Day and Congressional Reception in conjunction with the AMCHP annual conference! We were honored to be joined by five senators and representatives, most notably our honorees Sens. Grassley (R-IA) and Menendez (D-NJ). We’ve gotten some great feedback and welcome your suggestions on how we can improve our Hill days in the future. If you haven’t done so already, please let AMCHP staff know how your meetings went by contacting Brent Ewig at bewig@amchp.org and make sure to follow up with any congressional staff with whom you met to thank them and provide any information they requested.

President’s FY 2016 Budget Released
On Feb. 2, Pres. Obama released his FY 2016 budget. In case you missed it, here is the AMCHP legislative alert highlighting some key programs including a proposal to level fund the Title V MCH Services Block Grant at $637 million. The next step is for Congress to release its own budget resolution and subsequent appropriations bills, though that process is likely to take several months. In the meantime, AMCHP will begin a series of staff meetings sharing our request of $639 million for Title V with key Appropriations Committee members and other potential MCH champions. Stay tuned for future alerts on how you can make sure your voice is part of this process.

ACE Kids Act Reintroduced
The Advancing Care for Exceptional (ACE) Kids Act of 2015 (HR 546/S 298) was reintroduced in late January in both the House and the Senate. This legislation aims to improve care coordination for children with medical complexity on Medicaid by creating coordinated care networks across state lines anchored in children’s hospitals. The bill also proposes a new risk-based payment method to be managed by the networks that would align reimbursements with best outcomes. AMCHP is working with the proponents of the bill to better understand its implications and to address some concerns that have previously been raised by our members. Moving forward, we plan to offer opportunities to learn more about this legislation and welcome further input from you.

Health Reform Implementation
Open Enrollment
According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 9.5 million consumers are signed up for health insurance through the Marketplace. Continue being a champion for open enrollment! Open enrollment runs through Feb. 15. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has developed a research-based, consumer-focused website to help direct individuals and families to health care coverage options. The website can be accessed here and shared among networks. AMCHP also has an open enrollment fact sheet for MCH leaders. This resource includes suggested steps for MCH leaders during the open enrollment period. In addition, HHS has developed several resources for specific MCH populations including women, pregnant women, children, and young adults.
2014 Annual Report on the Quality of Care for Children in Medicaid and CHIP

HHS released their annual report exploring several domains and activities in efforts of achieving a high quality system of care for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health insurance Program (CHIP). The 2014 Secretary’s Report presents information on key activities CMS undertook to provide an update on the quality of care children receive in Medicaid/CHIP, including reviewing findings on the Child Core Set and summarizing information on managed care quality measurement and improvement efforts reported in the External Quality Review (EQR) technical reports.

Breastfeeding Support

Dr. Nancy Lee, Director at the Office of Women’s Health, wrote a helpful blog post on tips to support nursing moms and introduced a new website on breastfeeding and employer solutions. This website has lots of helpful information and resources. The ACA requires many employers to provide reasonable break time and a private (non-bathroom) space for nursing mothers to express breast milk during the workday for up to one year after the child’s birth and requires qualified health insurance plans to cover breastfeeding pump rental or purchase at low to no-cost sharing. AMCHP developed an issue brief highlighting state opportunities and strategies for breastfeeding promotion through the ACA.

New Reports on Loss of CHIP Coverage


Indiana Medicaid Expansion

Indiana has joined 27 states and the District of Columbia in expanding Medicaid under the ACA. The expansion could bring coverage to approximately 350,000 uninsured individuals in the state. Enrollment began immediately after federal approval of the expansion plan for coverage beginning Feb. 1. The approved plan includes two levels of plans for the newly eligible population, both include some premium cost to the insured, the minimum is one dollar. Additionally, there are consequences for those who miss premium payments: for those above 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) there is a six month lock out period and for those below 100 percent FPL, there may be a demotion in plan benefits such as loss of vision or dental services.

Looking for Continuing Education Credits from AMCHP 2015?

Continuing education for this conference is only available through the CDC Training and Continuing Education Online system. Click here to learn more or apply for CDC credits.

GET INVOLVED

AMCHP 2015 Presentations and Recordings Now Available

Thank you to all who joined us in Washington, DC for another exciting and informative AMCHP Annual Conference. To access presentations and handouts from session, click here (use the event code amchp). All presentations that were submitted are loaded in the session descriptions. To access recordings of select AMCHP 2015 sessions, click here.

