

# Member Briefs



Mar. 24, 2014



THE ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS



## AMCHP Welcomes Lori Tremmel Freeman

On Mar. 17, AMCHP welcomed new CEO Lori Freeman. As many of you know, Lori joins AMCHP from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), where she served as the associate executive director for administration and advancement. We are thrilled to have her here and know you will be too! To learn more about Lori, view the AMCHP press release [here](#).

## LEGISLATIVE & POLICY CORNER



### Pivotal Week Ahead for Home Visiting Program Reauthorization

As of press time, reports are that Congress has not found agreement on a permanent fix for the flawed Medicare payment formula due to the cost (\$138 billion over 10 years). Our understanding is they are currently negotiating another temporary 'doc fix' extension that will likely be brought up for a vote late this week. Our coalition is advocating that a temporary Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) extension be included in that bill which would provide level funding into next year and allow the opportunity to consider a longer extension at that time. If for some reason a MIECHV extension is not considered this week, our coalition will of course be exploring all other avenues to extend the program. We appreciate your kind words of support and encouragement, and will keep you posted as this unfolds.

### AMCHP Welcomes Amy Haddad as the New Associate Director for Government Affairs

On Mar. 17 Amy Haddad started as the new AMCHP Associate Director for Government Affairs. Amy most recently served as the Director of Public Policy for Children's Cause for Childhood Cancer and brings over seven years of Capitol Hill experience, including six years as Legislative Assistant to Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA). Rep. Capps is consistently rated as one of the strongest champions for maternal and child health in the Congress, and sits on the House Energy and Commerce

Committee which has jurisdiction over Title V MCH programs. Amy's excellent work for Ms. Capps was widely recognized and honored, so we are thrilled she has agreed to join our team. Amy also worked two years for the Telos Group in Tel Aviv, Israel. She holds a BA from Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Amy will be leading our work to advocate for Title V appropriations; supporting the priorities on our policy agenda; representing AMCHP in various policy coalitions; and helping support our Legislative and Health Care Finance Committee. She can be reached at 202-775-0436 or [ahaddad@amchp.org](mailto:ahaddad@amchp.org).

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## Health Reform Implementation

### CMS Releases Smorgasbord Proposed Rule

Friday, Mar. 14, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a proposed rule entitled: "[Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Exchange and Insurance Market Standards](#)." The rule touches on many aspects of the ACA but what many are focusing on is the section that provides more information on navigator and assistance personnel functions, specifically state licensing of navigators. The proposed rule provides clarification as to what states can and cannot do in restricting activities of navigators, non-navigator assistants, and certified application counselors. For more information on the entire rule, the [Health Affairs Blog](#) provides an overview.

## GET INVOLVED



### SAVE THE DATE: MCH

#### Workforce Development Center Virtual Launch – Monday, Mar. 31, 2014

Did you miss the launch of the Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development Center in January? In September 2013, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Division of MCH Workforce



### AMCHP is Marching For Babies

On Saturday, May 3, AMCHP staff will participate in the 2014 March for Babies in Washington, DC to support the March of Dimes in improving the health of babies. [Click here](#) to support our team AMCHP Steps for Babies!

Development awarded the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health \$5.5 million to support a National Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development Center (the Center). The Center was officially launched with a one-day event at AMCHP 2014 Annual Conference. In case you missed it or were unable to attend, AMCHP is pleased to partner with the University of North Carolina to host a virtual launch of the Center on **Monday, Mar. 31 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST**. Save the date to join us to learn more about the Center, key partners, and significant training and technical assistance opportunities for Title V staff in four core areas related to implementing health reform: access to care, quality improvement, systems integration and population health management. To learn more about the Center click [here](#). Click [here](#) to complete a registration form for your state or territory. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Jessica Teel](#), program manager of workforce and leadership development at AMCHP. We hope to see you virtually!

### Adolescent Health in Title V: Findings from an Environmental Scan

AMCHP recently completed an Environmental Scan of Adolescent Health activities in Title V programs. Join us for a webinar on **Apr. 14 from 3-4 p.m. EST**. The presentation will include an overview of key findings and trends in adolescent health programs as reflected in activities reported by states in their block grant narratives. This includes activities reported under all state performance measures related to adolescent health and three national performance measures: NPM 6, NPM 8 and NPM 16. In addition to an overview of trends, the webinar will include a discussion with state AH program staff and snapshots of state AH program activities. Please join us to get both a birds-eye view and an up-close perspective on adolescent health under Title V! To join the webinar, [click here](#).

