



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Health Reform

Congress returns to work Monday after a two-week recess, and is driving ahead on the issue of health reform, with plans to have bills prepared for early summer. In the Senate, both the Finance Committee, and the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committees are in the process of drafting separate legislation, with the thought that the two pieces could be combined later. The Finance Committee, chaired by Senator Baucus will be holding a series of meetings focused on: how healthcare is delivered, increasing access to healthcare, and finally, how to ultimately fund a reform bill. Senator Kennedy, Chair of the HELP Committee, is not holding public meetings but is expected to have a bill drafted by the same time.

In the House of Representatives, Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer (MD), has called for the three key committees on that side: the Energy & Commerce, the Education & Labor, and the Ways and Means Committees to work together to put forth just a single bill. All three House Committees will be holding hearings on health reform in the coming weeks.

Budget/Appropriations

With the Senate and the House passing different versions of the FY 2010 Budget Resolution, the next step is for both sides to come together, work out the differences and vote on a final bill. However, movement has been slowed by two main factors: President Obama's delay in releasing a detailed FY 2010 budget and the thought of some Congressional members that the only way to push through health reform is to use a process known as budget reconciliation. In reconciliation, a single bill is drafted containing multiple provisions and only requires a majority vote to pass. Some members of Congress have said that they do not approve of the budget reconciliation process, but are waiting to see if the key committees can indeed put together a bill agreeable to both sides. The Administration has said that a detailed White House 2010 budget request will be coming the week of May 4. Meanwhile the appropriations process has begun absent

a final 2010 budget. The House Labor, Health and Human Services Committee held public hearings on the appropriations but has also been focused on many other issues, including the economy. The Senate, while not holding any public hearings, is also working towards completing FY 2010 legislation. AMCHP has been meeting with members in both chambers and is calling on full-funding for the Title V Maternal & Child Health Block Grant.



Key Position Confirmation

Congress must also move ahead on confirmation of President Obama's nomination for secretary of Health and Human Services. Kansas Governor, Kathleen Sebelius, was named in March and a series of hearing was held but a final vote never went to the full Senate. It is expected that she will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

For additional information, please contact [Joshua Brown](#) or call (202) 775-0436.

GET INVOLVED



Positive Parenting in Preventing Child Maltreatment Webinar

AMCHP along with Children's Safety Network, the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association and MCHB will present a webinar on "Positive Parenting is Key to Preventing Child Maltreatment" on April 29 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. (EST). Speakers will present information on the Circle of Parents program implemented in Florida, results of an evaluation of the Triple P-Positive Parenting program in South Carolina, and information on fatherhood initiatives. The program uses a multi-level, parenting, and family support strategy that aims to prevent behavioral, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the

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knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. To register, visit [here](#). For more information, contact [Jean Nussbaum](#).

Submit Your Best Practice Today!

AMCHP is seeking submissions of best practices in maternal and child health from around the country. Whether it's an effective campaign to promote breastfeeding, an outstanding nurse-family partnership, or a proven early intervention program for young children, get the word out about your best practice. AMCHP defines "best practices" as a continuum of practices, programs and policies ranging from emerging to promising to evidence-based. A best practice could focus on the health of women, adolescents, young children, families, or children with special health care needs. Best practice focus areas include preconception care, mental health, data and assessment, financing, program and system integration, workforce development, injury prevention, emergency preparedness, family involvement, or other public health issues. Contribute to AMCHP's Innovation Station – a growing database of what is working in MCH.

- 1) Click [here](#) to download a PDF of the submission form.
- 2) When you are ready to submit, click [here](#) to start the survey.

For more information on submitting best practices, please contact [Darlisha Williams](#) or call (202) 775-0436.

Webcast on Medical Homes for Children

MCHB will host this webcast on April 21 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. (EST). This webcast will highlight efforts to support the implementation of medical home across multiple stakeholder groups, including an overview of the medical home concept and an update on the activities of the American Academy of Pediatrics' National Center for Medical Home Implementation. To register, visit [here](#).