Upcoming Obesity/Overweight and Preconception Health Webinar

AMCHP is partnering with the National Preconception Health and Health Care Initiative and the National Association of Chronic Disease directors to present a webinar entitled Obesity/Overweight and Preconception Health Part 2: Resources and Strategies for Change on Feb. 18, from 1-2:30 p.m. EST. The purpose of this webinar is to focus attention on the impact of obesity on the health of young women and men and any future children they may have as well as to share ideas and strategies for addressing this public health crisis between maternal and child health and chronic disease partners. To register for this webinar, click here. To view part 1 of this webinar series, click here.
If you have trouble registering or signing in, contact Megan Phillippi at mphillippi@amchp.org. If you have any other questions, please contact Sarah Verbiest at 919-843-7865 or sarahv@med.unc.edu.

National MCH Workforce Development Center Coffee Talk Series

This series will be hosted by the National MCH Workforce Development Center Change Management core on three pertinent topics benefiting the Title V workforce. The series will consist of three archived 20-minute videos for AMCHP members to access bi-monthly at their leisure. For the alternating months, AMCHP will host a Twitter chat on the content shared during the preceding month’s archived video. The topics and identified speakers for each video/Twitter chat are outlined below. Click here to learn more about each talk and to register!

Coffee Talk 1: Title V Transformation
Presenter: Lacy Fehrenbach, MPH, CPH, Director, Programs, AMCHP
Video Release: Feb. 26
Twitter Chat: Mar. 26 3-4 p.m. EST

Coffee Talk 2: Getting to the Table
Presenter: Sharron Corle, MS, Associate Director, MCH Leadership Development & Capacity Building, AMCHP
Video Release: Apr. 1
Twitter Chat: May 13 2-3 p.m. EST

Coffee Talk 3: Leading Change
Presenter: Karen Trierweiler, Director of Programs & Services, Prevention Services, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Video Release: Jun. 1
Twitter Chat: Jul. 22 2-3 p.m. EST

Coffee Talk 4: Managing Change
Presenter: Brenda Jones, DHSc, RN, MSN, WHNP-BC, Deputy Director, Office of Women’s Health, Illinois Department of Human Services
Video Release: Aug. 1
Twitter Chat: Sept. 9 1-2 p.m. EST

Now Available: Application to Participate in the National MCH Workforce Development Center’s Cohort 2 Training

The National MCH Workforce Development Center offers a range of trainings, tools and resources to strengthen MCH workforce capacity to lead through health transformation. The Center offers training in four key areas: access to care, quality improvement, systems integration and change management. State/territory Title V agencies/MCH programs and their partners will have the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and tools in the four key areas and apply them to a current health transformation project of interest. Cohort 2 participants should plan to be actively engaged with the Center from April through December 2015. All applications must be received by Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. EST. Applications are available via the AMCHP website and the Center website.

Call for Applications: Training Course in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), CDC and CityMatCH are offering a Training Course in MCH Epidemiology on Jun. 1-5 in Baltimore, MD, as part of their ongoing effort to enhance the analytic capacity of state and local health agencies. The training course is an intensive program, combining lectures, discussion, hands-on exercises and opportunities for individualized technical assistance. Content for the 2015 course will include: needs assessment; target setting for performance measurement; program evaluation; statistical and epidemiologic methods: from descriptive statistics to multivariable modeling; and presenting data: linking high quality analysis to reporting. A brief series of webinars prior to the training will set the stage for the onsite training. This national program is aimed primarily at professionals in state and local health agencies who have significant responsibility for collecting, processing, analyzing and reporting MCH data. This year, the course is geared to individuals with basic to intermediate skills in statistical and epidemiologic methods, preferably in MCH or a related field. The deadline for applications is Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. PST. To learn more and apply, click here.
Leveraging Public Health & Primary Care Collaborations to Promote Flu Immunizations in Pregnant Women

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is convening a webinar Feb. 18, from 3-4 p.m. EST to share best practices and useful resources for state health department and healthcare provider partnerships to promote flu immunizations in pregnant women. Objectives for the webinar include the following:

- Describe potential barriers to immunization in pregnant women and identify effective communication and responses
- Provide states with best practices for their partnership with obstetric providers
- Highlight the benefits of public health partnerships with midwives
- Describe benefit of including Offices of Health Equity/Minority Health in promoting vaccination among women in minority communities

Presentations will be made by representatives from the American College of Nurse-Midwives, practicing nurse midwives, Washington State Department of Health Immunization and Office of Healthy Communities staff, and former Massachusetts Department of Public Health Interim Commissioner. To register for this webinar, click here.