### New 2014-2016 Learn the Signs. Act Early. State Systems Grantees Announced

Congratulations to the 2014-2016 *Learn the Signs. Act Early*. State Systems Grantees: Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. Over the next two years these states will work on implementing innovative initiatives to strengthen their state and community systems for early identification and intervention for children with signs of autism

## GET INVOLVED CONT.

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spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched the *Learn the Signs. Act Early.* program in 2004 to provide educational information to parents, health care professionals and early care and education providers about the importance of early identification and intervention for children with signs of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities (ASD/DD). AMCHP in conjunction with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, NCBDDD, and MCHB seek to maintain and build upon the momentum from the collaborative state team work to carry out action steps within their state plans. Funding for this project has been provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. For more information on the Act Early Systems Grants, [click here](#).

## PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



### **General Maternal & Child Health**

#### **2014 Health Insurance Marketplace Outreach**

MCHB is asking MCH leaders to help families enroll in health coverage through the Marketplace this year. As you know, Mar. 31 is the last day for uninsured Americans to enroll in a health insurance coverage that would take effect in 2014. The next opportunity to enroll doesn't begin until Nov. 15, 2014. There are many easy ways for you to engage in this historic effort. Numerous resources tailored to providers and health professionals to use as you educate your patients and communities about health coverage are available at [marketplace.cms.gov](#). Resources that may be particularly helpful to your patients and community members include: [Marketplace Application Checklist](#), [Using Your Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage](#), [10 Things Providers Need to Know about the Health Insurance Marketplace](#), [The ACA and HRSA Programs, with information and a toolkit for safety net providers](#). Approximately four million people have now signed up for a private health insurance plan through the Marketplace, in no small part thanks to the critical role you play each day by educating your

## PUBLICATIONS CONT.

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communities about the importance of health coverage and new coverage options available through Healthcare.gov.

### **The Division of MCH Workforce Development (DMCHWD) Launches New Website**

With the redesign of the [DMCHWD website](#), the goal was to update the content, make it easier to navigate, and expand information available for the Trainees, Funded programs, and the practicing MCH workforce. Some exciting new features include:

- [Grantee 101](#)
- Additional resources for the [practicing MCH workforce](#)
- [Trainee 101](#)
- Updated section on [reporting requirements](#)
- A new resource page for [Healthy Tomorrows](#)

In conjunction with the launch of the new site, DMCHWD also released its strategic plan. The DMCHWD Strategic Plan 2012-2020 includes goals, strategies, activities and performance measures to support the efforts to ensure that all children, youth, and families will live and thrive in healthy communities served by a quality workforce that helps ensure their health and well-being. [Learn more about the plan – including current investments and core values.](#)

### **Child & Adolescent Health**

#### **AMCHP Releases National Standards for Improving Quality Systems of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs**

Creating a comprehensive, quality system of care for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) has been one of the most challenging areas for many state health leaders. The Affordable Care Act has further heightened this need as states are extending coverage to millions of uninsured children and adults, designing essential health benefits, and implementing new provisions to achieve the "Triple Aim" of improving the patient experience of care, improving the health of populations, and reducing health care costs. AMCHP, with support from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, has just released a groundbreaking



## PUBLICATIONS CONT.

set of standards designed to help communities, states, and the nation build and improve systems of care for CYSHCN. The standards are designed for use by a range of stakeholders including state Medicaid agencies and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs, state Title V programs, health plans, children's hospitals, families/consumers and provider groups. The standards address the core components of the structure and process of an effective system of care for CYSHCN. This set of standards represents one of the first efforts of its kind to comprehensively and systematically collect and categorize structure and process standards that affect CYSHCN and their families. To view a background white paper about the development of the standards and the full set of standards, [click here](#).