Webinar on Youth in an Online World

The Youth Intervention Programs Institute and the National Institute on Media and the Family will present a webinar on the opportunities, dangers and impacts for "Youth in an Online World" on April 21 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon (EST). To register, visit [here](#).

Webcast on Cyberbullying

Bullying prevention experts will discuss Cyberbullying: Tools

and Tips for Prevention and Intervention during a Stop Bullying Now! Campaign webcast on April 22 from 3 to 4.30 p.m. (EST). To register for the webcast, visit [here](#). For more information about the webcast, contact [Nicolle Grayson](#).

Webinar on Evidence Based Practice in Child Welfare

The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement will host a webinar on "Evidence Based Practice in Child Welfare" on May 7 at 2:30 p.m. (EST). A national expert will provide an introduction to evidence based practices in child welfare and advice for child welfare agencies on identifying and using these practices. Leaders and managers from agencies will also share the benefits and challenges they have faced as they have worked to adopt evidence based practices. The session will also include time for questions. To register, visit [here](#).

Public Comment on Draft Voluntary National Accreditation Standards

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is developing and implementing a national voluntary accreditation program for state, local, territorial and tribal public health departments. The goal of the accreditation program is to improve and protect the health of every community by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments. The deadline for the comment period is April 27. To review a draft of the voluntary national accreditation standards, visit [here](#).

Seeking Nominations for National MCH Epidemiology Awards

The Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology announces the ninth year of the National MCH Epidemiology Awards. The Coalition is recruiting nominees for the 2009 awards. Nominees are individuals, teams, institutions, and leaders of institutions who have made significant contributions to improving the health of women, children and families through epidemiology, applied research and the effective use of data. These awards recognize research, teaching, leadership and effective public health practice and recognize individuals and organizations at a community, state and national level. For more details on how to nominate and the awards criteria, visit [here](#). Deadline for nominations will be June 1, 2009.

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Call for MCH Case Studies

Maternal and Child Health projects of all kinds are needed (community-based/indigenous, public health, NGO, foundation-funded initiatives) to be used in the “International Case Studies in Maternal and Child Health,” a textbook for health professionals. The deadline for submissions is September 30. Priority will be given to case studies written by, or in collaboration with, local voices. All questions and submissions should be addressed to the editor [Ruth C. White](#).

ASK AN EXPERT

Is your CYSHCN department interested in learning more about transitioning from a direct services model to a community based approach? Please reply to [Brynn Rubinstein](#).

ON YOUR BEHALF

AMCHP Launches State Public Health Autism Resource Center

AMCHP has launched the [State Public Health Autism Resource Center \(SPHARC\)](#). Drawing on the experiences and successes of states and our partners, SPHARC coordinates and organizes public health resources around the diagnosis, care, and quality of life for families and children affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and developmental disabilities. Visit [SPHARC](#) for guides, case studies, and information on how to develop a public health framework around autism in your own state or community. Currently, SPHARC highlights the Alaska Division of Public Health’s efforts, under the leadership of Stephanie Birch, to meet the needs of children and families with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

AMCHP to Participate in March for Babies

On April 6-7, AMCHP worked with the March of Dimes to host a networking and kickoff reception for Prematurity Campaign Alliance Partners in the Washington, DC metro area to support the upcoming event, “March for Babies.” As part of the event, AMCHP formed “AMCHP Steps for Babies,” an AMCHP staff team who will walk together with other

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national partners in the March for Babies in Washington, DC on April 26. For more information about, or to support AMCHP’s team, please visit [here](#). AMCHP’s fund raising will support the Maryland-National Capital Area Chapter of the March of Dimes. Other national groups who participated in the events include the American College of Nurse Midwives, Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, Black Women’s Health Imperative, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, Infant Massage, National Association for County and City Health Officials, National Healthy Start Association, and RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association.



From left to right: front row: Librada Estrada, Lauren Raskin Ramos, Ellen Cohen, Barbara Collura, Rebecca Flick, Jessica Lindquist, Denise Espie, Phyllis Williams-Thompson and Cathy Pasqua and back row, Stacey Cunningham, Judy Meehan and Jessica Hawkins.