New Webinar on Building Support for an Equal Opportunity Childhood

Health Equity and Well-Being from the Start: Building Support for an Equal Opportunity Childhood, will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 2-3:30 p.m. EST. The webinar will begin with the introduction of a framework that can be used to explore the relationships between social and economic contexts and inequitable health outcomes. Examples of how two public health departments are addressing health inequities in their states will then be shared. To register, please click here.

Upcoming Webinar on Integrating Community Health Workers

Staterefor(u)m under the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is hosting a webinar on Feb. 23 at 1:30 p.m. EST entitled Integrating Community Health Worker Models into Evolving State Health Care Systems. As states transform their health systems many are turning to community health workers (CHWs) to tackle some of the most challenging aspects of health improvement, such as facilitating care coordination, enhancing access to community-based services, and addressing social determinants of health. As interest in CHWs continues to rise, so do challenges related to defining roles and scope of practice, training and certification, financing, and integrating CHWs into evolving health care systems. This webinar will describe the federal government investment in CHWs to set the context and feature speakers from state agencies in Massachusetts, New Mexico and South Carolina who will shed light on how each state is addressing these important issues. To register, click here.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

General Maternal & Child Health

AMCHP Guide for Senior Managers Now Available!

The guide is organized into chapters dedicated to the “big picture,” or the theoretical framework on maternal and child health in Title V programs as well as information on the day-to-day operational aspects of Title V programs. Many new Title V (MCH and CYSHCN) directors refer to this resource as their “go to” document for their first six months on the job. This “go to” guide has recently been revised and includes four new chapters on the following topics:

- ACA Impact on Title V
- Family/Consumer Engagement
- Data Sources and Techniques
Needs Assessment Trainings Archives Now Available!
Did you miss one of the AMCHP Title V five year needs assessment trainings? If so, don’t worry, all archives and resources are available on the AMCHP website. Please look for our fourth training in the series coming in March around selecting state priorities. To assist states or jurisdictions in preparing their assessments AMCHP designed a series of virtual trainings to provide guidance on the needs assessment process. Below you can find an overview of the first three trainings.

- The first training in the series, Title V Five Year Needs Assessment Training, provided an overview of the needs assessment process with a state-in-action example from Massachusetts where the maternal and child health team shared their strategies, resources and lessons learned from conducting the five-year needs assessment process.
- The second training, The Nuts and Bolts on Using Data, provided an overview on using data in the needs assessment process, with states-in-action profiles from Rhode Island and Alaska, who shared their data strategies, resources and lessons learned from conducting the five-year needs assessment process.
- The third training on stakeholder engagement provided strategies on how to orient stakeholders with start and end goals. The webinar also provided state-in-action examples from Oregon, Wisconsin and Wyoming about their strategies for stakeholder engagements, such as how to engage your local nonprofit hospitals and use its community health assessment to contribute to the needs assessment process that is now mandated by the ACA.

To access these resources, click here.

New MCH Navigator Self-Assessment Tool
The MCH Navigator has developed a new online self-assessment tool to support the Title V workforce in the states and the MCH community broadly. This new tool help identify your strengths and learning needs in the 12 MCH Leadership Competencies, matches your learning needs to appropriate trainings, and provides a customized learning plan to track your progress over time and guide you, your staff, and/or department in professional development activities. Get started and map your learning pathway today! Click here to access the tool.

AMCHP is seeking submissions of emerging, promising and best practices in maternal and child health from all states and territories on child health. Do you have a program that fits?

You’ll have a chance to:
- Share successes with your peers
- Enhance the MCH field
- Contribute to program replication
- Get expert feedback from the Review Panel
- Receive national recognition

The online submission process is simple and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. For more information, contact Ki’Yonna Jones at (202) 266-3049 or visit amchp.org/bestpractices.

You can also click here to refer an innovative MCH program that we should know about!

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Building Your Medical Home: An Introduction to Pediatric Primary Care Transformation

The National Center for Medical Home Implementation presents a new resource that provides direction, resources, and tools to pediatric medical home clinicians and practices seeking to advance their knowledge and understanding of the medical home concept as it relates to practice transformation. The resource provides resources and strategies for starting medical home transformation, integrating key functions of a medical home into practice, and sustaining changes. Click here to view this new resource.

