

Pathways to Family Leadership within AMCHP

There are many opportunities for family leaders to become involved in the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP). *Family leader* is defined to include parents, youth, self-advocates and/or extended family, who are immediately involved in the day-to-day life of the family who is on the receiving end of MCH/CYSHCN services. Family leadership plays an essential role in state Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programs. Family leaders volunteer, advise and/or are employed by state Title V MCH, and/or Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) programs. Families bring unique insight and experience and are prepared to advocate on behalf of MCH. Family leadership, within this document, refers to individuals who are involved in a range of activities that engage families in the planning, development, and evaluation of programs and policies at the community, organizational and policy level. The table below describes several roles for family leaders to be involved in AMCHP. For more information, visit the AMCHP website, www.amchp.org.

The experience, knowledge, and skills that family leaders have included, and are not limited to:

- Direct family experience as a recipient or family member of a recipient of a MCH or MCH-related program
- An understanding of MCH/Title V and/or knowledge about at least one MCH program within the state or territory
- The ability to communicate effectively (listening, open minded, strength-based feedback, advocacy, respectful)
- The ability to use personal experiences with the service delivery system to constructively identify strengths and gaps
- The ability to see beyond one's own experiences and represent broad family experiences and issues, including those families whose first language may not be English.
- The ability to share one's unique experiences, culture and perspective to educate others broadly about the individual needs and priorities of families
- working with families whose first language is not English
- The ability to work collaboratively with others to influence Title V partners, families, students, trainees and faculty through teaching, training, serving on councils/boards and mentoring

| Family Leader Title | Eligibility Criteria | Selection Process | Timeline | Duties |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|--|--|
| Family Delegate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of MCH and the systems of supports for families • Connected to other families in the state and is able to speak on behalf of many families • Recognized as a family leader in state or territory (i.e., has demonstrated track record of taking a lead in representing families in the state through training, policy, parent support or work with Title V). | Title V designates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific time to be designated to this role. • No specific term length (up to the discretion of each state or territory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles for Family Delegates vary (e.g., could be a paid position, a responsibility within an existing position or a volunteer role) • Be part of the state/territory delegation to AMCHP and bring the family voice/perspective to the delegation • Vote in AMCHP Elections (Family Delegate gets one of the five votes from the state) • Establish linkages with families in your state/territory and assure that they receive relevant AMCHP information • Represent the family perspective • Additional Family Delegate activities vary; See AMCH Family Delegates Fundamentals fact sheet for other ideas on how to utilize this role • To learn more, click here |

| Family Leader Title | Eligibility Criteria | Selection Process | Timeline | Duties |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Family Scholar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated and/or endorsed by Title V agency • Family leader who already has experience working with the state Title V program either as a volunteer, family-based organization or staff | Application -based Application process is through AMCHP, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June Application • Year-long commitment • A one-time opportunity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant in a 12 month leadership program that imparts the knowledge, tools and resources to enhance your development as a family leader, and to promote policies, programs and systems at the national, state and/or local-level that address important issues impacting the health and well-being of women, children and families, including children and youth with special health care needs. • Complete assignments; be accountable for follow-through • Receive full scholarship to attend the AMCHP Annual Conference. • To learn more, click here |
| Family Mentor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Family Scholar Program • Attended AMCHP Conference within the last three years | Application - Application process is through AMCHP based, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June Application • Year-long commitment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant in the AMCHP Family Scholars Program by communicating monthly with assigned AMCHP family scholars, sharing resources, and participating in program activities. Assure regular contact to support scholars throughout the program year and at the AMCHP Annual Conference. • Receive full scholarship to attend the AMCHP Annual Conference. • To learn more, click here |

| Family Leader Title | Eligibility Criteria | Selection Process | Timeline | Duties |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Family Leader representative on an AMCHP committee http://www.amchp.org/AboutAMCHP/board/Pages/BoardCommittees.aspx</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCHP Member • Ability to connect broader goals of MCH health areas • Preference given to active participation within AMCHP as a Family Delegate, Family Scholar, Family Mentor and/or AMCHP Committee. With the goal to have at least one family member on each committee, preferably two, being a family member is part of the eligibility | <p>Self-nominate or other nominate</p> <p>Decision by AMCHP President, President-Elect and AMCHP CEO</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill out interest form in Summer • Committee starts in October • One year term, must re-submit interest form each year for new appointment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant by regularly attending conference calls and meetings, providing feedback as necessary, sharing in the work of the committee and bringing the voice/perspective of families in your state to the committee. • Existing AMCHP Committees include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adolescent Health Advisory ○ Annual Conference Planning ○ Best Practices Review ○ Family & Youth Leadership ○ Emerging Issues ○ Legislative & Health Care Financing ○ Workforce & Leadership Development • To learn more, click here |

| Family Leader Title | Eligibility Criteria | Selection Process | Timeline | Duties |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Family Representative to AMCHP Board (there are two positions)* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMCHP Member • Active participation within AMCHP as a Family Delegate, Family Scholar, Family Mentor and/or AMCHP Committee. • Ability to view the AMCHP Strategic Plan through the lens of the family experience in broad terms • Knowledgeable about state and/or national MCH key stakeholders and issues related to the MCH population • Ability to provide experiential knowledge regarding the system of care for the MCH population(s) • Familiar with national health policy discussions and the impact on families in broad terms • AMCHP Family Delegate | Self-nominate or other nominate Election-based Supported by State Title V leader | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit nomination in Fall, election results announced in February. Two year term. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant by regularly attending Board meetings (February and June of each year) and conference calls, sharing in the work of the Board and bringing the voice/perspective of families in your state to the Board, participating on the Family & Youth Leadership Committee, and engaging Family Delegates. • Represent voice of families in national meetings • Participate in ad-hoc meetings as needed • Provide mentoring to emerging family leaders to support a growing network of family leaders nationally • To learn more, click here |
| • Note: Family leaders are also encouraged to run for general Board positions not just the Family Leader representative position. | | | | |

Contact information:

To learn more about these opportunities contact the AMCHP Program Manager, Family Involvement: Michelle Jarvis, mjarvis@amchp.org

To find the Title V Director in your state/territory: <http://www.amchp.org/AboutTitleV/State-Snapshots/Pages/Map.aspx>

To learn more about the Family Youth Leadership Committee (FYLC) contact the chair: Anna Cyr, annahcyr@yahoo.com