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



General Maternal and Child Health

New Report Offers Policy Recommendations to Young Families

The report, “A Policy Platform to Promote Health and Success among Young Families,” published by the Healthy Teen Network, offers a set of federal policy recommendations aimed at establishing or reforming programs and systems that influence whether young families may achieve health and

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES CONT.

success after an adolescent birth. The report discusses young families' needs and gaps in resources and services according to seven "life domains. To download the report, visit [here](#).

Children's Health

MCH Library Releases Updated Autism Spectrum Disorder Knowledge Path

[Autism Spectrum Disorders: Knowledge Path](#) is an electronic guide to resources about screening for autism spectrum disorders, diagnosis, treatment and intervention, communication, education, vocational challenges, and impact on family life. The new edition of the knowledge path, produced by the MCH Library, contains information on websites, publications, distance learning resources, databases and social media. Separate sections present resources that address early identification, early intervention and education, concerns about vaccines, and environmental health research. The knowledge path is intended for use by health professionals, educators, researchers, policymakers, and families.

Study Links Watching R-Rated Movies to Smoking Risk in Children

A recent study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, has found that children that are permitted to watch R-rated films are more likely to smoke cigarettes. The researchers analyzed data from 1200 Massachusetts youth who were enrolled in the study as sixth graders, and were interviewed eleven times over a four-year period from 2002-2006. To see an abstract of the study, visit [here](#).

Updated Study of State Child Care Center Regulation and Oversight

In this update to its 1997 study, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies reviewed state child care laws and regulations and scored states according to 15 key criteria related to standards and oversight. To download the study, visit [here](#).

Adolescent Health

MCH Library Offers New Online Brief on Adolescent Health

The Adolescent Health: Resource Brief contains links to

related bibliographies, knowledge paths, organizations lists, and other resource briefs developed by the library. Selected topics include adolescent pregnancy and parents, adolescent pregnancy prevention, health insurance and access to care for children and adolescents, school health, sexuality education, and social and emotional development in children and adolescents. To download the brief, visit [here](#).

Updated Child Trends Research Brief on Teen Childbearing

Seven years ago, when the teen birth rate had been decreasing for more than a decade, Child Trends released "Ten Reasons to Keep the Focus on Teen Childbearing." With recent news from the federal government that the teen birth rate increased for a second year in a row, Child Trends has released an updated brief, "Ten Reasons to Still Keep the Focus on Teen Childbearing." To download the brief, visit [here](#).

Updated Report on the Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infection in HIV-Infected Individuals

The report, "Guidelines on Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents," prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, updates and combines earlier versions of guidelines for the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections in HIV-infected adults and adolescents, last published in 2002 and 2004, respectively. To view the report, visit [here](#).

FUNDING

Technical Assistance Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention Grant

Deadline: **April 23**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting an application to supplement and expand grant activities funded under the Technical Assistance Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention (TAC-MHPYVP) cooperative agreement. The available funds will extend technical assistance services to Project Linking Actions to Unmet Needs

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of Children's Health (Project LAUNCH) grantees who will be newly funded in FY 2009. The TAC-MHPYVP will continue to provide an array of technical assistance services that will improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of all Project LAUNCH grant funded projects, not just those funded under the FY 2008 cooperative agreement. To maximize and ensure that technical assistance services are uniform in design and intent, and to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, eligibility is limited to the current grantee (Education Development Center Inc.). Project LAUNCH supports a vision of communities in which families participate in a seamless set of local programs, supports, and services that promote healthy early childhood development and supportive family environments. To learn more, visit [here](#).

DHHS Request for Proposals for its Healthy People 2020 Project

Deadline: **April 27**

The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals for "State Action: Evaluating the Healthy People 2020 Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Agenda" project. This evaluation project will fund state, territory, and tribal governments to conduct innovative and participatory strategic planning activities, with an emphasis on multi-sector collaboration, using the Healthy People 2020 framework and population health improvement concepts (i.e., Healthy People 2020 mission and overarching goals; social, physical, and environmental determinants of health; and health equity). Up to 12 projects, taking place between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010, will be funded. To download the request for proposal forms, visit [here](#). For more information, please contact [Ann Loeffler](#) or call 1-800-839-0934.