### Unhealthy Weight among Adolescents with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities

*Maternal and Child Health Journal* has published a new NCBDDD study that focuses on unhealthy weight among adolescents with developmental disabilities: "[Prevalence and impact of unhealthy weight in a national sample of U.S. adolescents with autism and other learning and behavioral disabilities.](#)" Researchers from CDC and the Health Resources and Services Administration found that obesity is high among adolescents with learning and behavioral developmental disabilities and highest among children with autism compared to adolescents without these conditions. [A previous study of the same population](#) reported that children and adolescents with learning and behavioral disabilities face an increased risk for many common health conditions. The current study also assessed the health consequences of obesity and showed that obesity increases the chances that these already at-risk adolescents will experience health conditions such as asthma, eczema, and migraine headaches. Currently, there are no specific recommendations for preventing obesity among children or adolescents with developmental disabilities. Obesity prevention and management approaches for this at-risk group need further consideration. [Click here](#) to read a summary of the key findings. You can read the article abstract [here](#).



## ON YOUR BEHALF

- On Mar. 11-12, AMCHP staff Erin Bonzon and Andria Cornell participated in the Region II & III regional forum for MIECHV and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grantees. The meeting featured leadership training and applied activities, peer-to-peer sharing through state presentations and breakout groups, and presentations on strategies to align efforts between MIECHV and ECCS programs. AMCHP staff participated as a member of the MIECHV Technical Assistance Coordinating Center and learned from states of the role of Title V in the design and implementation of early childhood systems.
- On Mar. 11, AMCHP hosted the March of Dimes Prematurity Partners Steering Committee quarterly meeting. Lacy Fehrenbach, director of programs, presented on AMCHP's recently released Breastfeeding and Early Elective Deliveries Issues Briefs and AMCHP's role in informing MCH 3.0. The Steering Committee discussed the March of Dimes Annual Report; recent joint guidelines issues by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine that allow women to labor longer to help avoid cesarean sections; opportunities to reach out to states,



**AMCHP is seeking submissions of emerging, promising and best practices in maternal and child health from all states and territories on all MCH topics.**

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 [Kate Taft](#) at (202) 266-3056 or visit [amchp.org/bestpractices](http://amchp.org/bestpractices).

You can also [click here](#) to refer an innovative MCH program that we should know about!

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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particularly in the southeast that have not yet hit their target for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Healthy Babies President's Challenge; and the national roll-out of CoIIN.

- On Mar. 12, AMCHP staff Megan Phillippi attend a briefing on Capitol Hill hosted by the March of Dimes on the cost of premature birth to businesses and steps employers can take to promote healthy pregnancies and babies. Speakers discussed the disparity of costs between uncomplicated term births and pre-term births as well as the benefits of utilizing the free [Healthy Babies, Healthy Business](#) program to open dialogue around women's health before, during, and after pregnancy and to reduce instances of premature birth and health care costs.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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### **AMCHP Opens Search for Senior Program Manager, Women's Health**

The Senior Program Manager for Women's Health 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 women's health generally, and specifically maternal and birth outcomes. General responsibilities include contributing to the development, implementation and evaluation of program activities related to women's health needs—specifically the planning and implementation of a collaborative learning network across state maternal mortality review committee programs, collaboration with national partners on additional maternal health initiatives and staff AMCHP's support for the National Maternal Health Initiative; serving as a liaison to project funders; and overall project promotion which includes development of written promotional materials and delivery of oral presentations. This position reports to the Associate Director, Women's and Infant Health. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **AMCHP Accepting Applications for Program Manager, Workforce Development and Capacity Building**

The Program Manager for Workforce Development and Capacity Building is a member of the Program Team and

## CAREERS CONT.

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supports the advancement of maternal and child health (MCH) programs by contributing to major issues surrounding workforce and capacity building for AMCHP members. The work involves contributing to the development, implementation, support and evaluation of activities as part of the National MCH Workforce Development Center (the Center), collaboration with collaboration with staff and partners of the Center, as well as performing a variety of planning and program implementation, research, and evaluation projects related to capacity building, including the AMCHP Best Practices Innovation Station and Replication Initiatives, partnership with fellow staff, participation in associated professional organizations and groups, and collaboration with member programs and funding agencies. This position reports to the Associate Director, MCH Leadership Development and Capacity Building. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **AMCHP Seeks Program Manager for Data & Assessment, Women's and Infant Health Team**

The Women's and Infant Health team at AMCHP is currently accepting applications for program manager for data & assessment. This position 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 women's and infant health and maternal and child health/data and assessment. General responsibilities include contributing to the development, implementation and evaluation of program activities related to women's and infant health, collaboration with advisory committee members, AMCHP members and staff; serving as a liaison to federal project officers; and project promotion. This position reports to the senior epidemiologist. For more information and to apply, [click here](#).