Women's & Infant Health

New CDC Resource on the Impact of Disasters on Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Infants

To promote consistency in the study of the impact of natural and manmade disasters on pregnant and postpartum women and infants, the CDC Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) Emergency Preparedness and Response Program recently released a list of common post-disaster epidemiologic indicators. The publication: Zotti, M.E., Williams, A.M., & Wako, E. (2014). Post-Disaster Health Indicators for Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Infants. *Maternal and Child Health Journal, 18*(10). DOI: 10.1007/s10995-014-1643-4 describes the development process and the final proposed Post-Disaster Indicators. The indicators’ intended use is to guide assessment and surveillance and affect public health interventions to disaster-affected pregnant and postpartum women and infants. To access the publication and learn more about the proposed set of indicators and suggested questions for measuring them, click here.

ON YOUR BEHALF

- On Feb. 3, AMCHP staff Andria Cornell presented opportunities for clinical and public health partnerships to improve maternal health outcomes at the “Putting the M Back in Maternal-Fetal Medicine” special session hosted in conjunction with the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Annual Meeting. Among the presentations provided, panel members described opportunities to advance review of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity and sustain maternal quality collaboratives (with examples from California, North Carolina, and Illinois). Ms. Cornell’s comments focused on raising awareness of the Title V MCH Services Block Grant and the spirit of its recent transformation, as well as key findings and insights from the AMCHP Every Mother Initiative and the maternal health compendium currently under development.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

AMCHP Seeks Analyst for Adolescent Health

The analyst for adolescent health, child and adolescent health (CAH) is a member of the program team and contributes to the advancement of maternal and child health outcomes by performing a variety of planning and program implementation, research and evaluation projects related to the Adolescent and Young Adult Health National Resource Center (AYAH-NRC). General responsibilities include contributing to the development, implementation and evaluation of program activities related to advancing the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults (ages 10-24), collaboration with AYAH-NRC partners, AMCHP members and staff; serving as a liaison to federal project officers; and project promotion. This position reports to the senior program manager for adolescent health, child and adolescent health. To learn more, click here.

AMCHP CAREER CENTER

The Career Center is the premiere online job board for individuals seeking employment in MCH programs. Whether you are looking for an entry-level position or are a more seasoned professional looking for new opportunities, AMCHP’s Career Center has great openings for great people! Searching our database is free and open to all job-seekers. AMCHP members receive a discount on job-postings - so sign up today!
AMCHP Accepting Applications for Program Associate, Women’s and Infant Health
The program associate, women’s and infant health (WIH) is a member of the program team and contributes to the advancement of MCH programs by performing a variety of planning and program implementation, research and evaluation projects. This position supports and assists the WIH team in the development, implementation and evaluation of program activities related to MCH and women’s and infant health. This position also contributes to the collection of state best practices (Innovation Station), newsletter development, and implementation of communication strategies (MS SharePoint, listserv, social media). This position reports to the associate director, women’s and infant health. To learn more, click here.

Kansas Department of Health & Environment Seeks Advanced Epidemiologist
This position serves as team leader in assessment and monitoring of maternal and child health issues to identify and address problems and for priority setting, planning and policy development particularly for the Medicaid population. Develops frameworks, methodologies, and tools for standardized MCH data. Implements population-specific accountability for MCH components of data systems. Leads the development and conduct of epidemiological studies for program planning or to address important and practical MCH public health problems. To learn more, click here.

HRSA Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program (NAT)
Deadline: Feb. 26
The purpose of the NAT Program is to provide traineeship support for licensed registered nurses enrolled as full-time students in an anesthesia program. Traineeships will pay full or partial costs of the tuition, fees, books/e-Books and the reasonable living expenses of the individual trainee during the period for which the traineeship is provided. NAT funds are awarded to institutions. Complete applications will be submitted via Grants.gov. Applicants must provide a brief Work Plan in the Project Narrative. NAT grantees will be required to complete and submit a Final Report at the end of the grant. For more information, click here.

MCHB Children’s Safety Network Program
Deadline: Mar. 2
The purpose of this cooperative agreement program is to reduce fatal and serious injuries among infants, children and youth by 100,000 over the next three years by increasing the adoption of effective child safety interventions at the national, state and local levels. The Children’s Safety Network Program objectives/goals will be advanced through three primary components of activity: a National Coordinated Child Safety Initiative, Child Safety Collaboration Innovation and Improvement Network (CoIIN) Activities and Child Safety Promotion Capacity Building. To learn more, click here.