Upcoming FY2009 Autism Research Funding Opportunities at MCHB/HRSA

Deadline: **May 15**

R40 MCH Autism Intervention Research Program will support up to four (4) two-year research projects (\$400,000 per year) on evidence-based practices for interventions to improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities. Consistent with HRSA's mission as the access

agency to provide services to underserved populations, applicants are particularly encouraged to propose research studies that address the needs of underserved populations, as well as barriers to receipt of interventions. Examples of research topics of interest to MCHB include but are not limited to the following:

- Family well-being, coping, resilience and social networks;
- Variations in access to services affecting family functioning in diverse populations;
- Transition into adulthood, including employment and healthcare issues; and
- Service systems and infrastructure.

To learn more, visit [here](#).

Cooperative Agreements for Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health Grant

Deadline: **May 20**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2009 for Cooperative Agreements for Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH). The purpose of Project LAUNCH is to promote the wellness of young children, birth to 8 years of age. Project LAUNCH will award cooperative agreements to states, territories and tribes, each of which will select a locality within the larger jurisdiction to be a partner in Project LAUNCH. States, territories and tribes will bring together child-serving systems to develop a vision and a comprehensive strategic plan for promoting the wellness of all young children, and will develop policies, financial mechanisms and other reforms to improve the integration and efficiency of the child-serving system. States, territories and tribes will identify and work closely with a locality that will engage in infrastructure reform, and will use Project LAUNCH funds to enhance and expand the delivery of services and practices that promote the wellness of young children and their families. To learn more, visit [here](#).

2009 Family Planning Research Cooperative Agreement

Deadline: **May 26**

This announcement seeks applications from public and non-profit private entities to conduct data analyses and related research and evaluation on issues of interest to the family planning field. Many persons have observed that gaps exist in the array of data and analyses needed by administrators, planners and researchers in the field of family planning. The need for such data is likely to increase. Therefore, funds available under this announcement are for projects to increase the availability of data and research-based information which will be useful to family planning administrators and providers, researchers and officials of local, State and the Federal government, including OPA, in order to improve the delivery of family planning services to persons needing and desiring such services. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Funding Available for Reducing Risks for an Alcohol-Exposed Pregnancy in High Risk Women

Deadline: **June 8**

The purpose of the program is to reduce alcohol-exposed pregnancies by supporting and establishing the capacity of STD programs in public health departments to 1) implement and evaluate the Project CHOICES Intervention model for reducing risks for an alcohol-exposed pregnancy (AEP) in high risk women during the preconception period; 2) develop a data collection and monitoring system to evaluate changes in alcohol use of patients, evaluate effective contraception use, to determine reduced risk for AEP and other relevant sociodemographic information including risks associated with AEP ; and 3) develop a report describing how the CHOICES intervention model was modified or tailored to fit STD clinics, process and outcome evaluation measures, and lessons learned from implementation of the project. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Funding Available for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Deadline: **June 8**

The purpose of this program is to: (1) determine the prevalence of fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) within a geographically-defined area (statewide, multiple states, or regions of a state) that may include high risk population subgroups, using the common, multiple source surveillance

methodology developed by the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Surveillance Network (FASSNet); (2) improve the capacity of an existing surveillance system (e.g., birth defects, developmental disabilities) to ascertain infants and children with FAS and generate population-based surveillance data; (3) establish or expand relationships with facilities or programs where children with FAS are likely to be diagnosed or receive services, such as genetics and other specialty clinics, early intervention programs, special education programs, special needs registries, and other programs or settings for children with developmental disabilities; (4) evaluate the surveillance system methodology in terms of completeness of case ascertainment, data quality, ability to generate a prevalence estimate for FAS, and the potential for monitoring trends; and (5) implement provider training and education on FAS to improve case ascertainment. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Funding Opportunity for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance and Integration