### **AMCHP CAREER CENTER**

The Career Center is the premiere online job board for individuals seeking employment in Maternal and Child Health 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!



## Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health

Deadline: *Mar. 31*

This announcement solicits applications for the Healthy Start Initiative: Eliminating Disparities in Perinatal Health program. The Healthy Start (HS) program aims to reduce disparities in infant mortality and adverse perinatal outcomes by: 1) improving women's health, 2) promoting quality services, 3) strengthening family resilience, 4) achieving collective impact, and 5) increasing accountability through quality improvement, performance monitoring, and evaluation. For more information, [click here](#) and [here](#).

## National Rural Health Policy and Community Development Program

Deadline: *Mar. 31*

This announcement solicits applications for the National Rural Health Policy and Community Development Program. The purpose of the program is to develop and maintain projects that will help support rural communities through a broad range of activities which are to: identify and promote national policy issues and promising practices for rural health care providers focused on: quality of care; economic viability; access; workforce (recruitment and retention); and the changing health care environment as it relates to insurance coverage expansion. For more information, [click here](#).

## Community Approaches to Reducing Sexually Transmitted Diseases (CARs)

Deadline: *Apr. 10*

The purpose of the program is to announce the availability of fiscal year 2014 funds for project grant applications to support local implementation of community engagement methods (e.g. community-based participatory research) to achieve health equity, identification and implementation of systems and environmental change strategies that promote sexual health and support healthy behaviors, facilitate community-clinical linkages to build support for interventions to prevent and reduce STI disparities, enhance and sustain partnerships, support communication strategies that promote STD program successes and leverage additional resources for STI,

HIV, viral hepatitis control and prevention, and evaluate the efficacy of this intervention approach. For more information, [click here](#).

## Funds for Teenage Pregnancy Prevention: Research and Demonstration Programs

Deadline: *Apr. 24*

The purpose of this announcement is to work with three to five communities with high teen pregnancy rates to develop innovative strategies for preventing teen pregnancy in populations/areas with demonstrated need. These could include high-risk, vulnerable, and culturally under-represented youth populations, and/or youth residing in areas with high birth or teen pregnancy rates. The successful applicant is expected to bring together a team in each selected community made up of representatives from various sectors to develop a strategy or prevention framework to address teen pregnancy prevention in their individual community. For more information, [click here](#).

## Safe Infant Sleep Systems Integration Program

Deadline: *Apr. 30*

This announcement solicits applications for the Safe Infant Sleep Systems Integration (SISSI) Program. SISSI aims to increase the adoption of safe infant sleep behavior among infant caregivers by activating champions of these protective behaviors within systems that intersect with families at risk. To learn more, [click here](#).

## NIH Initiative to Maximize Research Education in Genomics Diversity Action Plan

Deadline: *Sept. 6, 2016*

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) present this funding opportunity to facilitate the training of individuals at all career 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. For more information, [click here](#).

## FUNDING CONT.

### 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 on grant PA-14-001 and more, [click here](#).



## CALENDAR

### AMCHP Events

#### AMCHP 2015

Jan. 24-27, 2015  
Washington, DC

#### MCH Events

#### [15TH Annual NHSA Spring Conference](#)

Mar. 29-31  
Washington, DC

#### [2014 Preparedness Summit](#)

Apr. 1-4  
Atlanta, GA

#### [Public Health Informatics Conference](#)

Apr. 18-May 1  
Atlanta, GA

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Child Health Programs**  
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(202) 775-0436  
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## CALENDAR CONT.

#### [Confronting Family and Community Violence](#)

May 1-3  
Washington, DC

#### [30th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity](#)

May 19-20  
Honolulu, HI

#### [Supporting Children Affected by Parental Co-Occurring Disorders: Substance Abuse, Mental Illness, HIV](#)

Jun. 30-Jul. 2  
Seattle, WA

#### [NACCHO Annual Conference](#)

Jul. 8-10  
Atlanta, GA

#### [ASTHO Annual Meeting and Policy Summit](#)

Sept. 9-11  
Albuquerque, NM

#### [CityMatCH Leadership & MCH Epidemiology Conference](#)

Sept. 17-19  
Phoenix, AZ

### 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.