NIH Patient Safety in the Context of Perinatal, Neonatal and Pediatric Care
Deadlines: Mar. 5 (R01) and Mar. 16 (R21, R03)
A wide range of collaborative research projects related to patient safety in the context of perinatal, neonatal and pediatric care both in routine hospital settings and in the intensive care units related to: The epidemiology of various domains of medical errors and consequent patient harm; Assessing the factors at various levels that contribute to such errors; and Intervention strategies at individual, systems, and institutional levels to help reduce and eliminate medical errors is encouraged. Available funding includes Research Project (R01), Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant (R21), and Small Grant Program (R03).

NIH Pregnancy in Women with Disabilities
Deadline: Mar. 5 (R01) and Mar. 16 (R21)
Grant applications should propose to investigate the incidence, course, and outcomes of pregnancy among women with disabilities. Areas of interest also include studies to inform counseling and strategies for addressing barriers to prenatal care, and management of pregnancy, the puerperium, and the transition to parenthood in order to optimize outcomes for women with physical, intellectual and developmental, and/or sensory disabilities and their families. Letters of intent are due 30 days before application due dates. Available funding includes Research Project (R01) and Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant (R21).
NIH Initiative to Maximize Research Education in Genomics Diversity Action Plan
Deadline: Sept. 6, 2016
NIH present this funding opportunity to facilitate the training of individuals at all careers levels (the undergraduate, graduate, post baccalaureate, postdoctoral and faculty levels) from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in scientific disciplines relevant to genomics to enable them to pursue genomics research that spans all areas of interest to National Human Genome Research Institute later in their careers. To learn more, click here.

Exploratory and Developmental Grant to Improve Health Care Quality through Health IT
Deadline: Nov. 16, 2016
The purpose of this grant is to fund exploratory and developmental research grants that will contribute to the evidence base of how health information technology (IT) improves health care quality. This funding opportunity supports the use of a wide variety of research designs in order to generate information regarding the design and development, implementation, use, or impact of health IT on quality. For more information, click here.

NIH Studies in Neonatal and Pediatric Resuscitation
Deadlines: Mar. 5 (R01) and Mar. 16 (R21, R03)
Grant applications should propose to stimulate research on a wide range of topics related to neonatal and pediatric resuscitation. It is anticipated that the results from well-conducted studies will enable translation of knowledge into evidence-based resuscitation practices ensuring optimal short- and long-term outcomes for all newborn infants and children. Letters of intent are due 30 days before application due dates. Available funding includes Research Project (R01), Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant (R21), and Small Grant Program (R03).

CDC Research Grants for Preventing Violence and Violence Related Injury
Deadline: Mar. 16
The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is soliciting investigator-initiated research that will help expand and advance knowledge in three areas: 1) how best to disseminate, implement, and translate evidence-based primary prevention strategies, programs, and policies designed to reduce youth violence; 2) what works to prevent violence by rigorously evaluating primary prevention strategies, programs, and policies; and 3) research to determine ways to effectively prevent serious and lethal interpersonal or self-directed violence. For more information, click here.

MCH Events

2015 Preparedness Summit
Apr. 14-17, 2015
Atlanta, GA

Society for Public Health Education 66th Annual Meeting
Apr. 23-25, 2015
Portland, OR

Malaria in Pregnancy
Apr. 24
Baltimore, MD

CALENDAR
The Safe States Alliance 2015 Annual Meeting  
Apr. 29-May 1, 2015  
Atlanta, GA

National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference  
May 12-14, 2015  
New Orleans, LA

31st Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity  
May 18-19, 2015  
Honolulu, HI

8th Biennial Childhood Obesity Conference  
San Diego, CA

NACCHO Annual 2015  
Jul. 7-9  
Kansas City, MO

2015 CityMatCH Annual Urban MCH Leadership Conference  
Sept. 27-30  
Salt Lake City, UT

2015 ASTHO Annual Meeting  
Sept. 29-Oct. 1  
Salt Lake City, UT

AAP National Conference and Exhibition  
Oct. 24-27  
Washington, DC

2015 APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition  
Oct. 31-Nov. 4  
Chicago, IL

List Your Event on the AMCHP MCH Events Calendar

Do you want to include your listing on the AMCHP MCH Events Calendar? It’s easy! Just complete our easy online submission form. You are welcome to submit MCH conferences, webinars, trainings, webcasts and meetings. Thanks for helping us to build our MCH Events Calendar! If you have any questions, please contact Julio Arguello Jr., Online Media & Information Technology Manager. Please note: All event listings are subject to AMCHP approval.