Deadline: **June 15**

The purpose of the program is to (1) Enhance the tracking and surveillance systems for the EHDI program to accurately identify, match, and collect unduplicated individual identifiable data (not estimated or aggregated) at the State/Territorial EHDI program level, (2) Enhance the capacity of EHDI state and territorial programs to accurately report the status of every occurrent birth throughout the EHDI process for the purpose of evaluating the progress of the National EHDI goals, and (3) Develop and Enhance the capacity of EHDI programs to integrate the EHDI system with other State/territorial screening, tracking and surveillance programs that identify children with special health needs. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Funding Available for Male Involvement in Child Maltreatment Prevention Programs

Deadline: **Open**

The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control solicits research applications that will help advance knowledge of effective strategies for engaging the participation of fathers and male caregivers in evidence-based parenting programs that may prevent child maltreatment. Specific proposals are being sought to take an evidence-

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based parenting program (that is, a program that has been evaluated using a randomized- or quasi-experimental design with evidence of positive effects on parenting and/or child behavior outcomes) and develop systematic adaptations to the delivery structure, content, and/or materials to target father or male caregiver involvement and engagement in the program. Furthermore, the applications should seek to conduct pilot evaluations of the effects of the adapted programs on participant involvement and engagement in the program; parenting behaviors and male caregiver-child relationships; and child behavior outcomes. To learn more, visit [here](#).

Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization Funding Alert

Deadline: **Open**

HCFO supports policy analysis, research, evaluation and demonstration projects that provide policy leaders timely information on health care policy and financing issues. This call for proposals is intended to support projects that 1) examine significant issues and interventions related to health care financing and organization and their effects on health care costs, quality and access; and 2) explore or test major new ways to finance and organize health care that have the potential to improve access to more affordable and higher quality health services. To learn more, visit [here](#).

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

AMCHP is Recruiting for an Associate Director for Women's and Infant Health

The Associate Director is accountable for the development, implementation and evaluation of program activities related to women's and infant health, maternal and child health, data and assessment through cooperative agreements and other funding sources. The Associate Director leads the Women's and Infant Health Team and contributes to the advancement of MCH programs. This position leads the tracking, analysis, and reporting on federal and state programs impacting women's and perinatal health and plays a critical role in fund development for women's and infant programmatic efforts. To download the job description, visit [here](#). For additional information, please contact [Lauren Ramos](#).

CALENDAR



[Empowering the Majority: Increasing Access to Family Planning National Conference](#)

April 26-29
Bethesda, MD

[Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual National Conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration: Unlocking the Future of Juvenile Justice](#)

May 2-4

[Family Voices 2009 National Conference](#)

May 3-5
Washington, DC

[National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#)

May 6

[American College of Nurse-Midwives 54th Annual Meeting & Exposition](#)

May 21-27
Seattle, WA

[National WIC Association's Annual Conference](#)

May 24-27
Nashville, TN

[36th Annual International Conference on Global Health: New Technologies + Proven Strategies = Health Communities](#)

May 26-30
Washington, DC

[The Bill & Melinda Gates Institute's 7th Annual Summer Institute in Reproductive Health & Development](#)

June 1-12
Baltimore, MD

[Leadership, Legacy, and Community: A Retreat to Advance Maternal and Child Health Scholarship and Practice](#)

July 20-22
Oakbrook, IL

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[Health Forum and the American Hospital Association's 17th Annual Leadership Summit](#)

July 23-25
San Francisco, CA

[World Breastfeeding Week 2009 - Breastfeeding: A Vital Emergency Response Are you ready?](#)

August 1-7

[National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media](#)

August 11-13
Atlanta, GA

[CityMatCH 2009 Urban Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference](#)

August 22-25
New Orleans, LA

SAVE THE DATE!

AMCHP'S 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**March 6-10, 2010
Gaylord National Convention Center
National Harbor, MD**

The 2010 AMCHP Conference will bring together leaders in maternal and child health, public health practitioners and family advocates. Join us for sessions led by researchers, federal officials, advocates, families, healthcare providers and directors of state programs.

- Learn from leading MCH experts
- Attend skills-building, workshops, and plenary sessions
- Engage in networking opportunities, best practices sharing and collaborations
- Apply the tools and resources learned to enhance your work

OUR MISSION

AMCHP supports state maternal and child health programs and provides national leadership on issues affecting women and children.

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

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