



ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

January 7, 2010

Dr. Howard Koh
Assistant Secretary for Health
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 716-G
Washington, DC 20201

welcome to
washington -
hope to see
you soon! Mike

Dear Dr. Koh,

Howard

On behalf of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), I would like to request a meeting to share our views and offer support as you help lead efforts to develop the new teenage pregnancy prevention initiative and the HHS Office of Adolescent Health. Particularly as the department prepares guidance for the funds, we ask that you consider the critical role the state health agency Maternal and Child Health Programs in leading state-wide efforts, coordinating funds, and supporting local partners.

The fundamental mission of State Title V MCH Programs is to improve the health and wellbeing of women, infants, children and adolescents, including those with special health care needs. Teen pregnancy prevention is a priority issue for Title V MCH agencies which have experience in implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. State Title V leaders have the experience and expertise to implement and coordinate new teen pregnancy prevention programs efficiently and ensure that new programs and services reach the areas of the state and the teens that need it most. State Title V programs play a key role in guiding implementation and expansion of programs within a state or territory, and can help ensure coordination and linkages between programs to reduce duplication of services, thus optimizing investments focused on preventing teen pregnancy and improving adolescent health within a jurisdiction.

AMCHP is greatly appreciative of the renewed federal commitment to teen pregnancy prevention and we stand ready to support implementation of the new funds. We are interesting in setting up a meeting with your office at your earliest convenience to continue this discussion on the critical role of State Title V programs in the new teen pregnancy prevention initiative and development of the new Adolescent Health Office. In the meantime, please let us know if there is any additional information we can provide and how we might be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Fraser, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

MRF/ew:npl

